



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
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2017 Coastal Master Plan

Attachment G1: Public Hearing Transcripts



Report: Final

Date: April 2017

Prepared By: Nick Speyrer and Avery Woodard (Emergent Method)

Table of Contents

Overview 1

Lake Charles Public Hearing2

New Orleans Public Hearing119

Houma Public Hearing244

Mandeville Public Hearing423

Overview

In an effort to engage citizens and stakeholders across coastal Louisiana, open public meetings were held to provide overviews of the draft versions of both the 2017 Coastal Master Plan and the FY18 Annual Plan. During the hearings, CPRA solicited feedback and comments to be considered in the implementation of the final plans.

The following Public Hearing Transcripts include a full transcription of spoken word from the four public hearing meetings conducted by CPRA staff during the public comment period.

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COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY

MASTER PLAN/ANNUAL PLAN MEETING

**LAKE CHARLES CIVIC CENTER
900 LAKESHORE DRIVE, JEAN LAFITTE ROOM
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA 70601**

**JANUARY 17, 2017
5:30 P.M.**

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A P P E A R A N C E S

COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY:

MR. MICHAEL ELLIS
MR. BREN HAAS
MR. CHIP KLINE
MR. NICK SPERYER

REPORTED BY: Belynda Champagne, CCR-RPR

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I N D E X

<u>CPRA</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
Mr. Chip Haas (Master Plan)	15

<u>PUBLIC SPEAKERS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
	51

<u>CPRA</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
Mr. Michael Ellis (Annual Plan)	99

<u>PUBLIC SPEAKERS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
	111

1 PROCEEDINGS:

2 MR. KLINE: So, we're going to go ahead
3 and get things started here tonight. My name
4 is Chip Kline. I serve as a deputy director
5 for Coastal activities in the governor's
6 office. I want to take this opportunity to
7 welcome all of you here tonight. It's always
8 good to be here in Southwest Louisiana, and
9 particularly, here in Lake Charles.

10 So, tonight is the first of four public
11 hearings that we'll be holding across coastal
12 Louisiana, seeking your input on the FY-2018
13 Annual Plan and the updated 2017 Master Plan
14 for a sustainable coast.

15 So, I would invite all of you tonight to
16 take the opportunity to make a public comment.
17 I would urge you to make public comments.
18 Feel free to, if you feel the need, be
19 critical in a productive and constructive
20 manner. I would ask -- but this is our
21 opportunity to hear from you, what you like
22 about the plan, what you don't like about the
23 plan, what you would like to see more of or to
24 pose questions to us that you would like for
25 our agency to respond to in the weeks and the

1 days ahead for this plan, the master plan,
2 that's presented back to the CPRA board and
3 also to the Louisiana legislature.

4 So, there will be four public hearings
5 across the coast gathering input. The plan
6 will then be presented back to the CPRA board
7 in March or April. Then the plan is formally
8 submitted to the Louisiana legislature where
9 it goes through four legislative committees.
10 It's quite an effort to get a plan of this
11 nature through the legislature. I'm not aware
12 of any other agency in the state that has to
13 go through four legislative committees to get
14 a plan approved, but it's a process that we
15 welcome because of the back and forth and the
16 give and take that we have throughout this
17 process.

18 One of the things that I want to touch on
19 before we get into the public comments and
20 before I ask Mayor Roach to come up here, the
21 master plan is not a new concept. This is
22 not -- the 2007 to '17 draft master plan is
23 not a document that we're starting from
24 scratch over. This is a document that builds
25 upon the first master plan which was developed

1 in 2007. It builds upon the initiatives and
2 the programs and the projects that were called
3 for in the 2012 master plan.

4 So, the 2017 plan builds upon all those
5 plans, all of those concepts, all of those
6 programs that were called for but one of the
7 things that you will hear from Bren and his
8 team tonight is how we have better science,
9 how we have better models, how we have better
10 innovative ways to predict the future of
11 coastal Louisiana and to better plan for a
12 sustainable coast.

13 So, one of the things that we've been
14 hearing regularly is, you know, why is
15 Governor Edwards, you know, scrapping all of
16 the previous work that's been done across the
17 coast and starting over? We're required by
18 law to update our master plan every five
19 years. So, this 2017 update is strictly an
20 update to the current master plan that's
21 guiding our efforts which, of course, is the
22 2012 master plan.

23 So, again, thank you all for coming.
24 Feel free to make public comments. We would
25 encourage you. We would welcome your input.

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We want to hear from you. I do want to take this opportunity to welcome a few public officials that are here tonight.

Of course, we have Mayor Randy Roach, the mayor of Lake Charles. Mayor, where are you? Oh, there he is, over there. We have Mayor Bertrand from Lake Arthur. Mayor Bertrand in here somewhere. I think he left. We have Nic Hunter with the Calcasieu Police Jury. Is Mr. Hunter here? In the back. We have Dennis Scott with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury. He's right there. We have Mike Dever with the Chenier Plain Restoration & Protection Authority. Tina Horn, with the Chenier Plain Restoration & Protection Authority. Scooter Trosclair, and there's Scooter. We also have Ms. Lori Cormier. Ms. Lori Cormier of Calcasieu Parish was a member of the Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority, and Ms. Nedra Davis who is -- who else -- who did I miss?

MS. BARNETT: Kay Barnett.

MR. KLINE: Kay Barnett with the Chenier Plain Restoration.

Thank you, Kay, for being here.

1 But Lori Cormier and Nedra Davis both
2 serve on the CPRA board.

3 Then finally, I want to recognize an
4 individual who actually sponsored, was a lead
5 legislative sponsor for the 2012, master plan.
6 That's Senator Blade Morrish.

7 I don't know how many of you ever have
8 the opportunity to ever come up to Baton Rouge
9 or attend committee hearings in Baton Rouge or
10 CPRA board meetings, but I wish that everyone
11 from Lake Charles and from Cameron Parish and
12 from Southwest Louisiana could see the way and
13 the manner in which Senator Morrish represents
14 this area. He does things the right way and
15 he does them for the right reasons.

16 And, Senator, I just want to thank you
17 for your efforts in the past, for your efforts
18 moving forward.

19 So without further ado, I think I'm going
20 to turn it over to Mayor Roach for some brief
21 opening remarks.

22 MR. ROACH: Thank you, Chip. And if you
23 had an agenda, you would see my name is not on
24 it. I'm just here to welcome you, welcome you
25 to the meeting and to thank you-all for coming

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out and to be a part of this public hearing. You know, over the years, we have had quite a discussion about Southwest Louisiana and the Chenier plain. It's been very heartwarming for me, and I say that in all sincerity, when I say "heartwarming," because it really is close to my heart.

Years ago in another life, I represented Cameron Parish as a state representative and I was somewhat involved in the coastal initiative. They got started back in 1988. To see how it has transformed from what it was then and what it is now and the attention that's being focused on Southwest Louisiana really is heartwarming. It is something that is somewhat overdue, but you can go into whys and wherefores and what have you, but the point is that we're here now and we are focusing on the Chenier plain and it is part of what we're doing here as a state and I think other people in other areas of the state know what the Chenier plain is about, and that's due in large part to your efforts and to the efforts of our legislative delegation and another organizations that have been very

1 involved in this process and some of the
2 individuals that are here tonight.

3 So, one of the persons I do want to
4 recognize, and I don't think it's anybody
5 that is probably not a stranger to many of
6 you, a young lady who has been very involved
7 in coastal issues for a very long time. She's
8 no longer serving as a parish president. She
9 was the parish president from the first
10 parish. I got to know her when she was
11 battling out many things, you know, for the
12 state and for her region, Charlotte Randolph
13 for the state.

14 Charlotte, thank you for coming over
15 tonight. I appreciate you being here.

16 I knew Charlotte as just an example of
17 many of you, and I can go and call you by
18 name, those of you who have been involved over
19 the years. I know sometimes it's hard to
20 recognize that progress is being made, but I
21 can tell you just by -- I come in out of the
22 issue because I'm not directly involved in it
23 now as mayor but I do come in out of the issue
24 and it's been very -- I've been very
25 encouraged by what I see in terms of the

1 progress that's being made, in terms of
2 organization, involvement. Again, the public
3 input and focus has been placed here on
4 development in Southwest Louisiana.

5 As I was sitting over here and talking a
6 little bit about what goes on in the marsh,
7 and I was -- I saw a video over here. It
8 keeps rotating. One of the slides as it
9 rotated through was Barrier Island. It says
10 the Barrier Islands are a first offense. It
11 just dawned on me as I was watching that
12 slide, see how my mind works, how that slide
13 projection, you know, worked and it kind of
14 triggered something, said we missed it.

15 We were talking about the Chenier plain
16 back in 1988, early 1990s what we should have
17 done instead, we're talking about the Barrier
18 Islands. Because essentially, what the
19 Chenier plain is is what the Barrier Islands
20 used to be, but now because we live on this
21 side of the Mississippi, all the islands have
22 been filled in by the muddy Mississippi, the
23 sediment that has been deposited in this area
24 but the ridges that we talk about in Cameron
25 Parish, Hackberry Ridge, Little Chenier, Grand

1 Chenier all the different ridges that we have
2 in Cameron Parish were formerly Barrier
3 Islands.

4 So, when we talk about protecting the
5 Chenier plain, we're talking about Barrier
6 Islands. Again, I'm not on your agenda. You
7 don't need to hear any more from me other than
8 to say thank you for coming out tonight, thank
9 you for doing what you're doing, thank you for
10 helping to keep the issue very much alive for
11 the folks here in Southwest Louisiana and all
12 across the state, because it's not really just
13 an us-type thing. It's a statewide thing.
14 The coastal plan is important for everybody in
15 Louisiana, even those who live up around the
16 Shreveport area and on the I-10 -- I mean, the
17 I-20 corridor. Those folks have as much
18 invested in that as well, and I will tell you
19 why. I'll tell you why I say that.

20 I say that because I do truly feel, truly
21 believe that the coast of Louisiana, coast of
22 Louisiana, the cultural part of Louisiana that
23 is supported by that coast, that way of life,
24 that unique way of life is very much a part of
25 the soul of Louisiana that sets us apart from

1 other states in this country. So, that's
2 another reason why it is worth our energy, our
3 effort, and our money to make sure to preserve
4 this. So, thank you for coming out tonight,
5 doing your part, and I know that Chip and the
6 other guys are looking forward to your
7 comments. They're important and they do make
8 a difference. So, thank you all for being
9 here tonight and I apologize for having to
10 step out. If you can hear a little activity
11 in the next room over here, I was supposed to
12 go give them a welcome. I am on their agenda.
13 So, I'm running behind. Thank you so much.

14 MR. KLINE: Thank you, Mayor. I did fail
15 to mention earlier on, I think, the Chenier
16 Restoration Protection Authority and
17 Providence were providing the cookies, coffee
18 and refreshments over there. That was
19 unexpected but very much welcomed and the last
20 thing as I mentioned, I talked about the
21 approval process for this plant. I want
22 everybody in this room to recognize that this
23 is a draft plant. This is not the final plan.
24 So, the process is, is to take public comment,
25 to incorporate that into the document, and

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then that final plan will then be submitted to the legislature.

So, I don't want anyone in here to think that your comments are going to fall on deaf ears, because in 2012, I think we made somewhere in the neighborhood around of 20-plus, 22 changes to the master plan between the draft plan that was released and the final plan that was released to the legislature.

So, your comments are important and they will be incorporated or we will take a hard look, I guess I should say, at the comments that you made and to determine whether or not those will be incorporated into the final plan.

So, I'm turning over to Mr. Nick Speryer, who will be our facilitator, our MC, I guess you could say, for tonight to take you through the running ship.

MR. SPERYER: Thanks, Chip. I'll be brief. Agenda for this afternoon will be master plan presentation by Bren Haas, director of planning for the CPRA followed by public comments on the 2017 draft coastal master plan followed by a quick presentation

1 from Michael Ellis, director of CPRA and then
2 public comments on fiscal year 2018 annual
3 plan. So, as Chip and Mayor Roach welcome to
4 all of you here, I'd also like to welcome our
5 Facebook audience. You know, five years ago,
6 I'm not sure how much Facebook really existed,
7 but we are live on Facebook here tonight, and
8 we'll do that across the coast, again, just
9 trying to be more accessible in terms of the
10 information that we're presenting and
11 providing to the public so they can also
12 participate even if they're unable to be here
13 tonight.

14 If you haven't already done so, please
15 complete a speaker form if you plan on
16 speaking tonight. Raise your hand and we'll
17 walk around. Yellow sheets are for the annual
18 plan. White sheets are for the master plan.

19 So, with that, I'll turn it over to Bren
20 Haas to give you a presentation on the 2017
21 draft coastal master plan.

22 MR. HAAS: All right. Thanks, Nick.
23 Thank you, Chip. I appreciate that. Thank
24 you-all for being here. I certainly
25 appreciate you taking the time out and coming

1 to hear what we have to say today. I'll be
2 reiterating a number of points I think that
3 Chip mentioned earlier, but I want to right
4 off the bat reiterate the fact that this is a
5 draft plan, and the reason we're here is to
6 hear your comments on that plan and, again,
7 just take those into consideration and
8 ultimately develop a final plan that is
9 hopefully as responsive as we can be for the
10 needs of our community.

11 I'll let you know, even though this is
12 our first sort of official opportunity for a
13 public comment for a public hearing. We've
14 been doing a lot of work with many of your
15 representatives to get to the point we are, to
16 get to the point where we've, you know, put
17 the draft plan together and had that release.

18 So, just looking around the room, Ralph,
19 Ryan, Scooter, Senator Morrish, Nedra, Lori,
20 and others, they've all, you know, been
21 involved in this in some way, shape, or form,
22 and I want you to know that they represented
23 you, I think, well. We've heard some of their
24 concerns and I think we're going to hear some
25 of those concerns with you-all here tonight,

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you know.

The second point, I guess, I would make before I jump into things is that there's a lot of good stuff at this plant and I believe that. I just -- those aren't hollow words. There's an awful lot of good stuff that's not in this plan right now and the reality is that we can't do everything that we want to do for all of our citizens and so, our goal is to try to do the best we can with our limited resources for the most people. So, hopefully that will come out as part of this presentation and I certainly look forward to hearing your comments as we move into things.

So, who are we? We're the Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority. We're a relatively new state entity formed following the devastating hurricane season in 2005. Of course, "Rita" and "Katrina" hit that year and it was really the time when the State said, you know, we're not going about our business in a proper manner. We've got people doing hurricane protection work. We've got people doing restoration work, and the two folks, two entities really weren't talking to each other.

1 It was realized that we need to integrate
2 those things, because as Mayor Roach said,
3 this part of the country, certainly the
4 Chenier plain is part of that first line of
5 defense and needs to work hand in hand with
6 our system.

7 So, we were mandated to do that, to
8 integrate those two things and to develop and
9 implement and enforce a master plan, again,
10 for doing those things for our coast. So,
11 nobody is as familiar with this as you-all
12 are, but certainly, I don't think we can have
13 this conversation unless we talk about the
14 tragedy, the crisis that's facing coastal
15 Louisiana. This is a historic look at things.
16 Since 1932, we've also lost, you know, almost
17 1900 square miles of our coastal wetlands.
18 Unfortunately, as we look forward and predict
19 what might happen in the future, this is a
20 50-year outlook here. You can see that we
21 anticipate if we don't do anything about it,
22 we'll continue to have this problem, continue
23 to lose land as we move forward. The question
24 is what do we do about it?

25 Of course, that's what we're here to talk

1 about. Why is it important? Again, you-al
2 are know these facts and figures probably
3 better than I. I'll not read them off, but,
4 first of all, too many people live here in
5 coastal Louisiana which we provide a
6 tremendous benefit, but really a treasure to
7 the nation, really internationally if you take
8 into consideration all of these things that
9 you see listed here.

10 In terms of investing in our economy,
11 certainly no place in the State of Louisiana
12 has probably experienced the growth and the
13 amount of investment that you see here,
14 roughly \$100 million in recent times, and I
15 think that number has gone up as we speak.
16 You can see the impact in terms of jobs
17 related to that investment. Of course, if
18 you're looking for Fourchon, you're looking at
19 jobs created there, services provide the rest
20 of the country over 90 percent of the Gulf of
21 Mexico offshore, oil and gas platform
22 potentially economic impact of the deepening
23 in the Mississippi River and its existing
24 economic impact is a tremendous economic
25 asset, not just to South Louisiana or

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Louisiana, but certainly the nation.

And again, you know, we know what we're fighting for. We know that we can't give these things up. These are too important not just to us but, again, to the nation. Again, I won't read through these, but you can see some of the benefits and impacts that would be associated with losing this precious place. There's our coast. It's a place where we live and play.

So, a tremendous amount of work has been done since that 2007 or so time frame. You know, the last ten years, roughly \$20 billion. That's \$20 billion has been secured and used to implement projects, projects that are on ground today. We have moved over 120 million cubic yards of dredge material to build marshes, ridges, beaches, our very shorelines and so forth across the state in that time period benefiting, you know, 36,000 acres of wetlands, constructed and improved about 282 miles of levees across the coast and about 60 miles or so of Barrier Island work has occurred in that time period.

So, there's been a tremendous amount of

1 activity going on. What we're talking about
2 today is looking retrospectively. These are
3 things that occurred in the past.

4 So, this is just a schematic of where
5 some of that stuff has occurred and some of
6 the highlights of things that have occurred
7 here out west certainly are things like the
8 southwest coastal feasibility study we
9 completed in cooperation with the Corps of
10 Engineers, the Cameron shoreline project,
11 breakwaters of Holly Beach. The use of dredge
12 material from Calcasieu Ship Channel. We're
13 beginning work on other projects like Oyster
14 Bayou. T-bow points is another example of a
15 project that's occurring here, and then the
16 Calcasieu Salinity Control Measures project is
17 underway as we speak.

18 So, you know, again, we're sort of
19 looking retrospectively, because there's a lot
20 going on both here today and in the future.
21 We'll get into that as we talk about the
22 annual plan once this presentation is
23 finished.

24 So what is the master plan? What is it
25 at its most basic? It's really a method for

1 us to be able to make hard decisions. So, I
2 mentioned earlier that we recognize -- I think
3 everybody in the audience would recognize that
4 there's no way for us to do everything for
5 everyone. We don't think we can provide all
6 the projects, all the benefits that we think
7 our citizens deserve. And so, we have to
8 figure out a way to make tough decisions about
9 what those things are that we can do, what
10 projects can we build and where is best to
11 place those projects. Then it's at its most
12 basic level a list of projects, a list of
13 those things that we made those tough
14 decisions about.

15 And so, the normal ways I think about
16 this is sort of my personal life, and
17 hopefully you-all can relate to this, but in
18 our household economy, most of us don't make
19 enough money to not -- you know, to become a
20 factor in the decisions that we make. We all
21 want to have a nice car. We all want to have
22 a nice house. We all want to spend money on
23 some of those things that provide benefits to
24 us today. We also know that we've got to save
25 some of that money for retirement, right? We

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need to have some benefits down the line.

And so, the framework that's set up on the master plan is essentially doing just that. How do we do the most good that we can both in the near-term and the long-term with those limited resources or that limited checkbook, if you will, that we know we're going to experience?

And so, again, hopefully that helps us explain what the master plan is at its core. So, why are we doing all the plans? Chip certainly touched on this. The legislature were mandated to do that, and I think for good reason because you-all know our coast is changing hourly, daily, certainly every year. So, to think the plan that we developed back in 2012 as perhaps the appropriate plan for today, I think, would be naïve. Technology improves. As we build projects, we learn from those projects. We want to make sure that we're incorporating that knowledge and that increased knowledge based into the projects and that we propose and updated plans, and again, our predictions for the future changed. Our coast has changed and the predictions for

1 what might happen in the that distant futures
2 changes.

3 So, this allows us to react to that and
4 integrate the restoration of hurricane
5 protection projects in one place.

6 So, some of the key differences between
7 2012 and 2017 include science and engineering.
8 Really, the ink wasn't dry on 2012 before we
9 took a step back and said, "Okay. What would
10 we have done differently? What are some of
11 the things that we would have liked to have
12 done perhaps for 2012 that we weren't able to
13 do and the things we ought to do for 2017?
14 What are some of those lessons learned that
15 I've just referred to that we can incorporate
16 into 2017?"

17 And those things were done. In terms of
18 our analytical tools and how we evaluate
19 projects and select projects listed are
20 approved over what we did in 2012.

21 We've incorporated new ideas and
22 information into this plan. So, we made two
23 public calls back in the 2014 time frame for
24 new projects. We certainly don't think we
25 have all the answers. We wanted to hear from

1 you-all about new projects being incorporated
2 as part of this plan and we've got a
3 tremendous response from that. Many of those
4 projects were evaluated as part of the 2017
5 updated process.

6 There's increase focus on flood risk
7 reduction and resilience. So, you'll see that
8 reflected in some of the projects that are
9 selected here. We've got a nonstructural
10 program as part of this plan and was mentioned
11 in 2012, but wasn't developed perhaps as
12 robustly as it is here, an increased emphasis
13 on our communities and how these plans and our
14 potential futures might affect or communities
15 in terms of real things. Hopefully, you had a
16 chance to look at Appendix B back there. It's
17 a nice companion document, I think, to our
18 master plan that talks about things like how
19 our census we face, you know, future
20 executions.

21 And so, that's a nice addition, I think,
22 this go-around for the updated plan. We've
23 expanded our engagement. We've been able to
24 move our funding situation up a little more
25 because we've got some clarity in terms of the

1 dollars coming into the state related to the
2 oil spill settlement that we didn't have back
3 in 2012 and also, obviously, we've got
4 certainly an increase sense of urgency in
5 terms of needing the projects on the ground
6 now. The way I always put it is, money now is
7 better than money later and projects now are
8 always better than money later.

9 The objectives of the plan are the same
10 as they were for 2012. So, hopefully, you're
11 familiar with these. Again, we want to
12 protect our citizens from flooding. We want
13 to harness those natural processes that help
14 build coastal Louisiana in the first place.
15 We want to provide coastal habitats that are
16 important to our commercial and recreational
17 activities. We want to preserve our cultural
18 heritage. It's something that we certainly
19 hold near and dear. And so, one of the
20 reasons that we all live here, I think, is
21 something that's very important to us. We
22 want to provide for that working coast. We
23 talked about some of the investment and
24 economic value that the coast provides.

25 Certainly, I think, Louisiana, like no

1 other place in the world, is a place where we
2 live, work, and play in our coast. It's not a
3 place that we simply visit on weekends for
4 fun, although we do those kind of things and
5 those are certainly encouraged. It's a place
6 that provides a living for us. We want to
7 make sure that we're perpetuating that as we
8 move out in the future and planning for that,
9 as well.

10 So, this is just a schematic, really, of
11 kind of how the process works. This is a
12 pretty simple diagram of it but essentially,
13 we start with a group of projects. I
14 mentioned making a call for public projects.
15 We also evaluated all the projects for 2012
16 and a few others, as well. Those projects are
17 evaluated and predictive models. So, they're
18 evaluated with some tools that we've developed
19 to help us evaluate the effectiveness of those
20 projects. The planning tool that you see
21 listed on the left there is really a means for
22 us to organize and understand output from
23 those predictive models and then see which
24 projects we think might work well together,
25 which projects might not work well together,

1 put those projects that do work well together
2 into group of projects called alternatives to
3 be reevaluated ultimately to get the support
4 of a draft plan.

5 So, I'll talk first about the projects.
6 These are those that we've evaluated as part
7 of the 2017 draft plan development process.
8 So, there were 135 restoration projects all
9 together that were evaluated. 54
10 nonstructural projects were evaluated all
11 together and 20 structural protection projects
12 were evaluated all together. So, you get, you
13 know, a total of about 209 projects that were
14 evaluated. Just to give you an idea and this
15 touches back on our resource, the nature of
16 this plan, if you added up a total value of
17 these 209 projects, you're looking at about
18 \$150 billion worth of projects.

19 So, clearly the demand for this kind of
20 work way outstrips our ability to supply those
21 kind of projects. Again, it gets back to our
22 need to make those hard decisions about what
23 do we think we can realistically do, what is
24 in the plan and some of those things that are
25 not in the plan. So, moving on to the

1 predictive models, this is -- you know, again,
2 we're getting into how we evaluate the
3 projects and it's really two main pieces here.
4 It's sort of the upper piece that really just
5 is a way for us to predict how a project or
6 how our future might look in terms of how does
7 the water move, what's the salinity of that
8 water, how does sediment do, where does it go?
9 Is it eroded or is it deposited to help build
10 wetlands? What happens to our vegetation?
11 Does it stay the same? Does it change if we
12 have a project? Then what happens to our fish
13 and wildlife? What happens to those things?
14 Certainly, those are extremely important to
15 the coast.

16 This is the place and the planning
17 process where those evaluations occur. Then
18 we also talk about, you know, risks and
19 protecting our citizens from storm surges and
20 so forth. This is where that occurs, and this
21 module appears. So, storm surges and waves
22 and then that's translated to risk which is
23 really that economic impact on us and our
24 communities. That's so important, as well.

25 Then all of that occurs over a series of

1 potential environmental scenarios as we move
2 in the future. So, the things that you see
3 listed here are things that affect what our
4 future might look like, sea level rise, storm
5 frequency and intensity and so forth.

6 Then, you know, people wonder, well, why
7 are you planning for this sort of range of
8 future? A the reason is, is we pick up one
9 potential future and plan against it. We know
10 the likelihood of that actually being correct
11 is not high.

12 And so, our goal is to pick what we think
13 is a plausible range, and that range relates
14 to potential land loss into the future. So,
15 we're looking at high rate of land loss,
16 immediate rate of land loss, and low rate of
17 land loss in the future and select projects
18 that are robust across that range. It's very
19 much like trying to predict the weather. You
20 look, you know, at the seven-day forecast. We
21 see there's a 50-percent chance of rain. It
22 might rain. It might not rain, but you know
23 what, I'm going to pack a raincoat and try to
24 plan for that eventually. I will be prepared
25 for that.

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So, the planning against these potential future scenarios that allows us to prepare for the worst, but certainly be in good shape, you know, if we don't need that raincoat.

So, there are two really primary factors that we look at in terms of how a project is selected or how much risk can be reduced in terms of flooding and how much do we build or maintain land. So, it's really as simple as that. There's two major decision drivers that we're using. Again, you see those listed up here in the top left corner.

I'm talking about constraints a little bit a couple of times, and there are two main constraints that we have to take into consideration. One, obviously, is money. Again, we all live -- most of us anyway live within that constraint every day, how much money do we have to try to accomplish what we want to accomplish. We also have some real constraints related to natural resources like sediment, freshwater, and so forth.

So, we don't necessarily have all the sediment that we need or want to do, you know, everything that we need or want.

1 Then we have these metrics over here on
2 the right and these are things that are
3 important to us. It's not just as simple as
4 land and risk production. Obviously, there
5 are a lot of other things that are really,
6 really important to us and those are captured
7 in these metrics, which are ways for us to
8 evaluate how individual projects or groups of
9 projects of alternatives affect things that
10 are important to us like traditional fishing
11 communities or navigation or waterfowl or blue
12 crabs and alligators and so forth.

13 And so, that's the sort of technical
14 piece of this. That's sort of some of the
15 science stuff and some of the science that
16 goes into building, I think, what we think is
17 a strong plan. We also, obviously, need to be
18 responsive to the needs of our communities.

19 So, I mentioned a lot of work has
20 occurred today. This is not work total that
21 will occur from now. We'll really ramping
22 this up, I think, taking it to another level,
23 to be honest with you but this represents over
24 150 opportunities for folks to hear from us
25 and for us to hear from folks about the work

1 that we're doing. This dates back, you know,
2 three years now in terms of things as basic
3 as, you know, some of the basic model
4 information, what do people think about that,
5 or methodology for evaluating projects, then,
6 of course, more recently as we've had an idea
7 of what a draft plan might look like, talking
8 about that with folks.

9 One of the things that I point out here,
10 it would be conversations. We had one of
11 those right here in this room, in fact. It
12 was much different than this. I think it was
13 a very effective way, I think, of getting some
14 good feedback from community members. It was
15 an opportunity for us to be able have dinner
16 with folks, sit one-on-one around a dinner
17 table and talk about specific issues,
18 specifics things that were needed to be
19 available to talk with our stakeholders and
20 for stakeholders to be able to talk with each
21 other for that matter, and I think it's a good
22 model for us to use and certainly, I think
23 we'll be doing much more of that as we move in
24 the future.

25 So, I want to touch on just a few key

1 points before we get to some of the outcomes
2 of the plan. You'll see here that our overall
3 funding amount again, that 50-billion-dollar
4 amount and that's just a plausible amount that
5 we think might be available to us in the
6 future to implement these projects.

7 I mentioned that we were able to move
8 some of that funding up to earlier time
9 frames, and to -- in recognition of that, that
10 urgency of needing to get projects on the
11 ground now.

12 The split between wet restoration and
13 protection projects is a 50/50 split. So,
14 there's \$25 million in this plan worth of
15 restoration, \$25 million in this plan worth of
16 risk reduction.

17 I mentioned a scenario plan a little bit
18 earlier, the notion of planning for the worst,
19 and certainly hoping for the best. You know,
20 this is where we are. We do think this is a
21 conservative plan. Again, we planned for some
22 pretty high rates of land loss into the future
23 and this gives us the opportunity to monitor
24 that, evaluate that and if we don't see that
25 come into fruition, then the good news is

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we're ahead of the game and adjust to that and we're in pretty good shape.

And then in terms of near-term and long-term results, I mentioned that a little bit earlier in terms of our sort of home finances. Certainly, that's key here. We know we need good stuff happening on our coast today. We also know that we need to be providing the coast, hopefully, that's viable for our children and grandchildren in the future, et cetera. Those near-term and long-term benefits were evaluated essentially.

So, let's get into the draft plan and what this looks like. This is it. Hopefully, you had a chance to look around the room today and see this and pick up a plan and are looking at it. You can see the projects listed here. I'm not going through each project type again. Hopefully, you've picked up a plan and can see that but I will point out that there are roughly 120 projects identified as part of this plan. It represents about 802 square miles of land that we wouldn't have otherwise with the plan. In terms of expected reduction and expected

1 annual damages, you're looking at roughly
2 \$150 billion over the 50-year life plan.

3 So, just a closer look out west, you'll
4 see, again, there's a model marsh creation
5 proposed out in this area. There's some ridge
6 restoration projects. You'll see some
7 nonstructural restoration projects and you'll
8 see hydrologic restoration project, one in
9 particular highlighted here. I'll say that
10 those projects are something that are -- if
11 you look at the text or part of the plan, it
12 sort of has a programmatic level, although we
13 don't have icons on the map identifying them
14 all over the southwest part, because we
15 understand that that's an important tool
16 around this -- you know, this area and that's
17 something that certainly we'll consider and
18 that is indeed part of the plan.

19 As you move out west, you start to get
20 into some of those Barrier Island projects in
21 the -- of course, getting into where the
22 Atchafalaya and Mississippi rivers are. So,
23 we're talking about some diversion projects,
24 sediment diversion projects and then looking
25 further to the east, you see more of the same.

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These are the nonstructural projects. So, these were, perhaps a better term, project areas but each of those polygons that you see there is what we identify as a nonstructural project. I haven't got into it yet. I'll let you know that what we're talking about here, many of you may be familiar with this through your experience from Southwest Coastal Study. We're talking about voluntary elevations of homes, voluntary flood-proofing of business, and then voluntary acquisitions of those may be deemed necessary and warranted.

So, you can see, in terms of the total number of structures that are listed here, we've got about 26,000. You can see the dollar figure listed here for that piece of the plan, as well. I will stress to everyone here that there is not a master list with addresses on it that says, "These are the projects that need to be elevated or acquired or flood-proofed."

Again, all on a voluntary basis. This is a very, very high level estimate of what might occur and what might be present in these project areas and should funding become

1 available to implement any of these,
2 obviously, our first calls are going to be to
3 the Cormier and Ryan Bourriague and those
4 folks who have been dealing with these issues
5 much, much longer than we have, are much, much
6 more familiar with what some of the local
7 issues associated with these kind of projects
8 are to make sure that we're implementing these
9 things in the right way, the way that's
10 acceptable to folks in these areas.

11 So, in terms of the breakdown on project
12 type, you see that here. Again, we got a
13 50/50 split, 25 million, 25 million. See the
14 types of projects that we have listed on
15 restoration and, of course, the structural and
16 nonstructural under types of projects under
17 risk production. I pointed out here that we
18 hear a lot that we need a dredge, we need a
19 dredge, we need a dredge. And, you know, I've
20 pointed out that for the breakdown in terms of
21 dollars in this plan, the single largest
22 expenditure that we had the ridge restorations
23 and marsh restorations, barrier restorations,
24 of course, that are all associated with
25 dredging, is the single largest expenditure

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proposed in the plan.

So, we're going to look at some outcome maps. This is something that's new this go-around. We weren't able to do this previously, but we're going to look at this is a future without action and then we'll look at future with action and a couple of time periods that you can see what impact the plan has in terms of actual land on the ground.

So, an icon helps me sort of keep up with where we are. So, if see the red X, that means this is a future without action or a future without the plan. There'll be some others that you'll see that has a green check there and that means, of course, we're looking at a map that reflects what the plan delivers or what the landscape might look like with the plan. Again, the red is land loss and green is land gain sustained or land that we wouldn't otherwise have but for the plan.

So, look at Year 30. This is with the plan, and you start to see some of those projects coming in, coming into play on the ground. Much more green, obviously, here than we would have had otherwise and then if you

1 look at Year 50 without the action, without
2 the plan, you know, things are looking not so
3 great. Then we look at Year 50 with the plan,
4 we see that we're able to preserve or maintain
5 and build a significant amount of land there.

6 So, how much land? I mentioned already,
7 but about 802 acres -- not acres. I always
8 say acres, but 802 square miles of land that,
9 again, we wouldn't otherwise have but for the
10 implementation of the plan at Year 50, at that
11 50-year time period.

12 And so, all this translates into
13 potential flood depths and this is something,
14 obviously, that's immensely important in our
15 communities, to the people that live along the
16 coast as what flood depths look like and
17 changing landscapes certainly affects these
18 floods depths. So, what you see here is a
19 range of potential flood depths ranging from
20 this blue color which is about one to three
21 feet on up to over 15 feet which is sort of
22 purplish color.

23 Again, we're going to look at some
24 future-without-action scenarios and we're
25 going to look at some future-with-action

1 scenarios, and you can see what the
2 differences are there. We've got -- you know,
3 a number of people have talked about what's a
4 100-year event? What does 100-year event
5 mean? It's very risky and really dangerous,
6 frankly, to compare one storm to another but
7 just by way of reference, you know, I point
8 out that Hurricane Rita, essentially, for
9 St. Mary, Terrebonne, Vermilion, and Cameron
10 Parish was classified as a 100-year event.
11 Again, that doesn't mean that if somebody says
12 "100-year event," that you can expect the same
13 impacts. Every storm is different. The
14 landscape changes. So, that's a probably
15 dangerous thing to do. Just to give you an
16 idea of what a 100-year event might look like,
17 that's the kind of storm that we're talking
18 about.

19 And so, we'll look at what happens with
20 flood depth with the plan. This is at
21 Year 25. Then these are the differences. So,
22 this is a difference between the first two
23 maps that I've shown you. The greens --
24 essentially, the blues and greens are good
25 numbers. These are reduced potential flood

1 depths that you see, the blues and greens,
2 again, in these areas as a result of plans.
3 Those are reduced flood depths for the future.
4 So, look at Year 50, this is without the plan.
5 Then look at Year 50 with the plan and then
6 again we'll look at the difference. Again,
7 you can see some of those differences between
8 the living without the plan.

9 So, what does that mean in terms of raw
10 numbers? Again, we talked about 802 square
11 miles. In terms of expected annual damages
12 which is a way we measure the economic impact
13 to those flood depths, look at, you know, Year
14 25, a reduction of about \$3 million and once
15 you get out into Year 50, you're looking at a
16 reduction of about \$8.3 billion. It's really
17 important to note that this is an annual
18 number. So, that's \$8.3 billion at Year 50.
19 If you sort of do a rough cumulative impact of
20 these, you're looking at \$150 billion reduced
21 used over the 50-year period. So, you're
22 looking at, you know, 3 to 1 investment as we
23 talked about potential storm damages.

24 So, what does all this mean? What does
25 the plan deliver? Well, I think -- I'm going

1 to start over here. So, I'm not going in
2 order, top right-hand corner. The plan is
3 assigned to do a lot of good. I know that the
4 red maps are pretty stark, pretty alarming to
5 all of us in terms of what the future land
6 loss might be but keep in mind, those are
7 predictions. In terms of that land loss, it
8 gets, you know, pretty bad. It really gets
9 bad as we get into those out years.

10 So, what we have is time to adapt, time
11 to implement projects, to help adjust that
12 curve, adjust that land loss in the future.
13 We also have time to measure our effectiveness
14 and measure how we think, what we think is
15 really happening on the ground. The sea level
16 rises as much as we really thought it would
17 back in 2017 and we can adjust our plan as we
18 move forward because we're required to update
19 this plan every five years to adjust those
20 conditions.

21 We provide a diversity of projects.
22 Again, I mentioned the 120 projects,
23 76 restoration projects in the final plan,
24 12 structural protection, 32 nonstructural
25 protection projects. We know we can reduce

1 risks. I mentioned the \$8.3 billion the Year
2 50 or up to about \$150 billion over the life
3 plan. We know we can build or sustain land,
4 you know, to the tune of, again, roughly 800
5 acres all the way up to about 1200 acres
6 depending on that future scenario that --
7 square miles. I did it again. 800 square
8 miles to 1200 square miles depending on the
9 further scenario that we're looking at.

10 For the ecosystem, generally speaking,
11 we've been able to essentially ameliorate any
12 potential major negative impacts and this is
13 what I'm talking about, fish, shellfish,
14 crabs, oysters and stuff like that. In many
15 cases, we actually benefit some of those
16 things and we know we provide economic
17 development opportunities. So, clearly, we
18 discuss the economic investment that's
19 occurred just in this region of the state in
20 recent times. A healthy sustainable coastal
21 system certainly encourages, I think, economic
22 growth and the things that we're doing to deal
23 with the issues that we're all grappling with,
24 land loss, potential sea level rise,
25 restoration and protection and so forth, are

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things that Louisiana was dealing with before really anybody else in the country are dealing with.

So, we're really at the tip of the spear in terms of dealing with these issues. We are learning a lot as we do this. They're looking at us for answers on how we might do this in place of like New York or California or Florida. So, this really is we think an export commodity and something that we're leading the way in to help in other parts of the country.

So, in terms of getting additional information, hopefully, you've got your fill of information, and I certainly encourage you to go to our website and have a look at all the appendices and technical documents and flyers and so forth such as the master plan. There's a wealth of information, much of which has been available for well over a year but some of which has only become more available more recently but we encourage you to go coastal.la.gov to look at those things. Something hopefully that you've had the chance to pick up and something that's new for 2017

1 are these parish fact sheets. This is kind of
2 a handy quick reference when you go to your
3 parish, look at the -- some sort of vital
4 stats on what the future might hold for your
5 parish and on the flip side, look at what the
6 master plan may or may not hold for your
7 parish, as well.

8 We have the same or similar fact sheets
9 for each project. So, if you're interested in
10 a particular project, you can look that fact
11 sheet up and get some basic information
12 related to those projects, as well. We have a
13 master plan data viewer that's available and
14 hopefully some of you took advantage of --
15 take a look at that at the back of the room.

16 This is an interface where you can go and
17 look at how projects in the plan impacts
18 things like land loss in a particular area or
19 flood depths in an area. You can type your
20 address in, for example, and you see what your
21 flood risk is today and what it might be in
22 the future with or without the planning board.
23 So, it's a pretty handy tool, pretty
24 informative thing. I hope you can take
25 advantage of.

1 In terms of the process, getting from the
2 draft plan, the final plan, again, the draft
3 plan was released on January 3rd. We're here
4 on the 17th in our first public, you know,
5 hearing. We have three more of those and I'll
6 get into that just a second. Public comment
7 period or official public comment period ends
8 end of March, March 26th. We have to -- we'll
9 be presenting the final plan to our board, our
10 CPRA board on April 19th. Then ultimately
11 submitting the plan to the legislature for
12 approval or disapproval as of order on
13 April 25th.

14 In terms of where the other public
15 hearing's are going to be, we're in New
16 Orleans tomorrow night. We'll be at Houma on
17 the 24th and then Mandeville on the 25th. It
18 will be the same format, same stations and so
19 forth, much of the same information, but just
20 because we're here in Lake Charles, doesn't
21 mean any or all of you couldn't show up,
22 certainly, New Orleans, or Houma, or
23 Mandeville and provide us a comment if you'd
24 like or you have folks somewhere able to
25 attend here and you think might be interested

1 in attending on of these other meetings, we'd
2 certainly appreciate it if you let folks know.

3 So, that's the end of my part of the
4 show. I hope you learned a few things and
5 we're going to hear from Nick here in just a
6 second. I guess, you know, I would like to
7 reiterate again kind of before we move into
8 the formal public comment period, you know,
9 it's important for us to, first of all,
10 recognize that we know, again, there's a lot
11 of good stuff in the plan, there's a lot of
12 good stuff that's not in the plan and it's
13 really important for us to hear your concerns,
14 what you think you don't like about the plan,
15 but it's also very important for us to hear
16 those things that you might like about the
17 plan.

18 As we're moving from a draft to a final,
19 you know, we're in a resource-constrained
20 environment which generally means if we make
21 changes, that affects everything else that's
22 going on. So, to hear about the things again
23 that you do like about the plan, again, is
24 just as valuable to us as hearing about those
25 things that perhaps you might not like. So,

1 just keep that in mind, please, if you're
2 making a comment and we're looking forward to
3 hearing from you. Thank you.

4 MR. SPERYER: Before we get into the
5 official public comment, just so all of you
6 know, there's multiple ways to do that and We
7 certainly appreciate and want to hear from all
8 of you who want to step up to the microphone
9 tonight and go on official public record
10 regarding your comments on the 2017 Draft
11 Coastal Master Plan. For whatever reason, if
12 you don't want to do that tonight, there's
13 other options for you to be able to provide
14 your comments, and they're just as meaningful
15 and impactful and, you know, first thing, you
16 should go to our website. You're able to
17 access, submit comments online through a form.
18 You can send us an e-mail at masterplan@la.gov
19 and we'll receive it just the same as we will
20 tonight. You can even do it the old-fashioned
21 way as well, if you prefer. You can actually
22 mail us written public comments.

23 So, again, all of these options are
24 available regardless of whether you stand up
25 and speak tonight, you're able to do these

1 things through March the 26th, all of these
2 comments are being compiled and are part of an
3 appendix that will live with the record
4 forever in terms of what the final master plan
5 is and what changes were made based upon the
6 comment period that we have between now and
7 March 26.

8 As was referenced by Chip earlier and
9 Bren, again, significant changes were made in
10 2012 and if you haven't looked at a 2012
11 master plan, the document, I'd encourage you
12 to do so. This process certainly does matter.

13 The way this is going to work this
14 afternoon is I've got a stack of cards that
15 have already been turned in. If you did not
16 turn in one already, I would ask that you just
17 raise your hand. We'll walk around. We'll
18 pass out. We're going to be dealing with the
19 white forms at this point in time. The white
20 forms are for the master plan. We're going to
21 ask you to hold it for three minutes. We
22 certainly don't want to stick around all night
23 but what we are committed to doing is --
24 following this meeting, is certainly we're
25 willing to stick around and have any

1 interactions or chat and try our best to
2 answer any questions or address any concerns
3 that you might have.

4 In the process, I'd like to introduce you
5 to Ms. Belynda -- where I'm from in St. Landry
6 Parish, we say Champagne, but I think
7 Champagne is the sound Belynda goes by. So,
8 she will be officially documenting all the
9 comments that you provide here this evening.

10 So, the way this will work, we're going
11 to start with Mr. Scooter Trosclair. Scooter
12 will come up, three minutes. Keep an eye on
13 Zack. He'll sort of let you know when you get
14 down to two minutes and one minute.

15 Ryan Bourriaque, you'll be next. I'll
16 ask you, when you step up to the microphone,
17 please state your name, and if you're
18 representing an organization or an entity, I
19 would ask you to please do so.

20 Okay. Go ahead.

21 MR. TROSCLAIR: Scooter Trosclair with
22 the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,
23 Wildlife Refuge and program manager, Gravity
24 Drainage District No. 5 in Cameron Parish and
25 also with the Chenier Plain Authority as well

1 as a concerned resident of Cameron Parish.
2 First of all, I have to truly thank CPRA for
3 supporting one of the most important projects
4 we've seen in our area is the shoreline
5 protection. It is very disappointing to see
6 the new plan, no shoreline protection and some
7 of the feedback we've gotten is, you know,
8 shoreline protection is so expensive to harbor
9 the whole coast. We've asked to maybe
10 prioritize some of our coast with the highest
11 rated areas or eroding areas and to give you
12 an example, we've done recent surveys where
13 we've found places that's succeeding 233 feet
14 in nine months recent. So, this is not a
15 hurricane event. This is an annual process.
16 We look into the master plan, 800 square
17 miles, 512,000 acres, 140 billion,
18 50-billion-dollar plan over 50 years. That's
19 273,000-plus dollars per acre of benefits and
20 cost or cost for benefits. We look at
21 shoreline protection for the highest eroded
22 area of nine miles that we know in 50 years
23 will erode well over 50 feet per year. That's
24 2,727 acres. So, we're at a cost of the
25 highest cost that we've got estimates for,

1 \$10 million per mile. That still puts us at
2 \$33,000 an acre, okay, we're going to protect
3 and save or stabilize or slow down and
4 hopefully we'll prove that point so we can
5 build shoreline protection in other areas.

6 Another question that -- one question I
7 have is when we see the Southwest Coastal
8 Study Plan that's just been approved, we see
9 shoreline protection that was involved with
10 that plan to maintain and protect 21,000-plus
11 acres over 47,000 square miles, we're looking
12 at averages of cost of -- in benefits of, I
13 want to say, it was 69,000 which is about
14 where we are with mitigation. So, you know,
15 there's a huge difference of what we see with
16 these projects in the plan versus reality
17 projects that we've seen taking place day by
18 day. So, we're asking for shoreline
19 protection to surely be placed back in no
20 matter if it's the whole coast or at least
21 look at the most severe areas.

22 The last thing I have is hydrologic
23 restoration. We know that Texas implemented
24 into the plan but it's still hard to
25 understand for the local landowner to be

1 concerned with it. So, if we can at least put
2 an icon map so it's not as confusing to know
3 that basin could qualify and maybe give
4 potential project being you have \$400 million.

5 So, I appreciate it. If there's any
6 assistance we can do, we have knowledgeable
7 staff at the refuge at Rockefeller and would
8 be glad to assist in any kind of way with any
9 projects in our area. Thank you.

10 MR. SPERYER: Thank you, Scooter.

11 I would like to acknowledge
12 representative Mark Abraham.

13 Representative Abraham was able to come in
14 just a few minutes ago. Thank you for being
15 with us tonight, Representative Abraham.

16 So, next up, Ryan Bourriague and then
17 David Richard, you're on deck.

18 MR. BOURRIAQUE: This is Ryan Bourriague,
19 Cameron Parish administrator. Glad to be
20 here. I wrote a few things down. Of course,
21 this is the first time that I actually write
22 notes limited to three minutes. I'm going to
23 try to be clear and concise.

24 You know, you go back to 2012 and you
25 think about what was put into that master plan

1 and Cameron Parish at the direction of then
2 parish administrator was Tina Horn and our
3 police jury, we looked at our own process just
4 like Bren talked about the state did. What
5 can we do different? How can we improve where
6 we are? We went back and put together our own
7 Cameron master plan. We had drainage board
8 members, landowners, fishermen, interested
9 residents, elected officials, Federal and
10 State agencies, put them all in one room
11 eight, nine times a year, sometimes 60 people.
12 Never got stabbed, punched, anything, you
13 know. That's what you call winning, because
14 we all have the same goal in mind. We wanted
15 to protect and restore our coast; namely,
16 Cameron Parish.

17 Our first little trial run at the Cameron
18 master plan, we looked at the Southwest
19 Coastal Study, a study that had been around
20 for a little bit of time but the Cameron
21 master plan proved very valuable to us in not
22 only organizing our thoughts, prioritizing our
23 projects, but also illustrating what our
24 concerns were both to the board and all the
25 partners that were involved in the Southwest

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Coastal Study.

Thirdly, a little branching out. We knew we had to get engaged. We knew if we wanted certain aspects of the master plan to change, we needed to be involved in the framework of the development team meetings. We need to be involved in webinars, conference calls. We started at Cameron Coastal Day, let those individuals come and see the issues in Cameron with their own eyes. We feel that we have done a very good job of illustrating what our concerns are in Cameron.

Comments on the plan itself, first, the good things. Scooter get on it, hydrologic restoration, a programmatic measure is incredible to be included in this plan. It's vitally important to the people of this area to consider two, three, five pipe structures, even though they may not have been analyzed through this process, to look at those on case-by-case basis. We feel that Cameron, that is a true victory. The Calcasieu Ship Channel salinity control measure, an incredibly important project for our area, the marsh creation sites throughout Cameron

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Parish, we still have some uncertainties about how certain sites were picked. We look forward to understanding a little more thoroughly how that took place.

Scooter hit on it, Gulf shoreline protection, not only Gulf shoreline protection, but in our instance, shoreline protection, the interior lakes, the GIWW, Sabine Lake. Again, issues that could be addressed over time, we would look forward to open dialogue as to why some of those issues weren't installed in the plan. Southwest Coastal Study, it would be great if there would be a reference to those projects being consistent with the state master plan. A lot of time and effort went into that process.

We'd also request similar to the Southwest Coastal Study a reference to local coastal master plans whether in the appendices or in the text itself. It's vitally important. The nonstructural aspect, the parishes look forward to working with you. Every dollar we can save in you not having to elevate a home, we want it back and finally, I'd be remiss if I stood up here and didn't

1 acknowledge the fact that there's \$30 billion
2 of economic development going on in Cameron
3 Parish today with another 27 billion planned.
4 Okay? That's great. That's what everybody's
5 talking about. You see investment going on in
6 this parish, but you also see fishing. You
7 see cattle. You see a top 10 citrus producer.

8 It's more than just billions of dollars
9 of investment. It's my kids' seventh
10 generation of my family growing up on the same
11 piece of property. That's why it's important.
12 That's why we support the plan and look
13 forward to an open dialogue to make a few
14 changes. Thank you.

15 MR. SPERYER: Thank you, Ryan.

16 Mr. David Richard.

17 Ms. Lori Cormier, you're on deck.

18 MR. RICHARD: First off, I want to
19 support what Ryan said. He was only able to
20 say a brief amount of a prepared talk. You
21 will be receiving from Southwest Louisiana a
22 coordinated list of comments in regard to
23 that. I'm going to say some of the same
24 things that you have heard me say for 40
25 years. So, get ready.

1 Is that No. 1, you talk about Barrier
2 Island, and the place that you can restore the
3 coast most is from Point au Fer to Sabine Pass
4 where we have a barrier shoreline. We're
5 looking at your plan that spends a huge amount
6 of money on Barrier Islands, but nothing on
7 barrier shoreline. What is the problem with
8 your understanding the difference between a
9 barrier shoreline and Barrier Island? We
10 actually have something to save here and those
11 barrier shorelines are terribly important.

12 And we appreciate what's been done. The
13 project that was done between Cameron Holly
14 Beach is immensely successful, from the same
15 perspective that we need some rock there to
16 keep it in place. You said you had new
17 science, Bren, in regard to what we see and
18 what works. What works on the intracoastal
19 canal is we have about 25 miles of rock on the
20 intracoastal canal that we put there. We've
21 not lost an acre, but we gained an acre. We
22 don't need a model to tell us that rock
23 prevents erosion on the GIWW or on the
24 Calcasieu Ship Channel or the Sabine Channel
25 when we have a freshwater bayou that we have

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to deal in Southwest Louisiana.

Again, I'm going to tell you, your \$50 billion, that's a nice arbitrary figure but it's exactly what it is, an arbitrary figure. I don't see what's the difference if you say \$50 billion, and we put in \$150 billion. I'm going to tell you that Cameron has spent immense amount of hours with hundreds of people to put together a plan that should be incorporated because when we go to Seattle or we go to whatever funding source we may have available, if it's not in your master plan, then we don't have a state match, and we really need that.

I want to bring to your attention on Page 86 in regard to some fallacies that are in there by a previous governor administration in regard to shoreline protection of Federal navigation channels. Your lawyers, the lawyers from Tulane, the lawyers with the State have said that the court does not have responsibility to shoreline protection on navigational channels. We don't have the money. We don't have the authorization. Then you say that we're going to do 25 percent of

1 the overall cost of your project to be
2 shoreline protection. That, again, is an
3 arbitrary number.

4 I negotiated the number when I was on
5 CPRA. So, why should we still keep going with
6 that. We have a different administration, we
7 have a different time, and I really think we
8 need to revisit that and I would hope that you
9 would do that.

10 Just for the folks in Calcasieu, other
11 than the Sabine -- than the Calcasieu Ship
12 Channel plan, there's not a project in
13 Calcasieu. They need to know that. The
14 second thing is, in regard to the beneficial
15 use, every piece of deteriorated marsh in
16 Southwest Louisiana needs to be included in
17 the area where we can do beneficial use.
18 We've got lots of private money that's going
19 to come here. We've got lots of mitigation
20 needs. So, I would appreciate it if we can
21 add all of those deteriorated areas and I made
22 your three minutes. Thank you.

23 MR. MYER: Thank you, David.

24 Lori Cormier.

25 Ms. Tina Horn, you'll be next.

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MS. CORMIER: This is Lori Cormier with Calcasieu Parish Police Jury. First, I'd just like to say that Calcasieu Parish is delighted that the plan continues to support sound science-based decision-making and we encourage the State to listen to the needs of their citizens by taking into account the local input as the State did with the master plan 2012.

The Parish itself has some concerns about the nonstructural element for Calcasieu Parish being placed in the Phase 2 implementation and request that either all or portions of the nonstructural element be started prior to Phase 2. The parish supports the Calcasieu Parish Channel salinity control measures project and we recommend that the State secure the additional funding to move to construction as soon as possible. We also recommend that CPRA adds the language to the plan that the Southwest Coastal Feasibility Study be consistent with the master plan 2017 in the document. So, we want specific language in there that states that.

The parish encourages the State to judge

1 land building and land protecting on equal
2 ground in the master plan. We also recommend
3 that the State view the local coastal plans in
4 Calcasieu, Cameron, and Vermilion, as viable
5 products that are consistent with the master
6 plan with the understanding that the projects
7 are not fully modeled or yet vetted and
8 Calcasieu Parish is working on a coastal plan
9 of their own and it should be ready at any
10 time. So, we'll get that to you as soon as we
11 have it.

12 The Oyster Bayou CS-59 is scheduled to be
13 completed in January of 2017. So, the State
14 and Federal government will have spent about
15 \$20 million in a 500-acre marsh creation
16 project. The parish recommends what Bren
17 called barrier shorelines -- I heard it twice.
18 I almost fell out of chair, but at least the
19 words are being used even though they're not
20 being protected yet -- for the project as well
21 as projects already finished by placing
22 shoreline protection across all of Calcasieu
23 Parish and Vermilion Parish or, as Scooter
24 said, the most vital needed places.

25 One of the coast's 2050 strategy to

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Region 4 was to restore, protect, and maintain all shorelines. Calcasieu Parish request the shoreline protection be placed as a multiple line of defense strategy for projects already in place as land-protecting projects.

Projects -- protection of these investments is vital to keeping all the restoration projects that have already been in place in the last several years. By sustaining the shoreline in Southwest Louisiana, you're helping to protect Lake Charles to the 500-year level as deemed necessary in the coastal master plan 2012.

What was said here in 2012 was rocket, rocket, rocket. I say that to you guys all the time. This is what the people want. This is what we feel we need. It's about maintaining the projects we already have put in place.

The parish -- we also ask you to consider protection of the Chenier ridges. The parish commends the staff. I know how hard you work, and for the extensive and public engagement as the plan was being drafted. We also thank you for your continued effort for the protection of Southwest Louisiana, for the coast, for its

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citizens, and for its culture.

MR. MYER: Thank you, Lori.

Ms. Tina, you're next.

And then Ralph Libersat.

Real quick, Tina. I would like to recognize two Lake Charles City council members that just arrived, Ms. Tina Jackson and Mr. Stuart Weatherford. Certainly, I appreciate you being here with us this afternoon.

MS. HORN: Hi. I'm Katrina Horn. I'm a retired landowner in Cameron Parish and since I've been retired, I've been able to enjoy my home life a lot more and that is great.

One of the things Bren asked us to do was to say the things we liked about the plans. Well, I'm going to start off by saying that I love the barrier protection on the eastern end of the state. I think those Barrier Islands are exactly what the Cameron Parish coastline is going to look like if we don't have shoreline protection in Cameron Parish. We will revert to what the eastern side of the state looks like. So, we need shoreline protection and it's really, really, really

1 common sense. It doesn't take a rocket
2 scientist to figure out if you're going to
3 spend \$500 million on a marsh restoration
4 project, and also south of that, just pumping
5 sand, I don't remember how much that project
6 was, but if you're going to spend money
7 pumping sand, then you need to protect that.
8 I mean, who does that, you know?

9 I feel like I'm missing something. I
10 feel like I don't understand something. I
11 understand it's always about the money. I
12 don't understand why you have to divide the
13 50 billion in half and use some for this and
14 some for the other, why you can't use it on
15 what's detrimentally needed.

16 Okay. I'm going to go on. Another thing
17 I like about the plan is the marsh creation
18 which we need for our seafood, fisheries. We
19 also need those little marshes for the
20 waterfowl and all our wildlife that lives in
21 those marshes but again, if the shoreline is
22 not protected, that marsh is going to be quick
23 to go.

24 Also, the salinity controlled along the
25 Calcasieu Ship Channel has been a problem

1 forever and we do need to take some control
2 over it. Last I would like to say, that I do
3 appreciate all your meetings and for allowing
4 local input, because without this local input,
5 you're just going by what you've seen in the
6 past and, yeah, you've got some scientific
7 data, but in Cameron Parish, we don't need the
8 scientific data. We know what we need. So,
9 come on out if you-all want to do some field
10 trips, whatever but we've got to get on the
11 same page here. Thank you.

12 MR. MYER: Thank you, Tina.

13 Ralph Libersat.

14 And Nedra Davis, you're on deck.

15 MR. LIBERSAT: Good evening. My name is
16 Ralph Libersat. I'm with Vermilion Coastal
17 Committee in Vermilion Parish, and that's who
18 I'm representing today. I want to give
19 special thanks to the CPRA in their efforts to
20 come out here and really inform us of what's
21 going on, again, to give us an opportunity to
22 comment. I want to thank you all again for
23 taking a special effort in getting some
24 additional meetings through CRCO in Vermilion
25 Parish and the coastal parish. I know this is

1 going to give us another opportunity to talk
2 that away.

3 I think you-all heard our complaints,
4 that I love Lake Charles, but -- I went to
5 school in Lake Charles. Lake Charles is not
6 in a coastal zone. Vermilion and Cameron is,
7 and I appreciate you-all coming down here to
8 hear other concerns. I appreciate the turnout
9 tonight so we can hear everything.

10 The plan has a large number of effective
11 projects both in restoration and protection.
12 I want to be upfront about that and say that
13 they do have some excellent things in the plan
14 and we don't need to throw out the baby with
15 the bathwater but it definitely has some room
16 for improvement.

17 One restoration feature that I'm sure
18 you've heard from all the previous speakers in
19 the Chenier plain that is obviously missing is
20 shoreline protection, in particular, along
21 Vermilion plain. I'm representing Vermilion
22 Parish. We have a lack of shoreline
23 protection on Vermilion Bay. It was there in
24 2012 and it was very vital and needed to be --
25 the parish is doing some efforts on its own to

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get shoreline protection there.

The points that I want the CPRA to consider is that restoration should be our first line of defense, protecting what we have. Second line should be restoring some modifications from hydrological restorations. I agree with Scooter, that it's in the text, but we need an icon in there to show that it is a programmatic function of the master plan that needs to be recognized somehow.

And last should be our creation. You're creating it because it's already gone. In Southwest Louisiana, in south Chenier plain, we have opportunity that we have a very vigorous growth of vegetation marsh. We need to project it, so that in 20 years, we won't have this conversation that I need more marsh creation because I didn't protect it 20 years ago. That's what I feel we need to do.

Last but not least is that the funding opportunity. We're finally getting some restored dollars and dollars that have been long awaiting, but if this feature, shoreline protection is not in the master plan, we cannot cause share for all of those upcoming

1 projects we would like to stretch our local
2 dollars further. So, an excellent shoreline
3 protection project that have worked in
4 Vermilion Parish, TV9, or coastal canal
5 project, we would like to monopolize on the
6 one or two areas in the state -- one of the
7 two areas in the state that's actually
8 building land.

9 We have the Atchafalaya basin putting
10 sediments into the Vermilion Bay. We would
11 like to put some more shoreline protection,
12 and then have the marsh creation behind it.
13 It's been proven with Cote Blanche area, it's
14 been proven with the TV9 project. So, we
15 would like that to do and continue. So, I
16 made it to three minutes too. I appreciate
17 it.

18 MR. SPERYER: Thanks, Ralph.

19 Nedra Davis.

20 Nick Dixon, you're on deck.

21 MR. DAVIS: Good evening. Nedra Davis.

22 I'm the executive director of the Chenier
23 Plain Coastal Restoration & Protection
24 Authority. I represent Cameron, Calcasieu,
25 and Vermilion Parishes. Excuse me, my voice

1 was cracking there. Some of the -- well, all
2 of the issues that everyone that preceded me
3 covered, basically, the Chenier plain
4 authority met today and we're drafting a
5 resolution from the Chenier authority board
6 and essentially, I'm going to cover six points
7 out of that resolution that will be
8 forthcoming and will be sent to CPRA, as well
9 as the parishes.

10 So, the first item, as the Chenier plain
11 Authority recommends, that the CPRA add
12 shoreline protection to the master plan. The
13 second item is the -- we recommend that the
14 CPRA add reference to the Southwest Coastal
15 Study being consistent with the master plan.
16 We need clarity within the document. The
17 third point is we would like the master plan
18 to acknowledge local parish master plans in an
19 appendix as viable projects that could be
20 viewed on a case-by-case basis in the future
21 for funding, very similar to the 2012 process.

22 The fourth point is we'd like the -- even
23 though hydrological restoration is a
24 programmatic component of the master plan, we
25 would like to recognize those components in

1 the mapping process, potentially the parish
2 fact sheets so that people can understand on
3 an easier basis what exactly is written,
4 especially since Leanne Sharp just gave a
5 presentation about the elevations in the
6 Chenier plain being the lowest in the state
7 and also it's obvious to residents of our
8 parishes that, you know, with all the severe
9 flooding invasion, that we would --
10 hydrological restoration is one of our top
11 concerns with shoreline protection being the
12 first.

13 Fifth point is we would like land
14 building and land protection. We would
15 like -- we recommend them to be on equal
16 footing in the master plan. We understand
17 that marsh creation is very important, but as
18 everyone said before, protecting what we have
19 is our primary goal.

20 My sixth point is we would like to
21 protect our investment. As was mentioned,
22 CS-59, Oyster Bayou, \$20 million has been
23 invested so far; CS-66, Cameron Meadows;
24 ME-20, CS-59, the TV9 and there's many other
25 projects that can be referenced. We've spent

1 a lot of money, and we would like those
2 investments to be protected.

3 On a personal note, I really appreciate
4 all the hard work that's been put into the
5 plan. We understand that the public process
6 is very important and we know that you listen.
7 I realize in the 2012 master plan, there was
8 like 22 changes and several programmatic
9 clarifications and we know that you listened
10 to us and we're very glad that there's been
11 more outreach and more public involvement in
12 this plan. I want to commend you on the hard
13 work and good job that you're doing.

14 MR. SPERYER: Thank you, Nedra.

15 Nick Dixon.

16 Charles Atherton, you'll be next. Nick
17 gets to go first. Let's go. Thank you.

18 MR. DIXON: Hello. Nick Dixon, and I'm
19 representing the coalition to restore coastal
20 Louisiana. CRCL is a statewide organization
21 concerned with coastal land loss. I'd like to
22 start off by saying that we commend the State
23 for their continued efforts to incorporate the
24 latest science and modeling into this effort
25 of fighting coastal land loss but since we're

1 here in Lake Charles, we want to point out
2 that we strongly support the prioritization of
3 salinity control structures within the
4 Calcasieu Ship Channel to address saltwater
5 intrusion as a priority project, and that we
6 also support the implementation of the
7 Southwest Coastal study to reduce flood risk
8 for the residents of the Chenier plain. We
9 recognize that we must balance the various
10 interests to protect the people and economies
11 of Cameron and Calcasieu.

12 That being said, we recognize that the
13 underlying causes of land loss in the Chenier
14 plain are different than those in the Delta
15 plain, including saltwater intrusion and
16 marsh. (inaudible)

17 So, we believe that it's critical that we
18 invest in projects that restore the coast by
19 restoring natural processes such as hydraulic
20 restoration and living shorelines.

21 I want to kind of end this on a note,
22 which was already mentioned, that we're going
23 to be hosting something called a restoration
24 road show where we're going to be talking with
25 anybody who felt like they didn't understand

1 what was being discussed at this meeting and
2 to maybe get some clarification, to continue
3 that conversation with ourselves and other
4 Federal, State, and local agencies. So, we'll
5 be back in this region to continue this
6 dialogue and in Abbeville, February 9th, and
7 Cameron, March 2nd. I encourage all of
8 you-all to invite your friends, family, and
9 colleagues to come have that discussion with
10 us. You can get more on that at CRCL.org.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. SPERYER: Thanks, Nick.

13 Charles.

14 Ray Freeman. You'll be next, Ray.

15 MR. ATHERTON: Charlie Atherton. I guess
16 I'm representing the people that are no longer
17 here, because when we started this process
18 with these meetings many, many years ago that
19 combined and wound up being what we have here
20 today, those meetings, they started off with
21 people telling you to rock everything. The
22 people that are no longer here because they're
23 gone, their dying breath was "rock the coast."

24 So, we really can't understand that maybe
25 we're using the words for rock. Your

1 technical -- whatever word for rock the coast
2 they used on the east end of the state,
3 scratch out whatever and put that word in
4 because we need our entire coastline rocked
5 and protected. We support everything you got
6 in the plan right after you rocked the coast
7 so we don't lose what you're going to spend
8 money to develop.

9 I know in the past when they opened up
10 the floodgates, I think it was Atchafalaya
11 floodgates, the satellite photos tracked the
12 big plume of mud that plugged up the entrance
13 to the ship channel.

14 So, Rodney Guilbeaux showed you years ago
15 how to put the rocks to protect the coast and
16 just do the whole coast like that. We would
17 of blocked most of that mud that came when it
18 was released. The most immediate pressing
19 problem that we're having in this area in
20 Calcasieu Parish is flooding. The only way
21 rainwater or floodwater can leave is down the
22 channel. Somewhere we're asking you guys to
23 brainstorm and figure out an alternative
24 route, if there's nothing but -- you just
25 figure out how you're going to move floodwater

1 west of the river and east of the river into
2 the freshwater marshes on the other side of
3 the intracoastal.

4 When I was a kid, the rainwater here
5 could just go around through the marshes to
6 the Gulf. That's no longer the case. It has
7 to go down the channel. Ideally, what we do
8 is block out off the channel and put pumps
9 because most of our drainage is tied up but
10 here in recent years, it's critical. We're
11 getting -- we're slowly -- because of the
12 subsidence, sea level rise and all those other
13 things, we're fast becoming like New Orleans.

14 So, right now we're still going to -- if
15 you plan today, we're still going to miss the
16 boat, because at same point, you're going to
17 wind up having to put in pumps in a canal
18 system or some mechanism to move the
19 floodwater out of Calcasieu south and I would
20 suggest dump it into the freshwater marshes
21 where it would be of some benefit and also to
22 be recycled or reused at some point.

23 Again, when I started this, I had brown
24 hair and it was rock, rock, rock. I get the
25 book and I look on the Internet and I'm not

1 seeing the rock. You need to understand we
2 want the coast rocked from one end to the
3 other to protect whatever it is that you're
4 going to add. Thank you for your time.

5 MR. SPERYER: Thank you.

6 Ray.

7 Jeanette Dubinin, you'll be next.

8 MR. FREEMAN: My name is Ray Freeman.
9 I'm the executive director of the Iberia
10 Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation
11 District. First, I want to thank you-all for
12 all of you-all's outreach and for all of the
13 work that you've done on the 2017 master plan.
14 I want to thank you that at least our flood
15 protection system is still in the plan as it
16 was in 2012.

17 Now, the thing that I'm dissatisfied with
18 and the common theme that seems to be running
19 through tonight is shoreline protection or the
20 absence of it and, you know, it's -- we should
21 be protecting what is there first and then
22 build out something else, you know. So, land
23 building and shoreline protection absolutely
24 needs to have an equal footing. You know, I
25 just don't understand why we first have to

1 lose it so that we can put it back. Why don't
2 we just stop it from being lost in the first
3 place, you know? So, that's to me, a much
4 better approach.

5 In our case in Iberia Parish, we have
6 some situations where we are losing our
7 coastline and we can't use -- unfortunately,
8 we can't use rock for other different
9 obstacles that exist. However, there are
10 other shoreline protection methods that can be
11 used and, in fact, you know, CBRA's
12 participation you know that the demo projects
13 that were placed on Shark Island, four of them
14 were placed to compare their abilities to
15 create land and two of them are still
16 verifiable but if you look at Shark Island on
17 Google Earth, you'll see they've reached their
18 plan. Now if you see it from the satellite,
19 it's there. Okay?

20 And that was just a shoreline protection
21 demo project. So, these demo projects -- or
22 rather these shoreline protection projects can
23 help us to prevent the loss and to create some
24 land. So, you know, it's real important that
25 we have shoreline protection that works and we

1 think that we are on the cusp of some of those
2 that may be able to be used like in our
3 condition where we don't -- where we can't use
4 rock. So, we hope that you consider putting
5 it on an equal basis. Thank you.

6 MR. SPERYER: Thank you, Ray.

7 Jeanette.

8 Stacy Ortego, you're next.

9 MS. DUBININ: Good evening. My name is
10 Jeanette Dubinin. I'm with the Center for
11 Planning Excellence which is a statewide
12 organization that assists parish and
13 municipalities with planning and
14 implementation in their community and such
15 falls under the nonstructural activities.

16 First off, I would like to commend CPRA
17 on the development of a robust flood risk that
18 provides a framework to implement
19 nonstructural projects that have the potential
20 to significantly reduce flood risks from storm
21 surge. The detailed plan and actions and
22 outlines and responsibilities for implementing
23 nonstructural activities in Louisiana was
24 urgently needed, and the draft 2017 coastal
25 master plan addresses this need.

1 According to the 2017 draft master plan,
2 the implementation of nonstructural efforts is
3 the parish responsibility with the State
4 provided assistance where needed for an
5 application process. CPRA's research and
6 experience working with parish and
7 municipalities, however, has greatly informed
8 a recommendation to CPRA that the flood risk
9 and resilience programs application process be
10 opened and available to the municipalities to
11 implement nonstructural projects.

12 Many municipalities too may have the
13 capacity and resources to implement
14 nonstructural projects and with the CPRA's
15 assistance could expedite these projects to
16 fully reduce flood risk in their communities
17 in a timely manner. Thank you.

18 MR. MYER: Thank you, Jeanette.

19 Stacy.

20 John Foret, you're next.

21 MS. ORTEGO: Good evening. My name is
22 Stacy Ortego. I'm a representative of
23 Louisiana Wildlife Federation. First of all,
24 I'll commend the State on the hard work.

25 MR. SPERYER: Can you speak into the mic?

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MS. ORTEGO: I look forward to listening to everybody's comments. Short people problems. I look forward to listening to everyone's comments as they continue and I'll also be at the following hearings in New Orleans, Houma, and Mandeville. I will be keeping our leadership updated on this progress, as well.

LWF has been concerned about our coast since the Eighties. We'll be following the progress of this plan and State's continued restoration efforts in addition to closely monitoring a legislature. LWF also works closely with the Mississippi River Delta Coalition as well as other partners and groups that have an interest in coastal protection and restoration. LWF has been supportive of the Calcasieu Ship Channel project and we're pleased to see that remained a priority in the master plan. The project is important for combating marsh loss due to saltwater intrusion from the channel and its completion is critical.

It's imperative that the State prioritizes projects with the greatest impact

1 considering our limited source of funding and
2 we must develop additional revenue streams in
3 order to implement as many projects as
4 possible. LWF supports the master plan and
5 the changes for 2017. We have a lot at stake.
6 It's important that we have strong leadership
7 and bold actions in order to protect our coast
8 and the people, wildlife, and businesses that
9 depend on it. This isn't just a plan. It's a
10 source of hope for Louisiana.

11 Should we have any additional comments or
12 suggestions, we'll be sure to have them
13 submitted by March 26th. Thank you for your
14 efforts and the opportunity to speak.

15 MR. MYER: Thank you, Stacy.

16 John.

17 Rene Escuriex, you'll be next.

18 MR. FORET: Good evening. John Foret.
19 I'm a wetland ecologist currently employed by
20 (inaudible) and Associates and thank you for
21 this opportunity to speak. I want to let you
22 know that as part of my job over the last
23 20 years has been to understand the previous
24 plan, that I have to read and digest them and
25 implement them as best I could. I wanted to

1 note and commend you guys for the continued
2 work to improve the plan each time. Notice,
3 and I'm guilty, this plan, I was so anxious to
4 jump to Southwest Louisiana, I skipped all the
5 first part and was totally lost. I'm
6 scratching my head, backed up, read it, and I
7 really appreciate the level of effort that's
8 gone into it thus far.

9 This plan, above all the other two plans,
10 has been involved more dynamic and across the
11 board, look at coastal restoration and types
12 of projects. Great job. As you've heard
13 already, and I'm going to echo again, there's
14 been a few spots that were missed, but
15 overall, it's hitting the mark. It continues,
16 I think, in the future will be even better on
17 the next plan. I'm particularly impressed
18 with marsh creation areas. As a habitat guy,
19 I know that the need for the bugs and the
20 bunnies of the coastal zone, and we don't get
21 it without habitat. So, any way we can create
22 and/or protect should be high priority.

23 I'm also of the opinion that the
24 saltwater protection plan along the Calcasieu
25 Ship Channel is of high importance. Why?

1 Because then we can relax or begin to relax,
2 potentially, the perimeter plan which allows,
3 what, more bugs and bunnies into the habitat
4 and that increases yield. That's kudos.
5 That's good.

6 I do have one concern, and that concern
7 has to do with shoreline protection. I had
8 the honor to spend 12 years working on a
9 shoreline protection project shoulder to
10 shoulder with the State of Louisiana to look
11 at Rockefeller Refuge. Historic erosion rates
12 were 50 feet a year, as evidenced by
13 Mr. Trosclair's presentation, that's a bit
14 dated. Even during the 12 years of
15 implementation of Rockefeller, we noted
16 shoreline erosion rates an excess of 150 feet.
17 So, it's accelerated. What use is it to build
18 interior marshes if we're going to allow the
19 exterior perimeter to be eroded and affected?

20 The Rockefeller Refuge project is funding
21 2.5 linear miles. It's just a small fraction
22 of what's needed in this part of the coast,
23 and I encourage you to please look at those
24 plans, please look at these recommendations
25 and see if you can't put shoreline protection

1 back. Thank you.

2 MR. SPERYER: Thank you, John.

3 Rene.

4 Johnny Desormeaux, you're next.

5 MR. ESCURIEX: Good afternoon. This is
6 not a criticism. This is just an observation.
7 The other public meeting has live loud music.

8 MR. SPERYER: They're having a lot more
9 fun than we are.

10 MR. ESCURIEX: I think this is very
11 important, and my name is Rene Escuriex. I'm
12 with C.H. Fenstermaker, also on the Chambers
13 Southwest Environmental Affairs Committee.
14 Although I do not have an official resolution
15 from them, I think I share the same sentiment
16 as everybody on that e committee that we're
17 deeply concerned about our coast, not only
18 from an environmental standpoint, but from an
19 industry standpoint because it does protect
20 our coast on our viable and vital
21 infrastructure there.

22 I would like to echo the sentiment of all
23 the previous speaker with the exception of
24 this gentleman going from brown hair to gray.
25 I haven't quited reached that stage.

1 Nonetheless, I want to congratulate CPRA and
2 the progress that you made from the 2012 to
3 the 2017 plan. It is very well developed, and
4 we are well pleased with the incorporation of
5 the advances in science and technology. I'm
6 taking meetings like this into account and
7 some of our comments.

8 We are pleased with the diversity of the
9 plan restoration approaches and the projects.
10 Again, I want to express my concern about the
11 lack of shoreline protection in Southwest
12 Louisiana and ask that this be included in the
13 2017 plan, as this is first line of defense
14 without which, any marsh creation measures
15 could be compromised or short-lived. As one
16 of your core principles in the original
17 presentation that was given by Mr. Haas,
18 building and maintaining land and shoreline
19 protection achieves that.

20 Thank you for the great work that you're
21 doing.

22 MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Rene.

23 Johnny?

24 Bobby Aguiard, you're next.

25 MR. DESORMEAUX: Thanks for this

1 opportunity to speak. I am Johnny Desormeaux,
2 just a private citizen, a lifelong resident of
3 the area. I'm retired. I worked at the
4 Conoco docks. I was an operations supervisor
5 in Conoco docks. So, I'm very familiar with
6 the economic impact of the ship channel.
7 Being an outdoorsman, I'm also very aware of
8 the damage caused by the ship channel.

9 Since ship channel had been built, it's
10 actually destroyed thousands of acres of
11 freshwater marsh in Cameron Parish. I guess
12 in the Sixties, they decided to build locks --
13 -- Calcasieu locks on the intercoastal canal
14 and saltwater barrier because they were seeing
15 damage 25 miles up at the Calcasieu River
16 killing trees or whatever. So, that's two
17 structures that they built early on to try to
18 mitigate some of the damage that was already
19 occurring in the Sixties.

20 You know, back at that time, I called
21 Bass, just north of Hackberry right now it's
22 just a saltwater mud flat, pretty much all
23 it's good for.

24 In the plan -- I got here late. I didn't
25 see all the plans, but it looks like there is

1 a lot of barriers that would be up and down on
2 the Calcasieu ship channel. So, once all of
3 those are built, then you're going to have to
4 maintain the saltwater barrier, maintain the
5 Calcasieu locks, (inaudible) Cuts, East pass,
6 West pass. We have all of these structures to
7 maintain.

8 So, when the hurricane comes through, I
9 just, you know, think about the money that's
10 going to be required to hold -- to rebuild all
11 of these structures. There would be a lot of
12 maintenance involved.

13 I agree with some folks who said that
14 the -- you know, protect the cheniers because
15 we're kind of unique here. We're different
16 than the east part of the state where all
17 marshes are open to the Gulf. So, we have
18 cheniers.

19 In the 2012 plan, they showed a structure
20 across Cameron, across the ship channels to
21 put a barrier there across the ship channel.
22 In this plan, I guess, for some reason, that's
23 not there. So, I really would like to
24 understand the thought process on why we got
25 rid of that structure.

1 Recently on TV, I saw where, you know,
2 ship channels divides East and West Cameron
3 Parish, and some businesses in Cameron were
4 having trouble getting to the western part of
5 the parish because the ferry is out. There's
6 always -- you know, it's a rinky-dink ferry
7 and it's always broken.

8 So, if we build that barrier across the
9 ship channel and incorporate a bridge into it,
10 then you will be killing two birds in one
11 stone. You would be eliminating the need for
12 all the structures all over the parish, and
13 then you will be providing transportation from
14 East/West Cameron so that with all this
15 economic impact happening in the area, Cameron
16 Parish could flourish a place to cross right
17 there. Anyway, that's all I have.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. SPERYER: Thank you.

20 Bobby.

21 Up next is Callie Profit.

22 MR. AGUILLARD: Hello. My name is Bobby
23 Aguillard, and I'm a third generation of
24 commercial fisherman, as well as I enjoyed
25 fishing with rod and reel and going to

1 different areas of Cameron. My son is going
2 to be a fourth generation fisherman, and this
3 is what I'm here, to pass it down to him, and
4 from him, pass it down to his kids later.

5 I grew up in Cameron Parish all of my
6 life. When we noticed the rock structures
7 going out in the Holly Beach, we thought,
8 "Wow, what an awesome idea."

9 But they didn't finish it. So, with
10 that, I myself has seen over the years the
11 beach get closer and closer to the road and
12 the road at some point when you were driving
13 over it, the land had just fell away from the
14 road. Parts of the road was just asphalt at
15 some places.

16 So, I would like to thank you all for
17 letting us to voice our opinions, and if you
18 could put more rocks there to where we could
19 save that area, because that's what we need to
20 saved. Holly Beach to Cameron Parish
21 residents, it's our riviera and hopefully is
22 that the rest of Louisiana. We would love to
23 save that.

24 We would like also to thank Chenier for
25 their project they have in the lower Calcasieu

1 Lake. My dad and I were able to oyster with
2 other oystermen by there, and we did notice
3 that that is working. There's a lot of things
4 working there, and it's a good thing for us
5 and it's a good thing for our families and our
6 kids. So, thank you-all for that.

7 But I please ask you to change and put
8 the shoreline protection into the Cameron
9 Parish area. It is where we need it, but
10 also, as far as we can, down the whole coast
11 of Louisiana, do what we can to get that but
12 Cameron Parish, we surely need it and would
13 appreciate it if you-all would put that into
14 your 2017 plan and thank you-all.

15 MR. SPERYER: Thank you, Bobby.

16 Callie Profit? I might be messing that
17 one up.

18 Mark Shirley, you'll be next.

19 How bad did I mess it up?

20 MR. PROFIT: You got it right. Hello.
21 My name is Callie. I am here with Citizen and
22 Conservation.

23 My statement is that hydraulic
24 restoration is a necessity in our age of
25 environmental design with the help of the

1 land, the animals, the plants, the water, and
2 the people.

3 I was born and raised as a Missouri farm
4 girl. I have lived, loved, and worked in
5 midwest streams, rivers my whole life. From
6 my experience in the field and the evidence of
7 the pollution indicate that it must be
8 accepted, addressed with passion, grace, and
9 firm consideration of real change.

10 An example of common frustration, cattle
11 farms are a way of life and a way of
12 pollutants in our water system along with the
13 pesticides. Action must be taken. More than
14 Louisiana is at stake.

15 I want to thank you for your time and for
16 your efforts.

17 MR. SPERYER: Thank you.

18 Mark Shirley?

19 And then up next, Guthrie Percy.

20 MR. SHIRLEY: I'm Mark Shirley. I'm an
21 extension agent with the LSU AgCenter in
22 Vermilion Parish, also a resident in
23 Vermilion.

24 I want to just commend some of the other
25 comments that were made earlier about

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shoreline protection that David and Scooter and the rest of them made, and I got a couple of things I would like to point out.

One is the fact sheet idea is really good to have some for each parish to give out. I did notice in the Vermilion Parish, as far as economic progress, the agricultural economic is not listed here. Just fishery, seafood industry and service oil and gas. So, be sure to put agriculture in there.

And if ag is not considered in some of the analyses to justify different projects, then maybe you need to look back and make sure that all the projects are necessary, such as shoreline protection are in there to protect agriculture community, so, shoreline protection Vermilion Bay, as well as along the Gulf Coast.

Mermentau Basin was set up many years ago as a freshwater system. You have locks on both sides, the east and west, as well as on the south side of Rockefeller to protect the freshwater basin. So, shoreline protection, again, is going to protect that basin, but also maintain the shorelines of those

1 channels, the freshwater bayou channel that
2 needs to be maintained and protected so that
3 all freshwater system is protected which
4 impacts agriculture in Vermilion, Acadia, Jeff
5 Davis, Calcasieu, on up.

6 In the flood risk slides that you showed,
7 it had the possible storm surge getting inland
8 pretty far. Did that include -- in the
9 30-year event, did that include the
10 possibility of also rainfall? If that's just
11 storm surge, if you add in rainfall, then the
12 impacted area needs to be extended all the way
13 up beyond I-10. So, it's not just the lower
14 portions of Vermilion Parish, Iberia Parish,
15 If they get a foot or two of rain, that's --
16 the water is not going to be able to flow
17 down. So, you can actually add in another
18 color to say that in a 100-year event, that
19 possibility of flooding is going to extend all
20 the way up to I-10 and beyond.

21 And just one last thing, a lot of time
22 and effort, a lot of people here in Southwest
23 Louisiana went into that Southwest study, and
24 I would like to see the master plan consistent
25 with the Southwest Study Plan to kind of turn

1 around and say that all the projects in the
2 master plan are going to be consistent with
3 the Southwest Study.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. SPERYER: Thank you.

6 Mr. Perry?

7 MR. PERRY: Hello. My name is Guthrie
8 Perry, and I was with Louisiana Wildlife and
9 Fisheries for a number of years, and had the a
10 pleasure working with a lot of these people
11 that are here today.

12 When I first went down -- I was program
13 manager with Wildlife and Fisheries down in
14 Rockefeller. When I first went down there,
15 Ted (inaudible), Bob (inaudible), Oscar
16 Sturlese, and went out near the beach put a
17 pilon down. They move another 100 foot in put
18 another pilon.

19 Several years later, Ted, Larry McNeese
20 were working this up and said you're losing
21 30-foot a year to this thing, and we didn't
22 have fancy equipment to what they have now.
23 And, in fact, what we do is some land logs we
24 have a map, and we cut out, balance it, way to
25 compare it over here, you know. It worked

1 that out. I'm certain we didn't have a GPS.

2 Later on, we did get some things going,
3 and in about 1993, '94, the recreation center
4 in Grand Chenier, we brought up -- Larry
5 McNeese and I brought up shoreline erosion.
6 "We need some rocks down here. We're losing
7 this 30-foot a year, 100 acres," and we wanted
8 in rocks.

9 And what was said, "No. We're going to
10 have a study, Phase 1 and 2, study.
11 Development and all that."

12 And they said, "Waste of time. Look how
13 good it is over at Holly Beach."

14 Well, fortunately, when Shannon Mosley
15 came in and do their study, they were the
16 boring samples which were very identical to
17 what Mr. Louis Nichols did in the Fifties with
18 a hand auger. It's similar. Take two hundred
19 rocks needed, 200 psi, to stay up. That beach
20 out there was about 30 to 50 psi. So, now the
21 stuff they're doing in Oyster Creek and all
22 these other things is working.

23 I'm glad John Foret mentioned the fact of
24 the work he's done down there and I'm
25 surprised too to see that shoreline protection

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wasn't included right now at Rockefeller.

Another thing that David mentioned, the lack of projects in Calcasieu Parish, that is very important. We need it up here too. So, I just want to close that while I was at Rockefeller, we lost 4,500 acres of Rockefeller refuge to the Gulf of Mexico.

Thank you.

MR. SPERYER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.

I don't have any more cards for someone who has requested to speak on the record tonight. So, let's see if anyone raises their hand.

What we will now do is go into the second portion of today's public hearing. You just heard a lot about the master plan, 50-year outlook on that. I'll ask Michael Ellis, executive director of CPRA, to come up and present the 2018 annual plan.

Same sort of process, Folks, if you want to speak and provide an official comment on that document, we ask you to Bren in the back and folks around the room and complete one of these yellow sheets, fill it out, hand it in, and then we will call on you at the conclusion

1 of this presentation. Mike has promised it's
2 going to be short.

3 MR. ELLIS: Thank you. Am I on a
4 three-minute time as well here. Yeah.
5 Hopefully the annual plan will provide some
6 information that's pretty beneficial to you,
7 guys.

8 First off, my name is Michael Ellis. I'm
9 the executive director for CPRA implementation
10 group, and I appreciate this opportunity to be
11 up here. This is my first round of actually
12 annual plan and master plan meetings, and I
13 think it's important for me to be here because
14 I get to hear. I get to hear from the folks
15 closest to the situation. I think that's
16 going to help me going forward in important
17 informed decision. So, I appreciate you-all's
18 input. I appreciate you-all coming out and
19 taking the time. I can definitely tell how
20 important all of this is to you, guys.

21 MR. ATHERTON: Is this the part where the
22 rock is?

23 MR. ELLIS: Is that what's important to
24 you? I think we got to that earlier.

25 But I do -- I'm almost a year at CPRA.

1 One thing I like to call out is the folks that
2 actually run the organization with me. It's a
3 tremendous group of people. A lot of them are
4 here today. If you-all don't mind standing up
5 so we can see how many people we have from
6 CPRA to support this and they not only
7 consider it as a job, they're very passionate
8 about what they do. They spend a lot of time
9 talking about it. They want to talk about it.
10 They want to understand it. They want to get
11 better with what they do. So, I appreciate
12 their efforts.

13 So, I'm going to go into a little bit
14 about the master plan, and kind of the
15 difference is, if you will, sometimes it gets
16 confused, and I know I was also confused when
17 I was on the outside, the difference between
18 the master plan and the annual plan.

19 The best way I consider looking at it is
20 that the master plan is really a science-based
21 plan. It's built on great science, and
22 you-all heard a lot about it.

23 The annual plan is really about the
24 numbers in the schedule, how we're going to do
25 it. So, we're mandated every year to put out

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an annual plan. This is the ninth one since 2010, and what I'm going to be discussing is the fiscal year '18 plan.

A couple of things that the plan requires us to do. It requires us to set a three-year budget or expenditure plan. It really -- it nails down the projects that we anticipate having funds for and building -- or planning and building, as well as schedules associated with that. That's the implementation projection.

And we take a look at the annual plan as best we can and assess the projects that we've done in the past. So, that's really what the annual plan does, but for me, more importantly, it allows me the opportunity to look at the next three years, how do we plan to plan, design, construct, and operate and maintain and learn from these projects that we're building.

Some of the milestones I won't go in to too much detail. I think Bren discussed it in a little bit more detail, but what's important up here is, obviously, on the third. The drafting of the plan was released to the

1 public. We're here tonight, and we have a
2 series of projects -- I mean, of hearings over
3 the next couple of weeks. The important day
4 to me is the 03/26/17. That's when we -- you
5 know, we want to hear from your comments
6 tonight but also, that's when we're going to
7 close the comment period on the F.Y. '18 plan.

8 So, in summary, you know, Bren did a good
9 job, and obviously, everyone's aware of the
10 '17 master plan. So, we're working side by
11 side with the plan to develop the '18 annual
12 plan but more important than this is from the
13 F.Y. '17 annual plan to F.Y. '18 annual plan,
14 we've had som uncertainties. You know the
15 settlement of the oil spill was last April.
16 So, we know we're going to start receiving a
17 substantial amount of money starting in April
18 of '17.

19 So, that's allowing us to provide a
20 little bit more certainty as to how we plan
21 our work. So, I'm going to a little bit of
22 detail of that over the next couple of slides,
23 but what I'd like everyone to do -- I know the
24 master plan is very important, but it take
25 some time to look at the annual plan, make

1 some comments because that's really, really --
2 if you say the rubber meets the road, that's
3 really where the rubber meets the road,
4 implementing these projects. So, I can't do a
5 justice. It's a lot of information. So,
6 please take some time to look at it.

7 What else is different? We're building
8 bigger projects, more complex projects. So,
9 you know, out east you hear about the
10 diversion but out west, we talked a little bit
11 about the Calcasieu project. That's a very
12 complex, very important project to us. We're
13 happy that we have funding to move forward for
14 that.

15 We always talk about adaptive management,
16 and what is adaptive management? It's more
17 than lessons learned. People say it's lessons
18 learned. We -- and you're going to see a
19 ramp-up in adaptive management in the coming
20 years. What that means to me simply is we
21 want to understand how to get better. We want
22 to understand how to input things that we see
23 out in the field or the things we see during
24 construction or design and put that back into
25 the process to get better with what we're

1 doing. So, as we move forward to '18 and
2 outer years, we're going to do -- we're going
3 to do more robust adaptive management. I
4 think that's very important.

5 Another thing you'll see in '18 is we're
6 going to be completing some of the older
7 programs, the CF program, the sunset in the
8 August of 2016, a couple of the prime
9 programs. I'm going to show you some charts
10 that you're going to see that those are kind
11 of winding down, but we also -- we have some
12 good news. We have some funds that will be
13 ramping up over the next couple of years as
14 well.

15 A little bit about our funding sources,
16 and I won't go in too much detail other than
17 we do have money coming in, but we have -- we
18 have a lot of opportunities, if you will. So,
19 we do have limited resources. We do have to
20 make tough decisions at many times. In many
21 cases, some of these funding sources have
22 restrictions that we can spend the dollars on.
23 So, I'm not going to go into a whole lot of
24 detail other than in the annual plan, there's
25 some really good explanations of where we can

1 spend the money, how we can spend the money.
2 So, one thing I do want to point out is
3 that from the state revenues -- and that
4 primarily operates the implementation
5 business, and we also do some -- basically, we
6 forward some money for grants and, the
7 matching program. It's usually, we
8 anticipate -- it's based on oil prices, and we
9 usually around 25 to \$30 million a year. This
10 year, the next couple of years, we're in the
11 estimating around 14 million. So, we have a
12 lot of work to do and, in many cases, a lot
13 less funds to operate.

14 Some accomplishments of these in the
15 '17 -- in '17 plan as well. I won't go into
16 too much detail, but we had -- we already --
17 we have 11 -- in 2016, we completed 11
18 projects worth about \$330 million, and it
19 benefited around 3500 acres.

20 Ongoing in construction, we have
21 29 projects currently going on, and we're
22 moving forward to a -- and I think that we --
23 we're looking at benefit in around
24 20,000 acres in March, and it's around
25 \$5.5 billion. So, we have a lot -- a lot of

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work we've done in the past, but there's a lot of work going on right now. As you'll see in a minute, we have a lot of work being planned as we move forward.

So, this is the table -- you can think this is Section 4 of the annual plan, as well as the executive summary. This is our projected revenues. There's a lot of information on this table and one thing I want to point out, and if you can see right here, the trust fund, that's what we talked about earlier. This is primarily how we operate our business, and we've -- historically, I got around 25 to \$30 million. So, you can see that's a tremendous impact from us. At the same time, you can see that some of the oil spill dollars are starting to come in, and so, we expect those revenues over the next three years.

Then also, I told you a little bit earlier some of the programs, like CDG is going away as well. What this revenue represents is \$2.5 billion over the next three years that we anticipate moving forward.

So, if you have any accountants in the

1 room for -- if you have a revenue, you must
2 have expenditures. These are the
3 expenditures. I won't, like I said, go into a
4 whole lot of detail, but it -- this represents
5 quite a bit of work over the next three years.
6 So, I encourage everyone to spend some time
7 and look at that and comment on that. We'd
8 love to hear what your thoughts are.

9 This slide just depicts the previous
10 expenditure graph. What's important here is,
11 obviously, we spend quite a bit of the money
12 on the construction sites. At the end of the
13 day, you know, that's what we want to get at
14 and -- but in previous years, you may not have
15 seen as much engineering design, which is
16 encouraging to me, is this engineering designs
17 were able to kick off because some of the oil
18 spill dollars will turn into construction in
19 subsequent years. So, that's just a way of
20 kind of us to look at and weigh at how we are
21 looking at the projects moving forward.

22 This is the schedule. We scheduled out
23 all of the projects for the next three years.
24 This is how we schedule them. There's
25 planning, there's design, there's

1 construction, there's -- so, one thing to
2 point out to these folks out here, which is a
3 very important project to us, is the Calcasieu
4 Ship Channel project. So, as you can see,
5 it's currently under design, and, you know,
6 we -- it's funded by RESTORE. This is how we
7 manage our work. So, we schedule. This is
8 how we know if we're getting behind, how we
9 track ourselves. So, this is part of our
10 implementation plan.

11 We also track our programmatic
12 expenditures over the next three years. These
13 aren't necessarily projects. These are
14 overarching programs, if you will, that
15 support our project. For example, the
16 Beneficial Use Program. You know, we
17 obviously tend to continue to fund that but
18 what's important to note right here on this,
19 this fiscal year '18, is some assistantship to
20 levees, as well as restoration partnerships.

21 We're not anticipating '18 with new
22 programs. There's some existing programs that
23 we're going to continue to fund in the '18.
24 However, because of what I spoke about
25 earlier, our reduction in oil spill -- I mean,

1 in our mineral trust dollars, were unable to
2 fund some of those programs. However, we're
3 looking at possibly funding the GOMESA, and
4 GOMESA comes in in 2018, '19 time frame to
5 pick up some of these programs and obviously
6 looking at restoring other opportunities. So,
7 they're very important to us. However,
8 because of some of the shortfalls that we've
9 experienced, we're behind. We had to look at
10 ways to reduce.

11 This very complicated expenditure graph
12 is for adaptive management. What I wanted to
13 put it up there for when there's quite a bit
14 of work, that's going to be going into
15 adaptive management over the next three years.
16 It's very important to us, and that's where
17 you can see a tremendous ramp-up as far as the
18 dollar spent in support of our programs and
19 projects.

20 Lastly, this is basically how we operate.
21 This is our operating expenditures. As you
22 can see in the first -- last CPRA, that
23 encompasses the implementation staff of around
24 165 people including our field offices.
25 That's salaries. That's vehicles. That's

1 overhead. That's, you know, keeping our
2 building lights on and et cetera.

3 As you can see, that stays pretty steady,
4 and what I spoke about before, about our, you
5 know, operating cost from mineral trust going
6 down, you know, we, obviously, still
7 maintaining a certain level of staff and --
8 but what -- another thing that's important
9 about that number, \$23 million, roughly, I
10 think it represents about 4 percent of our
11 overall budget. So, we're a very lean
12 organization. We pride ourselves with that.
13 As you can see, a lot of these folks here,
14 they're going to be traveling around the whole
15 state. They're spending their evenings --
16 they're -- we don't have a lot of people. So,
17 please take that into consideration when you
18 say that we're not out here enough. We're
19 trying to get out here as much as we can, and
20 we'll never turn anything down. That's one
21 thing that we're very proud of.

22 So, one other thing that I want to point
23 out is this number here, \$23 million, if you
24 look at -- when I spoke earlier about how we
25 operate the funds that we're getting is being

1 reduced -- has been reduced because of the oil
2 price, we're able to offset this number by
3 basically program -- I mean, our staff is
4 working on the project, working on the program
5 that's funded through different source,
6 whether it's -- they're able to charge their
7 time back. So, that's -- so, we're trying to
8 be -- we're as efficient as we can about
9 charging time back to the projects, reducing
10 our overhead costs.

11 Really, that's pretty much it. I hope I
12 didn't keep you-all too long. I appreciate
13 it. Same thing, I guess. Nick, you're going
14 to come up here and let me know if you have
15 any comments. I hope you have some, but if
16 not, I hope to see some of you soon. Thank
17 you-all very much.

18 MR. SPERYER: Thank you, Michael.

19 Again, we're happy to take these
20 comments. At this point in time, I have not
21 received any forms to provide official public
22 comment here on the annual plan. So, we're
23 not going to keep you.

24 Ralph?

25 MR. LIBERSAT: Yeah. I would like to

1 comment.

2 MR. SPERYER: Yeah. Come on, Ralph.
3 State your name and who you represent.

4 MR. EDWARD: Ralph Libersat, Vermilion
5 Coastal Committee.

6 Mike, I want to commend you on presenting
7 something on budget numbers, you know, after a
8 long meeting. So, you did make it
9 interesting. I caught a couple of things.
10 So, I hope you don't feel too bad.

11 Basically, on the revenues versus
12 expenses, one of the big things I saw
13 different from last year to this year was the
14 payment. You put it in the revenue column,
15 and I understand why, and explained it to me,
16 basically, how we going to do that. I think
17 it's a little bit of a voodoo economics, and I
18 would like you to just call it what it is.
19 It's going to be an expenditure.

20 Jim, I want to commend you for your great
21 efforts. I know we're going on a lot of stuff
22 here with the congressional district to try to
23 get that waived. I would encourage you to do
24 that but let's call it what it is. It's going
25 to be an expense. It's going to be in a tune

1 of \$98 billion per year that we're going to
2 have to pay for this hurricane protection in
3 New Orleans.

4 Now, our GOMESA funding is probably about
5 in the tune of about 143 million per year on a
6 good estimate. So, we're going to be left
7 with \$40 million to do restoration efforts.
8 We need to take that care of, and we need to
9 call it what it is. It's an expense. Let's
10 go ahead and put it there and let's not just
11 hide it.

12 The only other thing with the funding for
13 the levee districts, I saw that a million
14 dollars a year, I believe, is what it is. I
15 don't remember exactly but I wanted to ask a
16 question: Is the Chenier Plain Levee District
17 and the Iberia Levee District included in that
18 figure?

19 MR. ELLIS: We were digesting your first
20 part.

21 MR. LIBERSAT: I must slow down. I got
22 three minutes.

23 MR. SPEAKER:

24 MR. SPERYER: Ralph, we can certainly
25 chat off-line to answer your questions. Save

1 this for your official comment, and then we
2 can follow up with questions and
3 clarifications.

4 MR. LIBERSAT: Okay. If it's not -- and
5 I don't think it is. My point, I was going to
6 make this that Chenier Plain and the Iberia
7 Levee District are operating at handicap
8 because they don't have the mileage that the
9 other districts do to do the basic services.
10 It costs them an arm and leg, as you know,
11 just to get a ballot -- you know, to get
12 something on the ballots so they can't get
13 funding to do this. If they don't have the
14 funding to do -- to advertise that, we're
15 operating always in a hole and playing catch
16 up, and we're begging and robbing Peter to pay
17 Paul. So, it's very difficult for the Chenier
18 Plain District to do that.

19 MR. ELLIS: Yeah, I apologize to you,
20 Ralph, on missing your second question. We
21 were flipping through the tables, and I think
22 we might need a little bit more clarification
23 on where you're seeing the GOMESA, the
24 100-year payback -- or the 30-year payback, --
25 excuse me, is listed as a revenue and not as

1 an expenditure. I'm looking at the chart
2 here.

3 MR. LIBERSAT: It's in the revenue chart
4 or did I misread that?

5 MR. ELLIS: According -- in the draft
6 plan that we have in front of us, it's listed
7 in the expenditure chart. So, I don't know if
8 it's in the -- on the PowerPoint.

9 MR. LIBERSAT: Can you flip back a couple
10 of slides on that?

11 MR. ELLIS: Yeah. We can --

12 MR. LIBERSAT: Okay. All right. If it
13 is -- and I apologize for that comment, but I
14 thought it was in the revenue column.

15 MR. ELLIS: Oh, okay. I see what you're
16 talking about. We can chat off-line. I
17 understand.

18 MR. SPERYER: Okay. Thank you, Ralph.

19 Any official public comments on the
20 annual plan?

21 Look, we have mentioned it a few times,
22 you've got until March 26th. Your comment
23 online or in writing, it's just as good as the
24 comments that we heard here today. I hope
25 you've also seen our commitment to really work

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with you. We heard a lot of comments today.

The good news to all of you is when you look at the appendices in the final plan that gets produced and submitted in April, the conversation that we have tonight will clearly be documented. So, be patient with us as we work through this public comments here.

I would also like to say, doing a Facebook Live, we had over 800 people join at some point in time to watch some portion of the presentation. It's amazing what we're able to do with technology to try to reach more people than was just here with us today here in Lake Charles.

So, with that, we'll let you go, and drive home safe. Thank you for taking time this afternoon. We'll see you soon.

(Whereupon the proceedings were concluded)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This certification is valid only for a transcript accompanied by my signature on this page.

I, BELYNDA CHAMPAGNE, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify that CPRA MASTER PLAN/ANNUAL PLAN MEETING ON 1-17-17 was taken hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing (117) pages; that this testimony was reported by me in the stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding; that the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board; that I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions of the board, that I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signed this 13th day of February, 2017.

BELYNDA CHAMPAGNE
CCR No. 93048
RPR No. 821012

In The Matter Of:

State Of LA Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority

*NO CPRA Meeting For Master Plan/Annual Plan
January 18, 2017*

*Associated Reporters, Inc.
201 St. Charles Avenue
Suite 4315
New Orleans, LA 70170
(504) 529-3355*

Original File NOLAM.TXT

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2
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5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
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STATE OF LOUISIANA
COASTAL PROTECTION and RESTORATION AUTHORITY

The CPRA meeting for MASTER PLAN/ANNUAL
PLAN, taken in connection with the above
captioned matter at the Port of New Orleans
Auditorium, 1350 Port of New Orleans Place, New
Orleans, Louisiana on Wednesday, January 18,
2017 at 5:30 p.m.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

NICK SPEYRER

CHAIRMAN: Johnny Bradberry

Bren Haase

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Michael Ellis

1 I N D E X

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PAGE

Caption:	1
Appearances:	2
Proceedings:	4
Reporter's Page:	104
Certificate:	105

1 MR. SPEYRER:

2 We are here for the hearing for the draft
3 for the 2017 Coastal Master Plan. I will sort
4 of walk you through the agenda for this
5 afternoon. First, I am going to ask Chairman
6 Johnny Bradberry with the CPRA, the Coastal
7 Protection and Restoration Authority here in
8 Louisiana to say a few remarks. After those
9 remarks, Bren Haase will then come up and
10 provide about a twenty-five minute overview
11 presentation of the draft 2017 Coastal Master
12 Plan. At that point in time we are going to
13 stop the presentation and we are going to allow
14 the public to provide public comments on that
15 document.

16 At the conclusion of those public comments
17 we will then ask Michael Ellis to come up and
18 give a presentation on the fiscal year 2018
19 Annual Plan for CPRA. And then we will take
20 public comments on that plan. So we are here
21 as long as we need to be and look forward to
22 the presentation as well as the public comments
23 we are going to hear.

24 So with that I would like to introduce and
25 welcome Mr. Johnny Bradberry, chairman of the

1 Coastal Restoration Authority.

2 MR. BRADBERRY:

3 Welcome and it is good to see everybody
4 today. It is good to be here. And you know
5 this is the second meeting that we have, the
6 public meeting that we have regarding the draft
7 plan for 2017. And we welcome your comments.
8 I mean, you know, we are mandated by law to
9 have three public meetings. We are going to
10 have four and then we're going to tag along
11 with other meetings to try and make sure we get
12 a good cross section of what you think about
13 the Master Plan. So tonight I would really
14 like for you to be engaged. We welcome these
15 comments. We have incorporated comments
16 already from the public, but this is just
17 another avenue for you to voice your opinion,
18 and your thoughts, and your desires, and your
19 wants. Whatever you want to call it as it
20 relates to the Master Plan. So, again, I
21 encourage you to do that. This is a great
22 forum to do that in. Good and bad in terms of
23 what you like and dislike about the plan. But,
24 hey, if we can't take the heat then we will get
25 out of the kitchen, so to speak.

1 I would like, before we go any further, I
2 would like to recognize some public officials
3 here. Representative Chris Leopold is here.
4 Chris, good to have you here. Thank you. We
5 have several officials from the FICUS Council.
6 Amos Cormier, President of Plaquemines Parish.
7 Charlie Burt, Councilman. Charlie, there he
8 is. And we have Audrey Trufant-Salavant,
9 Council Member. And we have Matt Ram from the
10 Port of New Orleans, and thank you Matt for the
11 second meeting. Any other public officials
12 that I might have missed? Now you can beat up
13 on the Council Member. Yes, sir?

14 MR. TEMPLET:

15 Council Member Ricky Templet from
16 Jefferson Parish.

17 MR. BRADBERRY:

18 Ricky Templet. Anyone else? Now you can
19 beat up on the councilmen and the
20 representatives if you want to, as opposed to
21 CPRA. Just kidding. Again, I would encourage
22 you to be engaged tonight. I have every
23 indication that you will. This is, you know,
24 we provided your public comments. I just
25 wanted to make you aware - make it known to

1 you that this is not a debate, you know, we are
2 going to hear your comments, we are going to
3 take those in, we are going to acknowledge
4 them. We are going to take them back with all
5 the other comments that we have from our
6 meetings and we are going to rationalize what
7 should change in the plan. But tonight we are
8 giving you the opportunity to speak. We won't
9 sit up here and debate with you. Of course if
10 we did there is a lot of white cards and we
11 would probably be here all night. So the
12 format here is listening to you, we are going
13 to actively listen. We will take those
14 comments back again and will work them. So,
15 again I welcome you, thank you for being here
16 and let's have a good show.

17 MR. SPEYRER:

18 Thank you Chairman Bradberry. I would
19 like to ask everybody in the aisles, you've got
20 to go on and sit down. No one is allowed in
21 the aisles for fire code purposes. There is
22 plenty of seats down here in the front. We ask
23 folks to please scoot in and accommodate and we
24 are going to get everybody into the seats.

25 Next up will be Bren Haase, Chief of

1 Planing for CPRA to give a presentation on the
2 Coastal Master Plan. I would like to welcome
3 the two hundred plus here today, but I would
4 also like to welcome the audience we have on
5 Facebook. This is the second meeting in a row
6 that we have decided to live broadcast these
7 public hearings, really in an attempt to
8 provide more access to the citizens across this
9 coast that care so much about the place they
10 call home and care so much about this master
11 plan. Last night we had a little over 1,500
12 views, so we will see how the New Orleans
13 meeting does in comparison to that. Without
14 any further ado, Bren Haase with the Master
15 Plan.

16 MR. HAASE:

17 All right. Thanks, Nick. Thanks Chairman
18 Bradberry. I appreciate the introduction. And
19 man, what a turn out. This is fantastic. It
20 really goes to the first point I would like to
21 make as we move into this presentation, you
22 know, and that's that, you know, we are all
23 here for one purpose, I think. And that's a,
24 that's a good thing, that's a beautiful thing
25 for the coast of Louisiana. We all want to do

1 the most good for most people that we can
2 across our coast. And I think the turnout here
3 tonight is certainly evidence of that. I -
4 and again, this is just a tremendous, and a
5 strong forum, and a good showing of this part
6 of the region in terms of, in terms of that.
7 So I want to thank you all for being here, I
8 appreciate your time. And without further ado
9 we are going to get right into things.

10 We work for the Coastal Protection and
11 Restoration Authority. Excuse me. We are
12 roughly a new State agency formed after the
13 hurricane season of 2005. We have a pretty
14 strict core mandate. That mandate is to
15 develop, implement, and enforce a comprehensive
16 Master Plan for coastal restoration and
17 hurricane protection in the State of Louisiana.
18 We want to restore our coastal ecosystem and we
19 want to protect our citizens from the risks
20 associated with hurricanes and tropical storm
21 surges. That is relatively straight forward.

22 We know we are doing this in the face of
23 an ongoing crisis, we are certainly facing a
24 crisis here in coastal Louisiana. You can see
25 that depicted here on this map. This is a map

1 of historical land loss dating back to 1932.
2 The red on this map represents loss and the
3 green on the map represents gain. But you can
4 see on the map we lost about 1,900 square miles
5 of our coastal wetlands, again, dating back to
6 1932 time frame. That is an astonishing
7 amount. And looking forward - the predictions
8 don't, you know, are trending in the same way
9 if we don't do anything about that land loss.
10 So we've got a fundamental problem facing the
11 coast of Louisiana from the land loss and
12 that's something I think we are all aware that,
13 that needs to be addressed because it affects
14 all of us and our communities, and how we make
15 our living, and so forth.

16 So along those lines, and certainly we
17 think Louisiana is worth saving. We are a
18 national treasure if not an international
19 treasure. And you can see under the stats
20 listed here. But of course too many people
21 live in coastal Louisiana and I'm not going to
22 go through in terms of trades and ports.
23 Certainly we're looking at the Port of New
24 Orleans. It is immensely important, not just
25 to Louisiana and New Orleans but to the nation,

1 and internationally as well. In terms of our
2 ecosystems services, our water fowl production,
3 and fisheries production, and so forth we are
4 second to none and certainly worth saving.

5 And we are making investments in our
6 coastal economy. And just a few of those I'm
7 pointing out here, starting out in the west,
8 over \$100 million dollars has been invested in
9 the southwest part of the state over the last
10 several years or so. You can see the impact
11 that has as it relates to jobs and revenue.
12 Port Fourchon, I think we are all very familiar
13 with, and certainly in terms of its support of
14 energy production for the United States. It is
15 immensely important, and you can also see the
16 five new jobs established for every job that's
17 developed as in - at Port Fourchon. And of
18 course, again, as we were talking about the
19 Port of New Orleans and the transportation
20 system that is associated with the Mississippi
21 River. You can see what the impact of the
22 potential deepening of that river might have on
23 this region, and certainly in the country. And
24 we believe we are worth fighting for. We need
25 to save these areas. We need to do what we can

1 to, again, restore our coast and protect our
2 citizens for these reasons here.

3 And this gets into some of the economic
4 drivers. Certainly energy production and the
5 dollar figures associated with that are
6 immense. And, again, being in the
7 transportation. And some of the intrinsic
8 value of just our natural ecosystem are
9 estimated to be into the trillions of dollars.
10 So that is not certainly something to sneeze
11 at. An so in recognition of all of this,
12 again, CPRA was formed. We have been doing an
13 awful lot of work over the last decade or so.
14 About \$20 billion has been secured for doing
15 the kind of work I am going to talk about
16 tonight in coastal Louisiana. Many of those
17 dollars are on the ground in terms of
18 restoration and protection projects. One
19 hundred twenty million cubic yards of dredge
20 material has been moved to do things like
21 rebuild our marshes, our barrier islands,
22 rebuild bridges, and so forth. We have been
23 able to benefit over 36,000 acres of coastal
24 wetlands in that time frame. We have
25 constructed 282, or improved 282 miles of

1 levees during that time frame, and were able to
2 do work on about sixty miles of our barrier
3 islands and barrier shorelines on the same time
4 period. So, this is just a representation of
5 sort of what that looks like across the state.

6 Obviously we have done a lot of work in
7 this area in terms of risk reduction and also
8 restoration of - much more work is going on
9 along the coast. And much is going on as we
10 speak. So on the North Shore the Bayou
11 (inaudible) project is turning dirt right now.
12 Moving around to the west recently completed a
13 project that is being worked on the western
14 part of the state. These projects are going on
15 as we speak, so we are turning dirt right now
16 and certainly there is more in the pipe line
17 that will be upcoming. We are going to hear
18 more about that as part of the Annual Plan
19 presentation that will follow this one.

20 So, what's the coastal Master Plan, what
21 is it at its most basic? It is really a method
22 for us to make difficult decisions. We know we
23 can't do everything that we want to do for all
24 of our citizens. It is just a reality of this
25 business. We can't restore our coast to a

1 level of, historical level, you know, 1930's,
2 for example, or even the 1990's for that
3 matter. We can't provide all the protection
4 that we would like, or risk reduction we would
5 like, for all of our citizens. But we can do a
6 lot of good with what we have over the next
7 fifty years or so. And so the Master Plan
8 provides a framework for us to make those very
9 tough decisions. And at the end of the day
10 that methodology results in a list of projects
11 and at its most basic the Master Plan does, of
12 course, result in that list of projects for us
13 to hopefully to that most good for the most
14 people.

15 Why do another plan? First of all it's
16 required by law. We are required to update it
17 every five years, and I think for good reason.
18 You all are keenly aware, I think, of the
19 dynamic nature of our coast. It changes minute
20 by minute, hour by hour, certainly week by
21 week, and year by year. And so updating to the
22 plan allows us to react to the changing
23 landscape and allows us to be able to modify
24 the plan to adjust to those changes that we
25 see. We also learn things as we go. As we

1 implement projects we get better at them, we
2 learn from implementing those projects. And
3 that mileage and that, you know, those
4 innovations will be incorporated into the
5 Master Plan updates. So we are doing this kind
6 of thing right now. And technology, again, and
7 science, and engineering, and so forth
8 certainly improves as time marches on and
9 allows up to develop a plan that helps us to
10 integrate those system restorations and risk
11 reduction aspect of things.

12 So, what are some of the things that are
13 different? I mentioned some of the lessons
14 learned, including advancements in technology
15 and the things that we know about. So we have
16 improved our science and our technical analysis
17 for the 2017 plan. Really, the ink wasn't dry
18 on the 2012 plan when we began to think to
19 ourselves, "Well, what are those things that we
20 need to do differently? What would we have
21 done if we actually had the time, or the data,
22 or the ability to do some things differently to
23 try to do a better job by putting this plan
24 together?"

25 So those things were, many of those things

1 were incorporated into the 2017 analysis. We
2 have incorporated new ideas and information
3 into this plan, so we put calls out for two new
4 projects. We certainly don't believe that we
5 don't have all the answers. And so there are
6 public calls made for new ideas, new projects
7 to be evaluated as part of the 2017 Master
8 Plan. Excuse me. And, you know, many of those
9 projects were part of the overall evaluation
10 process in developing this plan. There is a
11 new increased focus on flood risk reduction and
12 resilience. And I think you'll see that
13 reflected in the development of the non-
14 structural program as part of the 2017 draft
15 plan.

16 There is an increased emphasis on our
17 communities. Certainly we recognize, the
18 reason we are doing all this in the first place
19 is for our people, for our communities. We all
20 need a place to live, and a place to be able to
21 recreate, and a place to make a living. And
22 that is a significant driving force behind
23 trying to accomplish what we hope to accomplish
24 in the draft Master Plan. I think you will see
25 that reflected in our people in the landscape

1 document that was available. Hopefully you got
2 a chance to pick one of those up today,
3 tonight, and take a look at that. But it
4 discusses issues like how does land loss affect
5 our ability to insure ourselves, how does it
6 affect the people that live along the coast,
7 and our ability to have viable communities and
8 so forth.

9 We've expanded our outreach and engagement
10 for this, this go around. And we have been
11 able to, with a little bit of clarity on our
12 funding situation associated with the Deepwater
13 Horizon oil spill settlement, we have been able
14 to get a sense of, or a recognition of the
15 urgency of the need to put projects on the
16 ground now rather than later. Being able to
17 put some of the funding that we otherwise would
18 have had to support some of those projects
19 earlier in the process. Again, projects on the
20 ground sooner rather than later.

21 So the objectives of the Master Plan, you
22 see those listed here. Again, we want to
23 protect our citizens from flooding associated
24 with hurricanes and storm surges. We want to
25 harness the natural resources that are built in

1 south Louisiana in the first place. It
2 certainly makes sense to tap into those things
3 that builds the land that we are standing on
4 right now to begin with. We want to provide
5 coastal habitats to support commercial and
6 recreational activities, they are important to
7 all of us. Certainly our coastal heritage is
8 something that is extremely important to us,
9 that's why so many of us live in this region.
10 It is something that we hold near and dear and
11 something that we want to be able to preserve
12 in the future. And that culture and heritage
13 is something that is intricately intertwined
14 with our coastal, coastal landscape. And we
15 want to be able to provide a working coast.
16 Again, all this is about, you know, our
17 communities and the people that live on the
18 coast and we want to be able to provide a
19 landscape and a place where we can work and
20 make a living.

21 So in terms of developing a coastal Master
22 Plan, this is sort of the, the schematic that
23 identifies that. We start off with a number of
24 projects. I mentioned the call for new
25 projects earlier that we evaluate through a

1 series of analytical tools, predictive models.
2 We are then able to organize and help fund or
3 understand the outcome of those predictive
4 models through a planning tool that indicates
5 or helps us understand how to put projects
6 together. So in many cases projects, you know,
7 one plus one is actually greater than two when
8 you're talking about projects. Perhaps the
9 diversions or marsh creation project, the two
10 can work beneficially. For many instances
11 projects work, you know, against each other
12 essentially, and so the planning tool helps us
13 identify where there is synergy and where there
14 is potential conflicts, and how we might put
15 projects together in terms of alternatives that
16 need to be evaluated through those predictive
17 models and ultimately be viewed again in the
18 planning tool to develop a draft plan as you
19 will see today.

20 So let's start with the coastal projects.
21 There were 135 restoration projects that were
22 evaluated as part of this, part of this
23 process. Fifty-four non-structural protection
24 projects. And when I say non-structural we are
25 talking about voluntary flood-proofing of

1 commercial structures, home elevations, and
2 acquisitions. Again, voluntary acquisitions
3 where those may be deemed necessary. And then
4 twenty structural restoration projects. And by
5 that, those are the things that we are
6 certainly most familiar with; flood gates,
7 levees, things of that nature is what we are
8 talking about there.

9 Just to give you an idea of how they are
10 associated. So that represents 209 projects
11 that were evaluated to be incorporated, to
12 potentially be included in this part of the
13 Master Plan. So the dollar figure associated
14 with those 209 projects is roughly \$150 billion
15 dollars. So as I, you know, I mentioned
16 earlier, really what we are talking about in a
17 nice way is a way to make some tough decisions.
18 Well, it's, it's pretty tough to try to pare
19 down \$150 billion worth of projects within a
20 \$50 million constraint which is what we are
21 working with here. And I will get into a
22 little more detail on that in just a moment.
23 The demand for this kind of work greatly
24 outpaces our ability to supply the work.

25 So we are getting into the predictive

1 models a bit. And the real thing to, to take
2 home from this is if you look at kind of the
3 top, right-hand side of this as we are talking
4 about these models. This is where we are able
5 to evaluate how projects affect things in our
6 environment. How does it affect the way water
7 moves? How does it affect the salinity of the
8 water? How might a project affect vegetation
9 or the way sediment is either deposited or
10 removed from an area? What happens to our
11 barrier islands if we build a project? And
12 those kind of things. But we also look at
13 things like surge waves, storm surges and
14 waves, and how projects affect those and how
15 those storm surges and waves, of course, are
16 translated to risk. And we do that over a
17 range of environmental scenarios. And you can
18 see the factors associated with those over on
19 the right-hand side of that slide.

20 So let me begin to talk about the planning
21 tool here. There are really two factors that
22 are, or two drivers that affect whether or not
23 a project is selected or not selected as part
24 as the master plan analysis. And that's, it's
25 those that you see here. How well does a

1 project reduce the flood risk to our
2 communities and how well does the project build
3 or maintain the land? So those are our primary
4 decision drivers and you see those again here
5 on this slide. But I mentioned constraints
6 earlier in a \$50 billion plan. We know we
7 don't have all the money in the world to do,
8 again, all the projects that we would like. We
9 don't have that \$150 billion, and so we are
10 constrained by those dollars. And so funding
11 you see is listed there as a constraint. We
12 also have some natural resource constraints as
13 well in terms of sediment, fresh water,
14 nutrients, and so forth that are available to
15 do all the things that, that we would like to
16 do.

17 We also have these, these other things,
18 these metrics, or things that we measure are
19 listed on the right-hand side of this, of this
20 slide here. And these are, again, things that
21 we know are important to us. It is not just as
22 simple as how much land we are building or
23 maintaining or how much risk we reduce, there
24 are also other things that are very important
25 to us. So we use these metrics, both

1 community and environmental metrics, to inform
2 how projects - how they may affect things like
3 traditional fishing communities for example, or
4 how that might affect alligators, or oysters,
5 or water fowl for example. And so these are
6 some other ways with which we can look at the,
7 look at the plan and the projects that are part
8 of the plan.

9 So that is kind of the technical, science
10 part of this thing. But we also know that
11 we've got to be responsive to the needs of our
12 communities. And we think we are doing that,
13 and hopefully we will continue to do that. I
14 mentioned outreach earlier and really I think
15 that this has been an unprecedented amount of
16 outreach in the, in the recent past. This, and
17 I'm not going to go through each of these, but
18 this represents 150 opportunities for folks to
19 either talk to us about the Master Plan
20 process, and for us to, to hear from folks just
21 like you about how this plan has been
22 developed. And this dates back, you know,
23 three years or so now. And it gets the gamut
24 from everything from very, very technical
25 specific models, you know, presentations and

1 discussions to, to more broad meetings very
2 similar to this.

3 Something I want to point out and
4 something I think we are very proud of, and we
5 worked with some of our partners to do this go
6 around, are some of these community
7 conversations that we've had. So it wasn't
8 mentioned really earlier, but I have to, I have
9 to say, we recognize this isn't the best format
10 to, to interact with the public. And so we
11 held these community conversations. And these
12 were opportunities for us to have dinner, sit
13 around a dinner table and speak with our
14 stakeholders, speak with the people that are
15 interested in the things that we are doing, and
16 speak with - and have them speak with each
17 other about these issues that are so important
18 to us. And so it's been a really good model, I
19 think we have gotten some really good feedback
20 and really good interaction associated with
21 those. And I think that is something that we
22 will continue to do - and continue to do in
23 the past.

24 I have said that perhaps this is not the
25 best venue for, for that interaction. I will

1 say that we also think that it is very
2 important to give the public an opportunity to
3 go on the record and give us official public
4 comments, which is also why we are also having
5 a venue such as this.

6 So some of the key decision points
7 associated with developing the plan. I
8 mentioned earlier our overall funding amount is
9 that \$50 billion dollars. That's not, as I
10 said, an aspirational amount. That is not what
11 we hope to, hope to, you know, achieve. That
12 is a constraint. So that is a constraint that
13 we put on ourselves in terms of the number and
14 types of projects that we can select. And the
15 reason we picked the \$50 billion, or that was
16 selected, was because, you know, we think that
17 is a plausible amount of money that might come
18 into the state over the next fifty years. So
19 it wasn't just pulled out of the air, it was
20 something that we looked at and, you know,
21 estimated in terms of potential money into the
22 future.

23 Another piece of that funding equation is
24 the split. So how much of that \$50 billion did
25 we assign to the restoration projects versus

1 risk reduction - restoration and risk
2 reduction projects? It is roughly a 50/50
3 split. Again, that is not an arbitrary number,
4 that is not an arbitrary split. There was some
5 analysis that went into selecting that number
6 and it turns out, you know, that is essentially
7 the sweet spot for selecting the most best
8 projects in the restoration category and the
9 risk reduction category as well.

10 In terms of paying, we mentioned the
11 future environments and here it is. We can't
12 be sure what our future holds, we know that.
13 We know, you know, predicting the weather is
14 kind of a good analogy here. We know that we
15 don't know exactly what the weather is going to
16 be tomorrow but we are more sure what it is
17 going to be tomorrow than it is fifty years
18 out, or ten days out. And so as we are
19 developing a fifty year plan, predicting that
20 future at year fifty becomes more and more
21 challenging. But it's what we have to do to
22 develop the plan. And so, again, in developing
23 this plan what we've done is predicted what we
24 think might be the worse case in terms of land
25 loss scenarios into the future, but certainly

1 we are hoping for the best. And that's a
2 conservative approach, we recognize that. But
3 the, you know, the fact of the matter is that
4 we are planning for that, sort of, worst. If
5 we achieve something that is less than that we
6 are sure to be in much better shape than if we
7 do, if we do the opposite.

8 And then there is, you know, a need for
9 those near-term benefits and long-term
10 benefits. So we need restoration now, we need
11 protection now. And we know we need those
12 things on the ground now. But we also want to
13 make sure that we are making wise investments
14 that will pay off for our children and
15 grandchildren down the road. And so there is
16 people emphasis in this plan placed on near-
17 term benefits and long-term benefits.

18 So this is the plan, this is the draft
19 plan. This is a map of what the projects and
20 plan look like. You can see how they are
21 distributed across the coast. There are
22 roughly, there roughly are 120 projects going
23 on now in the plan. They provide about 802
24 square miles of land that would not be there
25 otherwise without the plan at fifty years. And

1 they reduce flood damages by about \$150 billion
2 over that fifty year period.

3 And so taking a closer look out west you
4 can see what the projects look like. A lot of
5 marsh creation projects, ridge restoration
6 projects, shoreline protection projects,
7 hydrologic restoration projects, and structural
8 and non-structural restoration projects. And
9 we'll get into that in a little bit more
10 detail. Moving further the west, of course,
11 we are getting into where some of the rivers
12 are. The Atchafalaya primarily here in the
13 central part of the coast, and so we are
14 getting into using those as tools to help
15 restore our coastal sediment diversions. You
16 see some of the barrier islands come into play
17 as we move, again, further east into that
18 central part of the coast. And then moving
19 further east in the southeastern part of the
20 state, again, making the same types of
21 projects. Of course we've got the Mississippi
22 River right outside our door here. It is a
23 valuable tool that we believe, you know, we
24 need to use to help restore and preserve our,
25 preserve our coast. Many similar projects than

1 we show on the western map as well.

2 So a closer look at the non-structural
3 projects. Each of these colored polygons
4 represents a non-structural project or an area.
5 We sort of use that term interchangeably. You
6 can see the number of structures that are
7 estimated to be potentially mitigated as part
8 of the non-structural program. Again, what I
9 am talking about there is voluntary home
10 elevations, voluntary flood proofing of non-
11 residential properties, and potential
12 acquisitions where that may be necessary.

13 So about 26,000 or so structures have been
14 - that is the estimate for what might be
15 needed coast-wide and at a cost of about \$6.1
16 billion. I will say this, and I hope that I
17 can be very clear about this, there is not a
18 list of structures, and addresses, and so forth
19 that we think, that we think need to be
20 elevated at this point in time. What we have
21 is a very high level estimate of the number of
22 structures that may be out there that may need
23 to be mitigated, but much more detailed work
24 needs to be done before anything were to occur
25 on the ground. And certainly, our first call

1 - if we were to get funding to do any sort of
2 these mitigation type projects would be to
3 local parishes and local municipalities. They
4 certainly have much more experience in dealing
5 with these and this type of projects, and have
6 that local knowledge in determining what is
7 really needed on the ground.

8 In terms of funding by project type you
9 can see it broken down here. There is, again,
10 this a 50/50 split, twenty-five and twenty-five
11 billion. Risk reduction projects you see about
12 almost \$19 billion expended for structural
13 protection, and \$6.1 for non-structural. I am
14 not going through the individual dollar figures
15 on the restoration side of the house. You see
16 barrier island, hydrologic restoration, marsh
17 restoration, ridge restoration, sediment
18 diversion, shoreline protection. Now, I would
19 want to point out again, if you add up the
20 dollar figure associated with the projects that
21 would require dredging, or actually dredging,
22 you know, sediment and placing that sediment to
23 do restoration projects across our coast, this,
24 is, again, the single largest expenditure in
25 the Master Plan, the draft for this, this go

1 around.

2 So I want to go through some of the, the
3 outcomes, the maps that show the outcomes of
4 the plan. Our draft plan - this is something
5 that we weren't able to do in 2012, and
6 hopefully it will be informative and good. I
7 will say that if you look at the top right-hand
8 corner of these slides there is a little icon
9 there with the cover of the plan. If there is
10 a red X, that means that I am showing you a map
11 without the plan in place. If there is a green
12 check there I am showing you a map of the, of
13 that outcome with the plan in place. So this
14 is sort of the median scenario at year thirty.
15 This is future without action, so with no plan
16 in place. And you can see, of course, the red
17 is land loss. The green on these maps, again,
18 will be land gain. So this is what it might
19 look like at year thirty on our coast without
20 any additional action over and above what we
21 are doing right now. And then year thirty with
22 the plan you can see some of these green
23 polygons coming on line. They represent the
24 work that, that we are planing as part of the
25 draft of this plan. We will look at it again

1 at year fifty. This is a future without action
2 or without the plan in place, and then year
3 fifty with the plan in place. So you can see
4 again some of the land gain and some of the
5 land sustained over the fifty year period
6 covered in there.

7 So what does this mean in terms of
8 absolute numbers. Well, what it means is at
9 the end of the fifty years that'll have we
10 about 802 square miles of land that we didn't
11 have otherwise. So that is a net land gain
12 over that fifty-year period, or at the end of
13 that fifty years.

14 So this all translates to flood depths,
15 right. We know as our coastal landscape
16 deteriorates and changes it has an impact on
17 the depth of flooding along our coast and for
18 our communities. And so I will go through
19 another series of maps of a future without
20 action and a future with action. Take note of
21 that icon at the top right-hand. So this is a
22 twenty-five year - excuse me, the medium
23 scenario for year twenty-five with a 100-year
24 event. You can see what the flood depths are
25 - let me back up actually and say that these

1 range, these colors range from that blue which
2 is about one to three feet, if you are not able
3 to read that from the back of the room. The
4 greens are roughly four to six feet, yellow is
5 seven to nine feet, that orange color is about
6 ten to twelve feet, red color is thirteen to
7 fifteen feet, and the purple color is over
8 fifteen feet of potential flooding. So year
9 twenty-five with the plan, and you can see what
10 those flood depths look like across our coast.

11 And I will show you a difference map. So
12 this is the difference between that first map
13 and second map that I just showed you, and it
14 shows the reduced flood depths in areas that
15 are in these blues and greens. So blues and
16 greens, again, are reductions in flooding from
17 about nine feet up to, you know, minus three or
18 minus four in terms of reduced flood depths.

19 And so we'll look at year fifty. Again, this
20 is without the plan in place for year fifty for
21 that 100-year event. This is with the plan in
22 place and then I will show you that difference
23 map again. So, again, the blues and greens are
24 essentially good colors. Those are the reduced
25 flood depths across our coast as a result of

1 having the plan in place.

2 You know, I point out that there are a
3 number of projects - and I should have pointed
4 this out properly earlier - that are either on
5 the ground already or are under construction
6 right now. Many of those are in this region
7 frankly. There is quite a lot of work going on
8 in this region. So some of that is not
9 reflected in what you are seeing here. This is
10 a prospective look at new projects out in the
11 future, so I just want to highlight that as we
12 look at these things.

13 And so again, so in terms of absolute
14 numbers, what does that mean? Well, it's about
15 \$8.3 billion in reduced expected annual damages
16 out at year fifty. It is really important to
17 note that this is an annual number. So it's
18 that 8.3 billion at year fifty. If you do sort
19 of a cumulative tally of what those reductions
20 might be over the fifty year period of analysis
21 you are looking at roughly \$150 billion in
22 savings. So we are just, you know, just on the
23 risk reduction side of things at about a 3:1
24 return on investment for a \$50 billion plan.

25 So what does the plan deliver? What does

1 all of this mean? Well, you know, a number of
2 things I think. First of all it gives us some
3 time to adapt and prepare for that future that
4 we have shown here. We know we can do a lot of
5 good for a lot of people for a long time, quite
6 frankly. And again, I mentioned some of the
7 things, we can build and sustain land to the
8 tune of 800 to almost 1,200 square miles.

9 Moving into the future, we know we can reduce
10 risk to the, you know, again, to the tune of
11 roughly \$8.3 billion looking out to the future.

12 We provide a diversify of good projects that
13 can be put on the ground; seventy-six
14 restoration projects, or twelve structural
15 projects identified as part of the plan, and
16 thirty-two structural projects identified as
17 part of the plan.

18 We have ecosystem benefits, and that is
19 something that I didn't really touch on just
20 now. But in terms of what happens to our fish
21 and wildlife and so forth, generally speaking,
22 we are better with the plan in place than we
23 are, you know, without that plan. And I think
24 if you look at the deteriorating ecosystem in
25 the future without any action you can

1 understand why that may be the case.

2 We are providing, you know, economic
3 development opportunities for you all, for us,
4 for our citizens. I think for a couple of
5 reasons. One, a more sustainable coastal
6 Louisiana always encourages investment,
7 encourages development, and encourages us to be
8 here and to develop those business and economy
9 that need to be developed.

10 But also, you know, we're, Louisiana is
11 really at the tip of the spear when dealing
12 with these kinds of issues. Adaptation
13 planing, dealing with sea level rise issues,
14 subsidence issues, and so forth. So other
15 parts of the country and other parts of the
16 world are going to be dealing with these
17 things, and in the very near future, if these
18 predictions hold true. And we are already head
19 and shoulders above most other places in terms
20 of dealing with these kinds of issues. And so
21 this really is an exportable commodity and
22 something that we think that is a real benefit
23 for Louisiana because we can assist these other
24 parts of the country and the world in dealing
25 with very similar issues that we are dealing

1 with right now.

2 So how do you get more information on all
3 this? Well, I hope you got your fill of
4 information before you came in here this
5 afternoon. And certainly there is a lot of
6 other venues for getting good information
7 related to the Master Plan. Our website,
8 obviously, is key, is key there. It's Coastal.
9 LA.gov. You can download the plan there, you
10 can look at our brochures, I mentioned the
11 people in the landscape. And then you can
12 also, if you have trouble sleeping at night,
13 dig into any one of our appendices as you might
14 want to. There are roughly over 6,000 pages of
15 documentation associated with this. I am not
16 asking you to read all of those, don't worry.
17 But if you are interested in how we modeled the
18 affect of a project on the juvenile white
19 shrimp, the information is there. And you can,
20 and you can go look, okay?

21 And there is a tremendous amount of
22 information that is available now, it has
23 actually been available in many cases for over
24 a year. So if you haven't had a chance to look
25 at things now, or until now, I certainly

1 encourage you to go to our website and take a
2 look at those things.

3 We have something new this year for this
4 iteration of the Master Plan, parish fact
5 sheets. If you are interested in what is going
6 on in Orleans Parish, or St. Bernard Parish,
7 Plaquemines Parish, there is a fact sheet
8 specific to your parish. You can look at some
9 vital stats associated with what's happening
10 there, see what predictions hold for the future
11 for that parish, and look at the projects that
12 are proposed in the Master Plan and what impact
13 those projects have in terms of land area.
14 Also risk reduction for your parish.

15 We have a project fact sheet. So if you
16 are interested in an individual project you can
17 go to the website, again, and download the
18 information specific to that individual
19 project. And, again, get some of those live
20 stats and information associated with that
21 individual project. We have our Master Plan
22 data viewer that's available. Hopefully some
23 of you are aware of the flood risk and
24 resiliency viewer. This is an outgrowth of
25 that or an expansion, really, of that to

1 include not just the flood depth information
2 but to also include other Master Plan
3 information on how projects may affect flood
4 depths in an area or the landscape in an area.
5 You can go in and actually type in your address
6 and look at your flood risk now, and what your
7 flood risk might be in the future, and what it
8 might be in the future with and without
9 projects in place. So that can be accessed,
10 again, at our website. And you can see the
11 data viewer specific address there at the
12 bottom of this, but it is, again, accessible
13 from CPRA's website.

14 And then, in terms of our process, where
15 we are headed. So the draft plan was released
16 just the week before last, January third. Here
17 we are January eighteenth. Of course, we had a
18 meeting last night in Lake Charles, we'll have
19 two more next week. These are our official
20 public hearings that we are having. The
21 official public comment period does not close
22 until March twenty-sixth, so that's an
23 important date to note. If you want to make
24 comments you have until March twenty-sixth to
25 do so. At April nineteenth, the April

1 nineteenth meeting of the board of CPRA we will
2 be presenting a final plan that will
3 incorporate much of your, your comments. Much
4 of the comments that we will hear, you know,
5 that we will hear and have heard across the
6 state. Ultimately to submit a final plan to
7 the legislature on April twenty-fifth of this
8 year.

9 So, just hopefully you saw this and of
10 course you are here today but in terms of where
11 we will be next week. Houma on the twenty-
12 fourth, Mandeville on the twenty-fifth. You
13 can see the agenda is the same, the same
14 information that we have here tonight. So, I
15 know that is a lot of information, and I
16 appreciate you sticking with me. And I
17 certainly look forward to hearing your comments
18 and your feedback on the plan. Thanks.

19 MR. SPEYRER:

20 Thank you, Bren. I would like to ask our
21 officials from CPRA to come and join me here in
22 the front of the table. A couple of folks I
23 would like to recognize that have showed up
24 here since we got started. We've got a few of
25 our state representatives, Representative Polly

1 Thomas showed up, where is she? Okay. There
2 you are, thank you for coming. And we have
3 Representative Robert Guilliot, he is here as
4 well. Representative? We have Mayor Kerner
5 from the town of Lafitte joined us as well.

6 Okay. So now it is our turn to sit back
7 and certainly hear your official public
8 comments as it relates to the draft 2017
9 coastal Master Plan. We have a stack of
10 comment forms that have already been submitted
11 and I will start working through that list. If
12 you were late joining us and would like to
13 provide a public comment raise your hand, we'll
14 pass out forms. You are able to do that,
15 really, at any part during the presentation.
16 We'll get it to you, we'll get you called up
17 before we wrap up this portion of the
18 presentation.

19 Sort of how we are going to handle this,
20 we've got two wireless mics. I'm going to call
21 the first person. Doug Daigle, get ready,
22 you're first on the docket. And then number
23 two will be Captain George Ricks. So I will
24 sort of let you know who is first and who is
25 going to be second. I ask you that when you

1 start providing your public comments, please
2 state your name and if you represent an
3 organization, please do that as well. All
4 these public comments that you provide tonight
5 are being recorded by a court reporter and will
6 be housed forever in an Appendix for the 2017
7 Master Plan, so use your words wisely.

8 In addition, really just out of respect
9 for you and all of your time, we are going to
10 put a three minute limit on this. We are not
11 going to pull the mic from you at three
12 minutes, but we ask that you please be
13 respectful. As part of that Zach Rosen is
14 sitting here in the front, to your right, will
15 provide you a two minute warning, a one minute
16 warning, and we will let you know when your
17 time is up. And we ask that you please be
18 respectful of the process so that we can work
19 through this stack. And, again, I appreciate
20 your patience. So that's, that's how this
21 portion will work.

22 Lastly, in addition to the Port for
23 allowing their facilities which we jam-packed
24 here tonight, we would also like to recognize
25 the Mississippi River Delta Coalition for

1 providing refreshments and drinks. So with
2 that, Doug, we are going to get you a
3 microphone and if Ann, Chuck, if y'all could
4 please help me out here. All right. You stand
5 up and we will bring you the mic. And then
6 Captain George Ricks, put your hand up and we
7 will get you the mic, you are number two. And
8 after this you'll be able to sort of stay in
9 your seats as well and we can get the mics to
10 them.

11 MR. DAIGLE:

12 Hi. I am Doug Daigle, coordinator for the
13 Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group and the Lower
14 Mississippi River Sub Basin Committee, which is
15 part of the National Gulf Hypoxia Task Force.
16 Just wanted to make a couple of points. In
17 terms of the Gulf hypoxia issue, what's
18 commonly known as the dead zone, has a
19 reference in the plan. Louisiana has been part
20 of a national task force to deal with that
21 problem since 1998. It is moving on a separate
22 track, but it is obviously, you know, an issue
23 that has intersections.

24 The National Hypoxia Action Plan calls for
25 reducing the average annual size of that

1 hypoxic zone by about 5,000 square kilometers
2 by 2035. But before that the states on this
3 task force, one of which is Louisiana, have
4 agreed to work together to reach a cumulative
5 reduction of nutrient loading of the Gulf of
6 twenty percent by the year 2025. Every state
7 adopted a nutrient strategy. Louisiana's
8 strategy focused on diversions. But I think it
9 is worth noting that in the plan the next
10 diversion doesn't come online until some time
11 after 2022. You know, it is somewhat uncertain
12 but the construction is slated to begin, 2022,
13 something like that. So it's really on a
14 different timeline and we need to help the
15 other states, however we can, reach that
16 interim target of 2025. You know, that's the
17 commitment we've made. Those states are all
18 very interested in what happens down here.
19 They all recognize that we are working - using
20 the river together, and the river is a shared
21 resource. And I think we have a lot of
22 potential support upstream. We have been
23 working with them cooperatively since 1998.

24 The other key players, of course, are the
25 federal agencies. And with a new

1 administration coming in we need to make sure
2 that we keep the lines of communication open on
3 that issue with those folks as well.

4 MR. SPEYRER:

5 Thank you, Doug. Captain George Ricks
6 will be next. David Muth, you are on the
7 docket. If you want to let us know where you
8 are we will get the mic to you.

9 MR. RICKS:

10 I am Captain George Ricks speaking on
11 behalf as president of the State of Louisiana
12 Coalition, and upwards of a thousand members
13 that I represent of land owners, business
14 owners, and members of the commercial hydration
15 and fishing communities. First, I would like
16 to commend chairman Bradberry and CPRA staff
17 for the work that they have done on the Master
18 Plan. I would also like to commend, Mr.
19 Bradberry, since you came on board you have
20 been a welcome change. You have listened to
21 our concerns with numerous outreach meeting,
22 and it's obvious that you are listening because
23 of changes in the 2017 plan. There have been
24 some diversions eliminated, and we appreciate
25 that fact. Ans some of the concerns we raised

1 y'all started to pay attention to.

2 Bren showed in his slides the importance
3 of our commercial fishing industries. Twenty-
4 six percent of commercial fishes come from
5 Louisiana, sixty-four percent of the state's
6 oysters comes from St. Bernard's waters. I am
7 a consultant with St. Bernard Parish and we are
8 very concerned about the issues because our
9 commercial and recreational fishing industries
10 are very important to our economy. Not just to
11 St. Bernard's economy, but the whole state's
12 economy. So this diversion issue, it is very
13 important to us.

14 We talk about a sense of urgency in the
15 Master Plan, and there is one more reason that
16 I think we have to revisit the diversion issue.
17 The concept. We are looking at five years
18 permitting possibly for the Barataria Bay and
19 then five years construction time, so we are
20 looking at ten years down the line. We're
21 looking at \$1.3 billion. You want to talk
22 about wise investments. \$1.3 billion, and that
23 doesn't include land acquisition costs,
24 maintenance of construction over runs, or the
25 mitigation. So only make wise decisions with

1 our investments.

2 Last year the coalition partnered with
3 Corps engineers to build 2,000 acres. This is
4 something that can be done. (Inaudible). And
5 I think the diversion issue, though, it could
6 be an important tool. I don't think it's the
7 silver bullet, but we're putting all of our
8 bets in line on diversions. And I think we
9 need to turn them around now. Thank you.

10 MR. SPEYRER:

11 Thank you, Captain Ricks. David Muth will
12 be next. On dock after David will be Mr.
13 Harvey Stern.

14 MR. MUTH:

15 My name is David Muth, I am with the
16 Federal Wildlife Federation working on the
17 Mississippi River Delta Restoration Campaign.
18 I am a Louisiana native, grew up in the New
19 Orleans area. I deeply appreciate the efforts
20 of CPRA and the State of Louisiana, the
21 leadership that they are showing on dealing
22 with our future risk and our existing risk.
23 And I also have to say that the idea that we
24 can restore our system without using the one
25 tool that built it in the first place, which is

1 the Mississippi River and the vast amount of
2 sediment that is now passing by here at the
3 dock in the City of New Orleans and being
4 wasted, much of it lost into the Gulf of
5 Mexico, is simply not the way to seed our
6 future.

7 We are proposing this plan to spend over
8 \$20 billion dredging and moving material from
9 the Mississippi River, from offshore shoals,
10 from the deep bays, and that's in the final
11 part of the plan. But in order to sustain
12 that, in order to get the system going again,
13 it has to pass the Mississippi River, the
14 Atchafalaya River, and the sediment that it
15 carries. And I appreciate the state's efforts
16 in moving those projects. Thank you.

17 MR. SPEYRER:

18 Thank you, David. Mr. Harvey Stern, there
19 you are. Okay. And up next will be Charles
20 Mestzyer.

21 MR. STERN:

22 All right. Harvey Stern with the Delta
23 Chapter of Louisiana Sierra Club, and I
24 appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight.
25 Three minutes is going to be tough. I'd like

1 to first focus specifically on a project that
2 was mentioned in the, in the Times Picayune
3 recently that is talking about the high
4 profile, one of the most high profile projects
5 in the Pontchartrain basin, and that is the
6 proposed gates across the Rigolets. And for
7 any of the gray hairs in the audience, you know
8 this project goes back to the seventies, which
9 it was aborted for many reasons. Among the
10 most important is that it was felt by the judge
11 hearing the litigation - was the case that was
12 being looked at. Well, here it is again 2017,
13 and it is in the plan and we simply suggest
14 that a project of this magnitude, which is
15 going to very likely cause induced development,
16 which is a key phrase that is used in the
17 Appendix H. Appendix - I believe it is in
18 Appendix H of the comprehensive plan of the
19 state coastal plan. That this project be given
20 a full comprehensive environmental statement,
21 environmental assessment before it is formally
22 put into the plan. There is just too much on
23 the line with this project to include it in the
24 plan prior to a full-scale environmental impact
25 statement being included.

1 Again, induced development is a great
2 example of what is likely to occur if this
3 project goes forward. Just the fact that it is
4 included in the plan, that induced development,
5 which just has (inaudible). The fact that it
6 is encouraged development in the vulnerable
7 areas of St. Tammany Parish, which are
8 questionable for development to begin with. We
9 don't need - just the very mention of this
10 gate across the Rigolets in the plan until
11 there is a full-scale environmental impact
12 statement. Prohibit development in wetlands is
13 in the appendix of this plan. I hope that the
14 appendices are given as much value and as much
15 validity as the plan itself, the appendices
16 should be part of the plan. I am talking about
17 the appendix that talks specifically about
18 wetlands land use planning and has mitigation
19 planning.

20 We know that mother nature causes a lot of
21 our problems, but we know that in coastal
22 Louisiana that man-made development is
23 aggravating that problem. I was on the coastal
24 management website and on the Corps website
25 today. There are major projects causing

1 serious jurisdictional wetland destruction.
2 There is a pipe - a transmission line going
3 across Terrebonne and Lafourche Parish that
4 would, that would destroy several hundred acres
5 of wetlands that is currently on the books. We
6 have got to look at the impact these wetlands
7 - we have to bring our land use plans into a
8 place where they are going to be implemented
9 and that the coastal Master Plan reflects that,
10 what you are saying in the plan. Prohibit
11 wetland developments. Mitigation should be a
12 secondary approach, not developing new
13 wetlands.

14 MR. SPEYRER:

15 Thank you, Mr. Stern. UP Next, Mr.
16 Charles Mestzyer. Charles, please stand up and
17 raise your hand for us. And then Benny
18 Roussell will be next. Mr. Roussell, will you
19 raise your hand for us? Okay. There we are.

20 MR. MESTZYER:

21 Happy New Year 2017. I retired in 2009
22 from the Corps of Engineers after thirty-five
23 years. This wetland plan, structural plan, I
24 don't know when it will ever be built and if it
25 will be built soon enough. There is no way

1 they can possibly do it. All I have to say is
2 that we are part of the problem. We are the
3 cause of most of this destruction of our
4 wetlands. What we need to do is look back at
5 what we caused and what we can do to change it.
6 And what we can do to change it is try to not
7 destroy it. These - I would say stewardship.
8 In our time, I guess, we have lost track of
9 other things in life. So I think we are
10 messing up and I don't think there is a
11 possibility of pulling our way out quick
12 enough. Backing up from the surge of the
13 wetlands, or the lack of wetlands, to protect
14 us as we back up the state quick enough. Hold
15 back fresh water, moving the people back
16 inland. We cannot win this battle and barrier
17 reefs will not protect us. Thank you.

18 MR. SPEYRER:

19 Thank you, Charles. Benny Roussell is
20 next, followed by Mayor Tim Kerner.

21 MR. ROUSSELL:

22 Thank you. Mr. Chairman and member of the
23 committee, my comments will be very brief. The
24 reflection of the plan that is being presented
25 today - a former member of the CPRA, that

1 first plan we had in 2007 looked at Plaquemines
2 Parish and gave us 100 year protection in the
3 plan as a possibility. The next plan came out
4 and eliminated that. And as we look at it
5 today there are no levee projects in here to
6 protect us as well. So I guess my assessment
7 of the evolving CPRA Master Plan, which this
8 third iteration is, is that we are getting away
9 from protection. And while the focus is on
10 diversion, and Plaquemines Parish is now
11 benefitting greatly from a lot of the
12 restoration projects and has been used as a
13 poster child, we cannot forget the levees and
14 structural protection to help us survive. And
15 I hope that you will go back and review the
16 plan for those projects. Thank you.

17 MR. SPEYRER:

18 Thank you, Councilman Roussell. Mayor
19 Kerner, are you ready? Up next will be Scott
20 Eustis.

21 MR. KERNER:

22 Let me just say that I want to thank
23 CPRA, Mr. Johnny Bradberry, and his staff for
24 what I think is a wonderful job and a lot of
25 hard work. And there was some confusion at

1 first and it almost gave me a heart attack. I
2 thought that we were out of the protection.
3 There have been a few times and now in
4 (inaudible) the levee protection plan. And I
5 just want to thank y'all from the bottom of my
6 heart for all the hard work you are doing, and
7 realizing that my residents have suffered
8 enough. Thank you so much.

9 MR. SPEYRER:

10 Thank you, Mayor Kerner. Scott, before we
11 get to you I, I do also would like to make sure
12 that everyone here knows, before anyone starts
13 leaving as well. Thanks to a generous grant
14 from the New Greater Orleans Foundation, today
15 we have available translated documents of the
16 executive summary of the Master Plan in both
17 Vietnamese and Spanish, French is going to soon
18 be available. You can contact any of us on the
19 team to get you multiple copies of this if you
20 would like to do outreach to, to non-English
21 speaking or non-native-English speaking
22 communities. Scott.

23 MR. EUSTIS:

24 Thank you. My name is Scott Eustis, New
25 Orleans, Louisiana, seven generations. I work

1 for the Gulf Restoration Network, a twenty-two
2 year old environmental advocacy group across
3 all five Gulf states. And I want to thank you
4 for CPRA's leadership, we don't see this across
5 any other Gulf states, we don't see this kind
6 of leadership. You are getting a lot of heat
7 because you are the head of the pack. You
8 always have people pushing on you but - so
9 thank you again for this tremendous planning
10 effort.

11 But you wouldn't be surprised if I said it
12 didn't need, need more. The state has been a
13 leader in holding oil and gas to account for
14 their damages, but it won't, it won't surprise
15 you, though, that there is huge deficiencies in
16 the permitting program. I don't know how many
17 letters of no objection CPRA has to send
18 everyday to projects like pipelines that
19 destroy hundreds of acres of coastal forest and
20 coastal wetlands that then CPRA, it is upon
21 CPRA to rebuild. There are so many things CPRA
22 could do to require of these companies before
23 they displace our wetlands. There are requests
24 for information that CPRA could make so that we
25 have more science going in so we know how to

1 fix the damages on the other end.

2 And one of the biggest things is that, you
3 know, the Gulf of Mexico, which is hotter than
4 ever, you got more rain than ever, and it
5 floods us from the sky now. In 2016 hundreds
6 of thousands of people were put out of their
7 homes from unprecedented rains due to climate
8 change. One of the ways CPRA could get more of
9 a handle on this issue is by requesting a full
10 carbon life-cycle analysis for any of these
11 very large oil and gas impacts to our wetlands.
12 Those impacts from putting a pipeline like
13 Bayou Bridge through our wetlands has a carbon
14 impact by pressing the soil that, if not
15 handled through the Corps and the NORCM
16 mitigation process, but ultimately these
17 products are for export, which only makes the
18 Gulf hotter. It is going to give us more rain,
19 only rises the sea more. And that is really
20 what, more than anything else, the rising sea
21 is what determines how much land we have left
22 in Louisiana by 2040 and at the end of this
23 fifty-year plan.

24 So we request that CPRA start asking for
25 carbon impact questions. So we got a lot of

1 other things we need; we need oyster reefs, we
2 need dolphins in Barataria Bay, we need coastal
3 communities, anchored communities. We need -
4 those communities are part of Louisiana, we
5 need them as part of our heritage. And New
6 Orleans and the state is diminished if those
7 are left out of the plan. But we ask you to
8 push on industry and push on other agencies who
9 aren't asking for this information, who aren't
10 taking care of the Gulf, because otherwise the
11 costs are going to fall on your backs and that
12 means it is going to fall on our backs. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. SPEYRER:

15 Thank you, Scott. Next up will be
16 Johanna, I think I saw Johanna sitting next to
17 Scott. Let me make a quick comment again. We
18 want to be respectful of everyone's time here
19 tonight. We appreciate you doing the same. In
20 addition to today's opportunity to provide your
21 official public comment, look up on the screen,
22 there is other ways to do it following tonight,
23 as well, if you want to provide a comment.
24 Comments we get through the website or through
25 mail are as every bit as important and have an

1 impact as the ones we receive tonight.

2 Johanna.

3 MS. DE GRAFFENREID:

4 Hi. My name is Johanna de Graffenried, I
5 work with the Gulf Restoration Network. I am
6 going to specifically talk about the non-
7 structural aspect of the program. Over the
8 last couple of months CPRA has seen me several
9 times at meetings, or with phone calls, and I
10 again really appreciate the opportunity to
11 continue to comment on this plan. And the
12 input that you all are receiving, I hope that
13 you take it seriously and that you move forward
14 with our recommendations.

15 So what we want to really emphasize right
16 now is that non-structural needs to prioritize
17 communities most at risk. CPRA should flip the
18 prioritization in the non-structural programs
19 to focus on those who are most at risk and low
20 income residents. Furthermore, it should
21 prioritize incentives for community-level
22 approaches to elevation, flood-proofing, and
23 relocation. The state should leverage its
24 financial resources for developing community-
25 wide approaches, encouraging neighbors to take

1 action together to preserve the character and
2 function of a coastal neighborhood as they take
3 steps to improve collective resiliency. In
4 particular, low income residents living in
5 areas of fourteen feet below flood elevation or
6 above, and those who make their livelihood in
7 the Gulf are the most at risk for coastal land
8 loss. They need to know their options as well
9 as what the state is planning to do to help
10 them beyond marking their communities as
11 voluntary acquisition or as resettlement zones.

12 Our communities deserve to be valued for
13 their resources and for what they provide in
14 cultural heritage to the state. We should not
15 be devalued simply because we live in a rural
16 area or an area is depopulating. We need to
17 make sure that the economic value of a
18 residential community of assets over time
19 should not be based on population growth.

20 Attachment C3-25, the storm surge and risk
21 assessments of the 2017 draft coastal Master
22 Plan assumes that a home is more valuable over
23 time as the surrounding population is growing
24 faster. This assumption about value is
25 unsupported.

1 CPRA also specifically looks at population
2 change between 1950 and 2000. However,
3 according to the U.S. geological survey,
4 scientific investigation about land area change
5 and coastal Louisiana from 1932 to 2010, low
6 lying coastal areas have been facing the impact
7 of land loss since before 1950. The land loss
8 is why people are moving away. This assumption
9 about value over time based on population
10 growth diminishes the prioritization and value
11 of Louisiana's low lying residential
12 communities that have been historically
13 threatened by coastal erosion. We would ask
14 that the CPRA, in its flood risk and resilience
15 initiatives and in its non-structural program
16 prioritizes those most at risk and prioritizes
17 low income community members in its analysis
18 versus the current cost benefit analysis
19 approach. Thank you so much.

20 MR. SPEYRER:

21 Thank you. Eric Zollinger. John Lopez,
22 you're on deck. Raise your hand, John. Back
23 there, got you. Eric, please state your name.

24 MR. ZOLLINGER:

25 My name is Eric Zollinger, I represent

1 Biloxi Marsh Lands Corporation and Lakeview
2 Land Development, Inc. We are owners of over
3 150,000 acres on the Biloxi Marsh Complex
4 located in St. Bernard Parish, and part of the
5 local lines of defense for protecting the
6 Greater New Orleans Metropolitan area from
7 storm surges. As the largest land owner in St.
8 Bernard Parish, we currently do not support the
9 CPRA's 2017 Master Plan as currently drafted.
10 Specifically, we are very concerned that the
11 restoration projects that were included in the
12 2012 plan have been excluded from the 2017
13 draft plan. More importantly, restoration
14 projects which are part of the US Army Corps of
15 Engineers MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Plan have
16 been excluded from the 2017 draft plan.

17 One restoration project of particular
18 importance that has been excluded from the 2017
19 plan is protection of the Lake Borgne shoreline
20 at the Port (inaudible) area. By not including
21 the MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Plan in the 2017
22 plan the multiple lines of defense against
23 storm surge will greatly hinder in the
24 protection of Orleans Parish as well as St.
25 Bernard. And Biloxi Marsh Land, we plan to

1 submit written comments with more specific
2 details that is supported by scientific data.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. SPEYRER:

5 Thank you, Eric. John Lopez. Simi Kang
6 will be next. John will be next.

7 BY MR. LOPEZ:

8 John Lopez with the Lake Pontchartrain
9 Basin Foundation. Bren's presentation showed,
10 on the infamous red maps, show the fifty year
11 projection and I know that a lot of people in
12 the room are kind of veterans of the whole
13 discussion. But any of you who had just seen
14 that map. What we are seeing here in that
15 projection is different than we were seeing
16 before. This is the one - the coast being
17 eaten away and we are seeing is potential
18 landscape scale change by the year 2050. This
19 is different, this is a different situation.
20 We are in a crisis. This is another order of
21 magnitude that we are seeing. LPBF has
22 advocated for all lines of defense to generate
23 restoration and flood protection. And the
24 state is doing that but this is getting to be a
25 greater challenge. You know, next year is the

1 300 year anniversary of New Orleans and, you
2 know, just a short distance from where we are
3 sitting right now. You know, right now it's
4 not clear if there will be a 400 year
5 anniversary of New Orleans. The flooding that
6 we saw in Ivan is even threatening the Greater
7 Baton Rouge area around Maurepas.

8 There are projects that we specifically
9 are interested in like the Pontchartrain
10 (inaudible) and we will be commenting on that.
11 Everyone has something that they would like to
12 see in or out. My request is this, not with
13 the state but with the audience, is that once
14 this plan is approved, and we all want it to be
15 approved, is we all have to get to agreeing.
16 Some of the ways that I talked about are not
17 caused by the state or feds, it's by us not
18 always agreeing. Disagreement is okay but we
19 have to start to put those differences behind
20 and get behind this plan, and build projects
21 even faster than what the state has been doing.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. SPEYRER:

24 Thank you, John. Simi, where are you?

25 MS. KANG:

1 Hi, y'all, my name is Simi Kang, I
2 represent Coastal Communities Consulting, an
3 organization based in Gretna that serves folks
4 from Plaquemines, Terrebonne, St. Charles,
5 Lafourche, St. Bernard, Jefferson, and Orleans
6 Parishes. We work with over 1,000 fishing
7 families and as the draft plan points to, they
8 are the number one producer of oysters, shrimp,
9 blue crab, and crawfish in the United States.

10 We have heard several concerns from our
11 families and other coastal residents regarding
12 the Master Plan. The draft plan highlights the
13 coastal stakeholder and community needs in the
14 planning process because the communities are
15 connected to coastal ecology and are part of
16 the solution. We would like to see a community
17 engagement to elicit feedback from communities
18 well before the draft stage. Community members
19 are experts in their field and this expertise
20 should be reflected in the Master Plan.

21 Fishing and other coastal communities are
22 concerned that some projects could have a
23 negative impact on them and their industries.
24 At the CPRA board meeting on October 21, 2015,
25 it was announced that CPRA was moving forward

1 with the Mid-Barataria and Mid-(inaudible)
2 sediment diversion project. During this
3 presentation one slide showed that brown shrimp
4 population would decline fifteen percent in the
5 ten years following the beginnings of these
6 programs. It has been over a year since this
7 meeting and it is still not clear how CPRA will
8 address the loss of brown shrimp in the
9 commercial fishing industry. I did a quick
10 search in the appendix for brown shrimp and the
11 terms of (inaudible).

12 We understand the value of diversions,
13 however, and the potential benefits they will
14 have to the coast. We also know that the
15 commercial fishing industry is the third
16 largest in the state after oil and gas, and
17 transportation. While the draft focuses on the
18 concerns of the other two industries,
19 commercial fishermen's concerns are not
20 addressed, clearly. It is important that CPRA
21 clearly identifies the impact of diversions and
22 other projects could have on coastal
23 communities. Communities want to know what
24 these impacts are, how they will be measured
25 and accounted for, and most importantly want to

1 know how the state will mitigate the impact
2 with their industries. Thank you all so much.

3 MR. SPEYRER:

4 Thank you, Simi. Amanda Moore, you're
5 next followed by Steve Cochran. Amanda, Steve,
6 where are you?

7 MS. MOORE:

8 Hi. Amanda Moore with National Wildlife
9 Federation and (inaudible) of behalf of
10 (inaudible) Coalition. We represent seventeen
11 environmental organizations. And we want to
12 thank you for all the work that has gone into
13 the plan and for also the restoration and
14 protection projects in the draft 2017 coastal
15 Master Plan that address MRGO impact. We are
16 also concerned with some of the projects that
17 are not included, but we are also in the
18 process of reviewing the plan further and we
19 are going to submit comments before the end of
20 the comment period that are more detailed.

21 But for now I want to say, you know, we've
22 been advocating for projects for a long time,
23 the New Orleans East land bridge, the Golden
24 Triangle, central wetlands, Bayou Ridge. These
25 have long been priorities for our coalition and

1 we are pleased to see they are of importance
2 and recognized in the plan. However, the
3 omission of oyster reef and marsh restoration
4 projects in Biloxi Marsh appear to leave a gap
5 in the storm buffering for communities in St.
6 Bernard, and New Orleans, and other communities
7 in coastal Mississippi and around Lake
8 Pontchartrain. And this would also diminish
9 the estuary habitats vital to (inaudible).

10 Additionally, we are looking into the
11 sediment storage for the MRGO area marsh
12 creation. In the draft plan, despite the
13 omission in the 2017 plan of the Mississippi
14 River sediment delivery pipeline piece.
15 Finally, we ask that an overview of the Army
16 Corps of Engineers and State of Louisiana's
17 work on the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet's
18 feasibility study be included in the plan.
19 Since the passage of the 2017 coastal Master
20 Plan the assistant secretary of the Army
21 recommended \$1.325 billion of projects to
22 Congress for appropriations and a problematic
23 (inaudible) of nearly \$3 billion projects is
24 complete or either locked down for coastal
25 Louisiana restoration that should be

1 recognized.

2 MR. SPEYRER:

3 Thank you, Amanda. Steve Cochran.

4 Following that will be Greg Gasperecz.

5 MR. COCHRAN:

6 Thank you. And thank you very much for
7 being here, CPRA. I've been trying to tally
8 and see how you can right-side all the requests
9 you have, so good luck to you. I will have to
10 say, I mean, I've been to a lot of public
11 meetings over my career. This may be as good
12 as I've ever seen in terms of the quality of
13 the comments, the thoughtfulness of the detail,
14 the analysis that has already gone into it, so
15 I think that's, that's testament to the value
16 of the commitment that you guys have made to do
17 this. I think people are beginning to take you
18 seriously, that's critical. And I, I am not
19 really kidding when I say best of luck in
20 trying to reconcile all that.

21 John Lopez's comments about how much we,
22 how much more we face than we used to are
23 really worth us all understanding, clearly.
24 The shorthand for saying that is the worst cast
25 scenario that the state had to plan against in

1 the last Master Plan, I guess, really close to
2 the best case scenario in this particular plan.
3 And that's only the case of a five year
4 difference. So the line is moving quickly and
5 the ability to manage against that is something
6 that Louisiana has developed well. Really, it
7 rivals anything that goes on in the world. And
8 so I, I'm really proud to be a part of that and
9 to, to see you guys leading this effort.

10 I do think that, in particular, my job
11 here is to represent five other organizations,
12 the Environmental Defense Fund, National
13 Wildlife Federation, The National Audubon
14 Society, the Coalition to Restore Coastal
15 Louisiana, and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin
16 Foundation. And among us we have a great deal
17 of craft and opportunity to understand the
18 details of this. One of the things that is
19 clear is the scientific basis for this. When
20 projects fall out, they fall out because the
21 science is taking us in that direction. And
22 that doesn't mean the science is always
23 perfect, it certainly is not. It means that
24 there is solid science basis, not just purely
25 political basis. And that's critical, being

1 able to do this the right way to be able to
2 maintain the credibility in the decision-making
3 that you guys have to. So we love to see that.
4 That coupled with this public process is how we
5 will get the best plan. So it is very
6 encouraging moving in this direction.

7 The other thing that we've seen the
8 science do is continuously lead us to the
9 river. The river that flows by here is so, is
10 such a critical element. Not only because it
11 can help build land again as it once did, but
12 also because it can sustain the land that we
13 build through marsh creation or any other
14 means. Without those things working together
15 we can't be successful. But with them, based
16 on the modeling that we can see looking
17 forward, we've got a shot at this, we've got a
18 chance. So that's great to see and that, that
19 leads us in the right direction.

20 And the last comment - we will, of
21 course, submit these comments in detail. But
22 the last comment I will make is about the non-
23 structural. CPRA has taken on something that
24 hasn't occurred before which is the actual
25 defining of the areas that are most at risk.

1 My guess is the first cut won't be accurate
2 entirely, but what it begins to do is inform
3 the communities of the risk that they in fact
4 face. Because, as John Lopez said, if we can't
5 figure out how to do this together we're not
6 going to be able to get it done. And in order
7 to do that we have to have the information.
8 CPRA has really made a good step forward in the
9 non-structural, providing that information to
10 communities so we can attempt to do that.
11 Thank you very much.

12 MR. SPEYRER:

13 State your name and organization for the
14 records, please.

15 MR. COCHRAN:

16 Steve Cochran, Environmental Defense Fund.

17 MR. SPEYRER:

18 Thank you, Steve. Greg. Following Greg
19 will be Khai Nguyen. Khai, where are you?

20 MR. GASPERECZ:

21 Thank you. Good evening. This is Greg
22 Gasperecz. I'm an environmental engineer here
23 in New Orleans. Born, and raised, and residing
24 in New Orleans. My comments are not about
25 specific projects but about the process. But

1 before I get to that I want to thank and
2 congratulate CPRA on really a fine job in
3 putting this plan together. It is well-
4 written, well-organized, comprehensive, and I
5 think you've done yourselves and Louisiana a
6 great service. So thank you very much.

7 The process part of creating the plan that
8 my comments address - and by the way, I have
9 submitted this via e-mail already. Part of the
10 - in estimating sea level rise, and I know
11 that that, the sea level rise estimates really,
12 as people have noted, have gone from sort of
13 what's worst case in last is now best case.
14 And yet, because of the time delay in
15 establishing the baselines that you all use,
16 and having to create the plans on top of that
17 - as noted in Appendix C there's no
18 information, no scientific information from
19 2014, 2015, or 2016 that informed the decisions
20 and the baselines that you're assuming, the
21 low, medium, and high.

22 Two critical papers have come out in that
23 time. In November of 2015, Strauss and Kolp
24 and the proceedings of the National Academy of
25 Science indicate that current levels of CO2 in

1 the atmosphere will ultimately result in 4.2
2 feet of additional sea level rise. This will
3 - much of this will occur in this century,
4 probably about three feet of that in this
5 century, just from current levels.

6 Secondly, Decanto and Pallor, in March of
7 2016 in Nature, another peer review article,
8 had a more troubling outlook regarding the
9 stability of ice shelves in the Antarctic and
10 the ability, and the long-term ability to
11 sustain those. And ultimately they suggest
12 three to six feet of additional sea level rise.

13 I understand that there's a need to set
14 the time frame before you make a baseline and
15 then build projects around it. My request is,
16 is that you try to impress - or, or give
17 yourselves more of the later information
18 available. And my request to the audience is
19 to look into this issue, start a dialogue with
20 your state representatives. If your state
21 representatives are here, ask them, having an
22 honest dialogue about this issue. It is time
23 to put the partisanship on this issue aside.
24 And that we need to get to a, a consensus that
25 if we are going to base our approach on

1 science, that we should in fact have an honest
2 discussion about what that means for us as a
3 community of all of us, including myself, who
4 work in the oil and gas industry and the
5 impacts that are associated there.

6 I thank you very much for your, again, the
7 great job done. And I appreciate the
8 opportunity to make these comments.

9 MR. SPEYRER:

10 Thank you, Greg. I apologize for the
11 mispronouncing. My last name is Speyrer, S-P-
12 E-Y-R-E-R, and no one ever gets it right. So
13 I, I hope that he will take it the way that I
14 will. Following Khai will be Renate Heurich.
15 Okay.

16 MR. NGUYEN:

17 My name is Khai Nguyen. And we serve a
18 lot of community members that are involved in
19 the fishing industry.

20 MR. SPEYRER:

21 Can to talk louder and closer to the mic?

22 MR. NGUYEN:

23 I will. Sorry. So we have a lot of
24 competitive (inaudible) in the fishing industry
25 and I have, pretty recently, asked them if they

1 were aware of the Master Plan. Some of them
2 said no, they weren't aware of it at all. So I
3 feel like it is important to kind of work with
4 community organizations to help sending the
5 information about the projects and how it
6 affects community members and also to provide
7 community organizations to provide services to
8 help people kind of like find out how they
9 qualify for non-structural, and how structural
10 projects will affect their community.

11 MR. SPEYRER:

12 Thank you. Next up will be Ms. Rosa
13 Herrin.

14 MS. HEURICH:

15 Okay. I'm Renate Heurich. I with, I am a
16 volunteer with 350 Louisiana, which is a
17 climate justice organization. I want to speak
18 out against projects that outright destroy
19 wetlands. So, I mean, here we are spending a
20 large amount of money trying to restore
21 wetlands when, on the other side, we have
22 organizations that are destroying them all for
23 private gain.

24 One good project - well, there is a NASA
25 study recently that links ground water

1 extraction directly to plant science for miles
2 around. And here in the city the point that
3 was sinking the fastest was right there where
4 Entergy at the Michoud plant, the Michoud power
5 plant extracted ground water for cooling
6 purposes to the, at the rate of 12 million
7 gallons per day for sixty years. So that
8 contributes to land loss according to NASA.
9 Those plants are shut down right now but
10 Entergy New Orleans wants to build another
11 power plant in the same area. They - it's
12 more modern and they say it will extract far
13 less ground water, but they still want to
14 extract ground water. And in their application
15 to the Army Corps of Engineers they didn't even
16 mention that they are going to extract ground
17 water again. So I am saying that the levee,
18 the levee board should require a new
19 application from Entergy New Orleans for this
20 plant, including all the factors that play a
21 role in this.

22 The other project is the Bayou Bridge
23 pipeline that, well, that is scheduled to run
24 from Lake Charles to St. James, across
25 Louisiana, right north of designated wetlands.

1 One hundred sixty-two miles long across the
2 Atchafalaya Basis, crossing 700 waterways,
3 destroying outright - destroying seventy acres
4 of wetlands and impacting 500 more acres.
5 There is a recent report that last year we had
6 144 documented pipeline spills in Louisiana.
7 So pipelines do spill, and we saw in BP what
8 oil spills do to wetlands. What - how we are
9 losing land when vegetation is destroyed by
10 oil. So that's another project that is really
11 too directly contradictory to our efforts here
12 to restore our wetlands.

13 My last point is - Okay.

14 MR. SPEYRER:

15 Real fast.

16 MS. HEURICH:

17 I want to say - I am grateful to Governor
18 Edwards trying to go after the oil companies to
19 help us pay to, to pay the pricing because they
20 all also have a large responsibility in the
21 destruction of our wetlands.

22 MR. SPEYRER:

23 Thank you. We've got Rosa back here. And
24 then following Rosa will be Jeff Bordelon.

25 Jeff, where are you?

1 MS. HERRIN:

2 Hi. My name is Rosa Herrin. I represent
3 the (inaudible). We are concerned about the
4 non-structural section of the plan. We see
5 that in the 2017 draft plan the state
6 (inaudible) \$8.6 billion, or 17.2 percent of
7 the building budget. This is a 3.2 percent
8 decrease from the 2012 Master Plan. So we
9 would like to ask for CPRA to maintain the 20
10 percent threshold, and that for every eighty
11 cents allocated or spent on the structural
12 projects, twenty cents must be allocated or
13 spent on a non-structural project.

14 We have also heard the CPRA say that they
15 are planning to use funding from the Gulf Of
16 Mexico Energy and Security Act on non-
17 structural projects. To be sure this happens
18 we would like for CPRA to pass a resolution
19 maintaining a portion of annual offshore energy
20 revenue coming to Louisiana under GOMESA for
21 funding of non-structural protection that
22 benefits our community. Thank you.

23 MR. SPEYRER:

24 Thank you, Rosa. Before we get to Jeff,
25 real fast. People standing up and even sitting

1 in the aisles, there's plenty of seats that
2 have now opened up here in front. Let's take a
3 second if you would like to come grab a seat,
4 feel free to come do so. Jeff, you'll be here
5 in a second. And then Reverend Tyrone, you'll,
6 you'll follow Jeff. Okay. Y'all feel free to
7 come on in and fill those seats, please.

8 MR. BORDELON:

9 Good evening. My name is Jeff Bordelon.
10 I am here on behalf of EMR Southern Recycling.
11 One of our core competencies is the recycling
12 of obsolete ships, and boats, and such. The
13 2017 Master Plan in its current draft will
14 negatively impact Southern Recycling,
15 particularly our facility in Amelia. We won't,
16 excuse me, the sediment issues that will arise
17 as the direction channel is implemented will be
18 an adverse effect to us and we would like the
19 opportunity and appreciate the opportunity to
20 speak with your leadership about that
21 specifically. Thank you.

22 MR. SPEYRER:

23 Thank you, Jeff. Reverend Tyrone Edwards.
24 And then following that will be Shawn Anglim.

25 REVEREND EDWARDS:

1 I won't talk that long. I'm just amazed
2 at the Master Plan and I get more confused
3 because what I can't understand - and even
4 though we've shown all these scientific
5 drawings about what it's going to look like
6 twenty years from now. But there has been so
7 many projects on the board that we should have
8 completed before now. And what frightened me
9 about the whole Master Plan - it's like we're
10 being trumped because here you look for new
11 projects when all the projects that was on the
12 board before 2012 you started. Seems like we
13 should have some of those projects ongoing.

14 We spend all ths time talking about
15 science but I'm, I'm concerned about the
16 science that we're using because you can pay
17 for the science that you want. What I'm saying
18 is that we should be beyond talking about
19 getting new projects. There's some plans that
20 have been on the board since 1940. Maybe it
21 might not be like some of these young scholars
22 we have now but it's to help us protect our
23 land.

24 What's frightening me about the plan when
25 I look at - some of these projects are not

1 going to take place until twelve years from
2 now, but the amount of money being spent for
3 project design. Seems like to me, people
4 connecting with Washington and people who are
5 all connected want to stay in the process where
6 they could get money. And so if you're in with
7 somebody then you can sell for a company, and
8 you know for the next ten years that you've got
9 millions of dollars while people are dying.

10 I just think that we're being trumped by
11 the Master Plan. I think the Master Plan, as
12 I've always said, is the Master Plan. And that
13 is a plan where those who are rich and
14 influenced can make money. Because I can't see
15 in America, all the scientific minds we have,
16 why we're having projects starting fifteen
17 years from now. And then you're taking
18 projects out. As Benny Rousell said, the
19 prospects - I'm looking for more projects, but
20 you're taking them out. So I'm just concerned.
21 I'm just - and I just hope at some point it
22 will be changed, or really look at that, and
23 compassion come in, you know, and truth come in
24 and fix the power. Because to me, you know, we
25 being trumped.

1 MR. SPEYRER:

2 Thank you, Reverend Edwards. Shawn, where
3 are you? Shawn is back here. And then
4 following that will, will be Lauren Averill
5 with Jefferson Parish.

6 MR. ANGLIM:

7 My name is Shawn Anglim, I'm a pastor at
8 First Grace New Orleans in Midcity. And I'm
9 pretty certain that I'm the most uneducated
10 environmental person in the room but I have
11 been to four conferences in the last six
12 months, including the mayor's conference. And
13 I just want to sort of repeat the things that
14 have gotten my attention. One by one of our
15 very respected New Orleans people who has been
16 working on this forever. I won't say his name
17 because what he said was so dramatic I need to
18 allow him to say it for himself, but no one
19 disputed this. He basically said south of New
20 Orleans is not sustainable and we all know
21 that. He said, "If you live in Miami we all
22 know that it's over with. You can't get your
23 yacht under the bridge anymore and there's
24 nothing that's going to change that." And,
25 "that every port has a significant issue like

1 we do." The one thing that's makes a
2 difference for Louisiana is we have thousands
3 of tons of dirt coming down the Mississippi
4 River. And thanks to Helen Rose Patterson who
5 took a group of pastors down to the diversion,
6 which in my understanding, is an accidental
7 diversion. And then we, we went out there on
8 the air boat and she stopped and all this land
9 was there. Not a little bit of land but a lot
10 of land was there.

11 And then the last thing that got my
12 attention - my feeling is sort of like someone
13 said earlier, how do you get people's
14 attention? As Mr. Lopez said, we're talking
15 the dramatic loss of land. And what Helen Rose
16 Patterson did for this tour was she took your
17 maps, and then she took communities, and she
18 took the churches in those communities. And
19 she said, "Based on sea level rise, based on
20 the loss of land, this is what your church
21 looks like." And I think it was in ten years.
22 And you could see whether or not your church
23 was under water. Now that get a lot of
24 attention. And it might be helpful if, in the
25 plan, if you took communities based on your

1 maps and based on your plan, and you showed
2 Main Street in those communities and whether or
3 not they were covered with water or whether,
4 with the Master Plan in twenty-five years they
5 were still there. And you show those pictures.
6 And I think that might really help get people's
7 attention. As Tony Lopez said, what we are
8 dealing with, which is a massive loss of land.
9 Thank you very much.

10 MR. SPEYRER:

11 Thank you. Lauren. And then on deck will
12 be Nicolas Bell.

13 MS. AVERILL:

14 Hi. My name is Lauren Averill. I'm the
15 Coastal Zone Coordinator for Jefferson Parish.
16 I wanted to just talk about a couple of
17 concerns that we have. Initially when we took
18 a look at the plan, there were two of our
19 crucial projects that were not listed in the
20 project list. But since then we have been able
21 to speak with you guys and are very happy to
22 know that there are details in levees, in all
23 ten of those segments as well as phase two of
24 the long distance pipeline that shows from the
25 Barataria waterway, west. Both of those

1 projects are extremely crucial for coastal
2 restoration in Louisiana, and Jefferson Parish
3 also. And we are very grateful and happy that
4 that's, that they have committed that to us.

5 Also, we have four other projects that
6 made it in on the draft, but not the draft that
7 was released in January. And also these
8 projects, we would just like to see - it's not
9 clear exactly on why those were not included.
10 And that includes the shoreline protection on
11 Lake Salvador, Barataria Bay grand marsh
12 creation, more Barataria Bay marsh creation,
13 and wetland shoreline protection. We just
14 would like a statement that is consistent with
15 the plan. And we understand that there is cost
16 constraints, but those are still very important
17 projects, and a better understanding of why
18 those were not included.

19 And once again I know this is a daunting
20 project that is due and to get something like
21 this in place across the coast. And I thank
22 you for working with us.

23 MR. SPEYRER:

24 Thank you, Lauren. Nicolas Bell, where
25 are you? Is Nicolas still here? Let's go on

1 to Major Tracy Riley.

2 MAJOR RILEY:

3 Good evening. I am the host of the
4 Watchtower Hour on WBOK, 1230 AM. And one of
5 the purposes of the show is to get information
6 out of this nature. I am also a resident of
7 Plaquemines Parish and my home is just two
8 miles north of a sediment diversion project
9 that's on the plan at some point in the near
10 future.

11 My question is, in terms of the funds
12 required for these projects, is any of this
13 money part of the BP oil spill settlement
14 funds? And if so, at least for that portion of
15 the funds, assuming this is a part of that, are
16 those funds subject to federal procurement
17 requirements or standards? Particularly for
18 DPE contractors, meaning your small, your
19 local, and your disadvantaged, and your
20 contractors of color. Thank you.

21 MR. SPEYRER:

22 Thank you, Major Riley. Just for the
23 record, we're not going to answer now but we
24 will be happy to chat with you about that
25 specific question. I've got one more sheet.

1 Mr. Ken Ragas, you're next. If anybody else
2 would like to provide a public comment -

3 MR. JOHNSON:

4 I did submit a form out front, Arthur
5 Johnson.

6 MR. SPEYRER:

7 We'll get to next, Mr. Johnson.

8 Absolutely. Ken.

9 MR. RAGAS:

10 Hi. My name is Ken Ragas. I'm from
11 Buras, Louisiana. I've been involved in this
12 for twenty-five years. (Inaudible) And there
13 are some thing which are not factual. It's
14 been difficult to deal with this. You know,
15 I've lived through the destruction of the
16 marshes in the Buras/Empire area and I know
17 what caused them. And I know what's not going
18 to fix them. And I know the people in
19 Plaquemines Parish deserve better than we are
20 getting as far as protection from storm surge.

21 I've been through it. And I'm not in
22 favor of sediment diversion. I lived at the
23 pass in Venice for twenty years. I had a boat
24 and I watched the Grand Pass just erode. Grand
25 Pass is 600 foot wide and 75 foot deep at the

1 river. (Inaudible). And I'm just afraid it's
2 not going to work. We deserve something better
3 than that.

4 There's a lot of misunderstanding. I've
5 seen areas that claimed to have land built from
6 diversions, and they don't take into account
7 the land that was eroded and was (inaudible)
8 out in the mud flats and stuff like that, you
9 know? There is a lot of not factual
10 information that's being presented. Thank you.

11 MR. SPEYRER:

12 Thank you, Mr. Ragas. Mr. Johnson, I
13 apologize for that. If anybody else would like
14 to speak we are going to certainly give you a
15 chance.

16 MR. JOHNSON:

17 Thank you. My name is Arthur Johnson. I
18 am from Kenner, Louisiana. I am a, an
19 independent geologist and a member and actually
20 an officer in a number of local and national
21 scientific organizations. What I want to say
22 is, the nice thing that's kind of interesting
23 in Louisiana. We have the most dynamic geology
24 in the U.S. In fact, when I go into the
25 schools I'm asking where we are right now when

1 the pyramids were being built in Egypt the
2 coast line was somewhere around Covington.

3 With the Master Plan, there's a lot to
4 like in that and I am very pleased with the
5 work that has been done on that, but I notice
6 the focus is on what's happening at the
7 surface. And yet the subsurface is absolutely
8 critical on this because of the dynamics of
9 what is underlying us here. Active faulting
10 that we see, in fact, if you drive the Rigolets
11 and see the railroad. The railroad has to re-
12 level the tracks every eight - twelve to
13 eighteen months or the trains would jump off
14 because of a fault that goes through there. If
15 you come down the Causeway and at about four
16 miles south on the south bound lanes you hit a
17 dip. You are crossing a fault. These faults
18 lace our area. And on the down slope side of
19 those faults, that's where a lot of our lakes
20 are being created. What was open fields in the
21 past, the river used to bring sediment in, just
22 keep covering it over. Because we don't let
23 the sediment in we now are - our coast line
24 isn't so much eroding, it's subsiding. It's a
25 natural process and what my concern is, if we

1 are not aware of where the faulting is, the
2 underlying geology, and you put some of these
3 structural protection in, crossing an active
4 fault. Over the longer term it will not be
5 successful.

6 There's a lot of ongoing work right now
7 with University of New Orleans, Tulane
8 University, LSU. As we are mapping these out
9 those resources are becoming available or are
10 available. I see Dr. Nancy Dare from Tulane is
11 here, it's a bunch of her students who are
12 doing this. We have resources at those
13 universities, Southeastern Geophysical Society,
14 New Orleans Geological Society. We have
15 information that needs to be brought into all
16 of these projects to make sure that they in
17 fact are successful over the long term. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. SPEYRER:

20 Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Would anyone else
21 like to provide public comment tonight. Got
22 one more here. Robert. Okay. Thank you,
23 Robert. Please state your name for us.

24 MR. DESMARAIS:

25 My name is Robert Desmarais. And the name

1 Desmarais, I admit is hard to pronounce. I am
2 speaking on behalf of Francois Desmarais who
3 came here in 1720. As I was looking at the
4 plan I noticed that there was nothing
5 addressing the causes of the loss of the coast.
6 There has been some talk of sedimentation and
7 reintroducing sedimentation. That certainly is
8 one way to go, and needs to be considered much
9 more. But one that is noticeable by it's
10 absence is the affect of the exploration for
11 oil and gas in south Louisiana. I have seen it
12 come and I have seen what it has done. I
13 appreciate the wealth that it has brought. But
14 the time has come for us to recognize that
15 removal of the petroleum and gas from
16 underneath our land causes it to subside. And
17 the introduction of canals through all of the
18 marshes allows the land to be eroded by the
19 Gulf. These are factors that have to be
20 addressed in the plan.

21 In my discussions with the Bureau of Ocean
22 Energy Management I was shown a map of the
23 Gulf. In the map the Gulf is divided into
24 three parts. The eastern part near Florida
25 there is no drilling at all. In the western

1 part near Texas there is very little. But the
2 part off of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi
3 is a network of miles and miles of pipelines
4 and ridges. I asked the man why was that the
5 case. He said because the people of Florida
6 object to it. Three times he said that to me.
7 I finally said, "Are you trying to tell me
8 something?" He said, "Yes. I am." So I am
9 passing that on to you.

10 John Berry who was here today, I don't
11 know if you are in this room at this time,
12 John. He is now one of my heroes. He brought
13 suit to try to make the petroleum industry pay
14 to rebuild the canals. So far it has gone
15 nowhere. But I think in the plan we have to
16 address the causes as well as what we can do to
17 repair the land. Thank you.

18 MR. SPEYRER:

19 Thank you. Please state your name.

20 MR. JOHNSON:

21 My name is Happy Johnson, I am a resident
22 of the lower 9th Ward. I would like to make a
23 comment about the logistics of the meeting.

24 5:30 downtown New Orleans is pretty difficult,
25 as well as the fifteen dollar cost to park, is

1 a little prohibitive for many people. I think
2 if we are having a public meeting for public
3 comments we should be having public parking.

4 My other comment is about the plan. I
5 want to commend you all for the progress that
6 has been made in terms of outreach and
7 engagement, but I would ask that you take it a
8 step further before the next plan is released
9 in four years so that the process - that the
10 process for engagement for, you know,
11 communities matches the time invested that is
12 mentioned in regards to the technicalities and
13 the science for restoring the coast. I think
14 it should - you should have that same emphasis
15 on how we engage community members that are
16 going to be affected by this plan. This year
17 there are about two pages talking about
18 engaging the community. I would like to see a
19 chapter on how we systemically and
20 intentionally engage communities of color that
21 are often disproportionately affected by land
22 loss. Thank you.

23 MR. SPEYRER:

24 Without any other hand raises I would like
25 to reiterate the point that I mentioned

1 earlier. There is still multiple opportunities
2 for you to provide your official public
3 comment. As you see here on the screen, we're
4 going to accept official public comment through
5 March twenty-sixth. You are able to do that by
6 going online at coastal.la.gov, there is a form
7 that you can fill out and submit. You can also
8 send us an e-mail at masterplan@la.gov. And
9 you can also mail in your comments. And as
10 Bren referenced earlier, if there is a meeting
11 you would like to have us attend or you would
12 like to chat with us again send us an email at
13 masterplan@la.gov., and we will do everything
14 that we can to accommodate such request. So,
15 we appreciate you being here. What we are
16 going to now do is transition into the next
17 portion of our meeting which is focused on the
18 fiscal year 2018 draft Annual Plan. Let's have
19 a seat everybody. We are ready to get started.

20 With that, everyone, we ask you to please
21 go ahead and get quiet. I would like to
22 introduce to those who are still here, Michael
23 Ellis, Executive Director of the Coastal
24 Restoration Authority. Let's have a seat
25 everybody. We're ready to start.

1 MR. ELLIS:

2 Well, I appreciate everyone coming out to
3 hear the FY 18 draft annual Plan. I really
4 appreciate you all coming out and participating
5 in the Master Plan. It is very important to us
6 and coincides with the FY 18 Annual Plan.

7 So what I'm going to do is going to be
8 pretty brief. We will give you an oversight of
9 what's the Annual Plan, a little bit about what
10 to expect, and why we do the annual plan. And
11 a little bit about some of the accomplishments
12 that we have had in the past year.

13 So why do we do the annual plan? Well,
14 first and foremost we are mandated to. And
15 which, which is a good thing because it makes
16 up plan for the, and budget for the next three
17 years. This is how CPRA, you know, as Bren
18 discussed earlier we not only plan the work, we
19 implement the work, we oversee the work, and we
20 monitor and maintain the projects. So this
21 sets our plan in my mind on how we are going to
22 deliver the work over the next three years some
23 of the projects that you saw in the Master
24 Plan.

25 So it requires us, like I said, to have a

1 three year budget. We have to find out how we
2 are going to implement the projects. And also
3 we have to give an update of where we are on
4 the previous projects. This, real quick I will
5 go through this, basically we are going to
6 follow the same path as the Master Plan. And
7 one thing I want to call out is the public
8 comment period, it closes on March twenty-sixth
9 of 17. And I know that when y'all get through
10 reading the Master Plan you are going to grab
11 the Annual Plan and read that. Because for the
12 numbers people it is actually pretty good
13 reading.

14 In summary, what you are going to see in
15 the 18 draft plan is a little bit about the
16 two - of course what we did was - we
17 accomplished the 2017 Master Plan which is very
18 important, it's every five years. So in 18 we
19 are going to see that kind of come to a close.
20 But what you are going to see starting to ramp
21 up are some, some newly funded projects. It's
22 a pretty exciting time because we get some
23 clarity on our dollars now. We know since the
24 settlement occurred last year, we are going to
25 start to receive in earnest in April the first

1 payments from the BP Oil Spill. So it's our
2 job to figure out how to spend that money, how
3 to project that money, when it comes in, and
4 obviously when we expect to spend it and build
5 the projects that we so dearly need.

6 Also you will see that in 18 we are going
7 to be implementing larger projects and more
8 complex projects. Like I said, we have spoken
9 about those in the past, we have the money now
10 to move forward with those. The diversions we
11 spoke about earlier, the Calcasieu Salinity
12 Project out west. It's a very large civil
13 works project. These are very, very large
14 projects that we feel that are necessary to
15 repair our coast and protect our people. And
16 because of that we are going to stand up a very
17 robust adaptive management program in the
18 coming years. We think that is critical to
19 learn, to improve, to become better as an
20 agency, and build better projects.

21 One thing to note as we start to ramp up
22 some project programs, you are going to see
23 some of the older programs like the SEAPP
24 program start to decline in revenues. So as
25 those go down they will be replaced by new

1 funding sources, and I am going to touch on
2 those. Real quick, we, our major funding
3 sources - of course we receive state mineral
4 revenues. In the past I would like to point
5 out that we received around \$25 to \$30 million.
6 Primarily that's how we operate as an agency.
7 The next three years we project that to be down
8 to around \$14 million. So we as an agency have
9 to become even more efficient in how we do
10 business. The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security
11 Act, we anticipate that kicking in the
12 beginning of federal fiscal year 2018. That is
13 upwards of around \$140 million a year that will
14 go to CPRA, I think it is a total of \$176 to
15 the state, the remaining balance goes to
16 individual parishes impacted or coastal
17 parishes.

18 Other sources of funding, the NFWF, or
19 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural
20 resources, damage assessment, and the restore
21 dollars. Those are all related to the oil
22 spill. And what is important to know about
23 those - yes, we are going to receive those
24 dollars over the next eighteen years but there
25 are restricted in many cases on how we can use

1 those. So if you can imagine all of the
2 projects that we have to do, we have to match
3 all the funding sources when they come in, and
4 what we can spend them on.

5 So that's what the Annual Plan does. That
6 is why I encourage looking at the Annual Plan.
7 And lastly, we still anticipate to receive GPRO
8 dollars. That's a program that has been around
9 I think since 1990, but it is a very beneficial
10 program for us and it will continue to be.

11 Notable accomplishments. I just want to
12 touch on these real high level. These are six
13 projects, I think you can go to section two, I
14 believe, of the Annual Plan it will give you a
15 summary of all the projects that are complete,
16 we completed in 16, but look for the dollar
17 value real quick. In 2017, or FY 2017, which
18 was mainly in last year's Annual Plan we
19 completed eleven projects. These are six that
20 represent some of the eleven. They total
21 around \$330 million, so we are very happy about
22 that. It benefitted over 3,500 acres of
23 wetlands.

24 Currently moving into 18, FY 18, there
25 will be twenty-nine projects that are in

1 continued construction. This has a contract
2 value of \$5.5 billion, and we anticipate
3 benefitting 300 miles of wetlands and over
4 20,000 acres of wetlands. What I would like to
5 stress here is we have been doing a lot of work
6 in the past, a lot of work ongoing. This
7 agency - I'm new, I am very fortunate to be
8 here because it has a tremendous track record
9 of successfully building projects. As we move
10 forward, we have a tremendous, tremendous
11 amount of work to do. We understand that and
12 we are very excited about that. But the Annual
13 Plan, like I said, lays that foundation and
14 provides the framework for how we are going to
15 deliver those projects.

16 One of the tables - you'll see many
17 tables, many graphs, many charts, but this
18 represents our FY 18 expected expenditures.
19 A couple of things, his represents around \$663
20 million for next, for FY 18. A couple of
21 things I want to point out. You see the graph,
22 the very large green section represent fifty-
23 six percent is in construction. So we are
24 talking about all these projects we are about
25 to start. There is a tremendous amount of

1 construction, ,once again, going on right now.
2 Eighteen percent in design, eighteen percent of
3 the \$660 million is going toward design, which
4 is important for me because I, as we plan and
5 design these projects we know that in the back
6 end we are going to have a tremendous amount of
7 construction. So you are going to see that
8 eighteen percent start to shift more towards
9 construction in FY 19 and FY 20.

10 This is one example of a schedule in the
11 Annual plan. And one thing I would like to
12 note is we divide - the phases of the program
13 is planning, design, construction, and then OM.
14 So that's, that's how we track our progress.
15 That is one of the schedules that you will see
16 if you look at the Annual Plan.

17 And really that's it. I went through it
18 very fast because I want to get home for
19 dinner. But we are, we are also available for
20 comments. And it looks like we got some so
21 great.

22 MR. SPEYRER:

23 At this point we don't have any forms for
24 public comment on the fiscal year 18 draft
25 Annual Plan. We do have someone who would like

1 to speak. Come on up here.

2 MS. KENNA:

3 Hello. My name is Kenna. I am a resident
4 of Plaquemines Parish. I just have a question
5 about the slide with the major funding sources.
6 You mentioned something about the remaining
7 balance going to coastal parishes. Remaining
8 balance of what and how does it go to the
9 parishes. Does that go through the government
10 or, you know, where is it going?

11 MR. SPEYRER:

12 I will say that we are not going to answer
13 questions here. But we are able to wrap up and
14 walk out and we will certainly catch up with
15 you in a second.

16 MAJOR RILEY:

17 Again, I am Major Tracy Riley, Retired,
18 U.S. Army, host of the Watchtower Hour. A
19 previous question, or comment was made about
20 the community engagement for the poorest
21 communities who are also impacted by these
22 projects. I see an opportunity for those
23 communities to be - to participate, really, in
24 the contract opportunities from those two
25 slides, into the schedule for this upcoming

1 year. So this is more of a comment and request
2 that all efforts, as reasonable as possible, be
3 made to give opportunities through job
4 placement or contracts. Opportunities, in
5 particular, for those communities. Thank you.

6 MR. SPEYRER:

7 Thank you. Any other comments? Thank you
8 very much. We appreciate you sitting with us
9 all night, (inaudible) to the big crowd. We'll
10 be walking out and we're certainly happy to
11 interact and answer any questions that, that we
12 can. As a sort of reminder, just like the
13 Master Plan, comments on the Annual Plan can be
14 made until March twenty-sixth. Here's how you
15 do it. Write it in, different e-mail
16 addresses, or you can also submit your comments
17 online. Thank you very much and we appreciate
18 your being here.

19 (The public hearing concluded at 7:30 p.m.)

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1 R E P O R T E R S P A G E

2 I, Tricia Gregory, Certified Court
3 Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana,
4 the Officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the
5 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, before whom
6 this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby state
7 on the record:

8 That due to the interaction in the
9 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding,
10 dashes (--) have been used to indicate pauses,
11 changes in thought and/or talk overs; that same
12 is the proper method for a Court Reporter's
13 transcription of proceeding, and that the
14 dashes (--) do not indicate that words or
15 phrases have been left out of this transcript.

16 Also, any words and/or names which could
17 not be verified through reference material have
18 been denoted with the phrase "(inaudible)."

19

20

21

22

23

Tricia Gregory, C.C.R. #2015008

24

25

1 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

2 I, the undersigned reporter, do hereby
3 certify that the above and foregoing is a true
4 and correct transcription of the stenomask tape
5 of the proceedings had herein, taken down by me
6 and transcribed under my supervision, to the
7 best of my ability and understanding, at the
8 time and place hereinbefore noted, in the
9 above-entitled cause.

10 I further certify that the witnesses were
11 duly sworn in by me in my capacity as a
12 Certified Court Reporter pursuant to the
13 provision of R. S. 37:2551 et seq. in and for
14 the State of Louisiana; that I am not of
15 counsel nor related to any of the counsel of
16 any of the parties, nor in the employ of any of
17 the parties, and that I have no interest in the
18 outcome of this action.

19 I further certify that my license is in
20 good standing as a Court Reporter in and for
21 the State of Louisiana.

22

23

24

Tricia Gregory (#2015008)

25

Certified Court Reporter

	100-year (2) 32:23;33:21	2012 (5) 15:18;31:5;61:12; 78:8;80:12		Absolutely (2) 87:8;89:7
#	12 (1) 76:6	2014 (1) 72:19	5	Academy (1) 72:24
#2015008 (1) 104:23	120 (1) 27:22	2015 (3) 64:24;72:19,23	5,000 (1) 44:1	accept (1) 94:4
\$	1230 (1) 86:4	2016 (3) 56:5;72:19;73:7	5:30 (1) 92:24	access (1) 8:8
\$1.3 (2) 46:21,22	135 (1) 19:21	2017 (26) 4:3,11;5:7;15:17; 16:1,7,14;41:8;42:6; 45:23;49:12;51:21; 59:21;61:9,12,16,18, 21;66:14;67:13,19; 78:5;79:13;96:17; 99:17,17	50/50 (2) 26:2;30:10	accessed (1) 39:9
\$1.325 (1) 67:21	144 (1) 77:6	2018 (3) 4:18;94:18;98:12	500 (1) 77:4	accessible (1) 39:12
\$100 (1) 11:8	150 (1) 23:18	2022 (2) 44:11,12	6	accidental (1) 83:6
\$14 (1) 98:8	150,000 (1) 61:3	2025 (2) 44:6,16	6,000 (1) 37:14	accommodate (2) 7:23;94:14
\$140 (1) 98:13	16 (1) 99:16	2035 (1) 44:2	600 (1) 87:25	accomplish (2) 16:23,23
\$150 (5) 20:14,19;22:9; 28:1;34:21	17 (1) 96:9	2040 (1) 56:22	7	accomplished (1) 96:17
\$176 (1) 98:14	17.2 (1) 78:6	2050 (1) 62:18	7:30 (1) 103:19	accomplishments (2) 95:11;99:11
\$19 (1) 30:12	1720 (1) 91:3	209 (2) 20:10,14	700 (1) 77:2	according (2) 60:3;76:8
\$20 (2) 12:14;48:8	18 (10) 95:3,6;96:15,18; 97:6;99:24,24; 100:18,20;101:24	21 (1) 64:24	75 (1) 87:25	account (2) 55:13;88:6
\$25 (1) 98:5	19 (1) 101:9	26,000 (1) 29:13	8	accounted (1) 65:25
\$3 (1) 67:23	1930's (1) 14:1	28 (1) 104:4	8.3 (1) 34:18	accurate (1) 71:1
\$30 (1) 98:5	1932 (3) 10:1,6;60:5	282 (2) 12:25,25	800 (1) 35:8	achieve (2) 25:11;27:5
\$330 (1) 99:21	1940 (1) 80:20	3	802 (2) 27:23;32:10	acknowledge (1) 7:3
\$5.5 (1) 100:2	1950 (2) 60:2,7	3,500 (1) 99:22	9	acquisition (2) 46:23;59:11
\$50 (6) 20:20;22:6;25:9, 15,24;34:24	1990 (1) 99:9	3.2 (1) 78:7	9th (1) 92:22	acquisitions (3) 20:2,2;29:12
\$6.1 (2) 29:15;30:13	1990's (1) 14:2	3:1 (1) 34:23	A	acres (9) 12:23;47:3;51:4; 55:19;61:3;77:3,4; 99:22;100:4
\$660 (1) 101:3	1998 (2) 43:21;44:23	300 (2) 63:1;100:3	ability (7) 15:22;17:5,7; 20:24;69:5;73:10,10	across (16) 8:8;9:2;13:5; 27:21;30:23;33:10, 25;40:5;49:6;50:10; 51:3;55:2,4;76:24; 77:1;85:21
\$663 (1) 100:19	2	350 (1) 75:16	able (22) 12:23;13:1;14:23; 16:20;17:11,13,16; 18:11,15,18;19:2; 21:4;31:5;33:2; 41:14;43:8;70:1,1; 71:6;84:20;94:5; 102:13	Act (2) 78:16;98:11
\$8.3 (2) 34:15;35:11	2,000 (1) 47:3	36,000 (1) 12:23	aborted (1) 49:9	action (8) 31:15;20;32:1,20, 20;35:25;43:24;59:1
\$8.6 (1) 78:6	20 (2) 78:9;101:9	4	above (3) 31:20;36:19;59:6	Active (2) 89:9;90:3
1	20,000 (1) 100:4	4.2 (1) 73:1	absence (1) 91:10	actively (1) 7:13
1,000 (1) 64:6	2000 (1) 60:2	400 (1) 63:4	absolute (2) 32:8;34:13	activities (1) 18:6
1,200 (1) 35:8	2005 (1) 9:13			actual (1) 70:24
1,500 (1) 8:11	2007 (1) 53:1			actually (8) 15:21;19:7;30:21;
1,900 (1) 10:4	2009 (1) 51:21			
100 (1) 53:2	2010 (1) 60:5			

<p>32:25;37:23;39:5; 88:19;96:12 adapt (1) 35:3 Adaptation (1) 36:12 adaptive (1) 97:17 add (1) 30:19 addition (3) 42:8,22;57:20 additional (3) 31:20;73:2,12 Additionally (1) 67:10 address (6) 39:5,11;65:8; 66:15;72:8;92:16 addressed (3) 10:13;65:20;91:20 addresses (2) 29:18;103:16 addressing (1) 91:5 adjust (1) 14:24 administration (1) 45:1 admit (1) 91:1 ado (2) 8:14;9:8 adopted (1) 44:7 advancements (1) 15:14 adverse (1) 79:18 advocacy (1) 55:2 advocated (1) 62:22 advocating (1) 66:22 affect (14) 17:4,6;21:5,6,7,8, 14,22;23:2,4;37:18; 39:3;75:10;91:10 affected (2) 93:16,21 affects (2) 10:13;75:6 afraid (1) 88:1 afternoon (2) 4:5;37:5 again (55) 5:20;6:21;7:14,15; 9:4;10:5;11:18;12:1, 6,12;15:6;17:19,22; 18:16;19:17;20:2; 22:4,8,20;26:3,22;</p>	<p>28:17,20;29:8;30:9, 19,24;31:17,25;32:4; 33:16,19,23,23; 34:13;35:6,10;38:17, 19;39:10,12;42:19; 48:12;49:12;50:1; 55:9;57:17;58:10; 70:11;74:6;76:17; 85:19;94:12;101:1; 102:17 against (5) 19:11;61:22; 68:25;69:5;75:18 agencies (2) 44:25;57:8 agency (5) 9:12;97:20;98:6,8; 100:7 agenda (2) 4:4;40:13 aggravating (1) 50:23 agreed (1) 44:4 agreeing (2) 63:15,18 ahead (1) 94:21 air (2) 25:19;83:8 aisles (3) 7:19,21;79:1 Alabama (1) 92:2 alligators (1) 23:4 allocated (2) 78:11,12 allow (2) 4:13;82:18 allowed (1) 7:20 allowing (1) 42:23 allows (4) 14:22,23;15:9; 91:18 almost (3) 30:12;35:8;54:1 along (5) 5:10;10:16;13:9; 17:6;32:17 alternatives (1) 19:15 always (5) 36:6;55:8;63:18; 69:22;81:12 Amanda (4) 66:4,5,8;68:3 amazed (1) 80:1 Amelia (1) 79:15</p>	<p>America (1) 81:15 Among (2) 49:9;69:16 Amos (1) 6:6 amount (12) 10:7;23:15;25:8, 10,17;37:21;48:1; 75:20;81:2;100:11, 25;101:6 analogy (1) 26:14 analysis (9) 15:16;16:1;21:24; 26:5;34:20;56:10; 60:17,18;68:14 analytical (1) 19:1 anchored (1) 57:3 and/or (2) 104:11,16 Anglim (3) 79:24;82:6,7 Ann (1) 43:3 anniversary (2) 63:1,5 announced (1) 64:25 Annual (22) 4:19;13:18;34:15, 17;43:25;78:19; 94:18;95:3,6,9,10, 13;96:11;99:5,6,14, 18;100:12;101:11, 16,25;103:13 Ans (1) 45:25 Antarctic (1) 73:9 anticipate (3) 98:11;99:7;100:2 anymore (1) 82:23 apologize (2) 74:10;88:13 appear (1) 67:4 appendices (3) 37:13;50:14,15 Appendix (8) 42:6;49:17,17,18; 50:13,17;65:10; 72:17 application (2) 76:14,19 appreciate (18) 8:18;9:8;40:16; 42:19;45:24;47:19; 48:15,24;57:19; 58:10;74:7;79:19;</p>	<p>91:13;94:15;95:2,4; 103:8,17 approach (4) 27:2;51:12;60:19; 73:25 approaches (2) 58:22,25 appropriations (1) 67:22 approved (2) 63:14,15 April (4) 39:25,25;40:7; 96:25 arbitrary (2) 26:3,4 area (17) 13:7;21:10;29:4; 38:13;39:4,4;47:19; 59:16,16;60:4;61:6, 20;63:7;67:11; 76:11;87:16;89:18 areas (7) 11:25;33:14;50:7; 59:5;60:6;70:25; 88:5 arise (1) 79:16 Army (5) 61:14;67:15,20; 76:15;102:18 around (17) 13:12;17:10;24:6, 13;31:1;47:9;63:7; 67:7;73:15;76:2; 89:2;98:5,8,13;99:8, 21;100:19 Arthur (2) 87:4;88:17 article (1) 73:7 aside (1) 73:23 aspect (2) 15:11;58:7 aspirational (1) 25:10 assessment (3) 49:21;53:6;98:20 assessments (1) 59:21 assets (1) 59:18 assign (1) 25:25 assist (1) 36:23 assistant (1) 67:20 associated (15) 9:20;11:20;12:5; 17:12,23;20:10,13; 21:18;24:20;25:7;</p>	<p>30:20;37:15;38:9,20; 74:5 assumes (1) 59:22 assuming (2) 72:20;86:15 assumption (2) 59:24;60:8 astonishing (1) 10:6 Atchafalaya (3) 28:12;48:14;77:2 atmosphere (1) 73:1 Attachment (1) 59:20 attack (1) 54:1 attempt (2) 8:7;71:10 attend (1) 94:11 attention (6) 46:1;82:14;83:12, 14,24;84:7 audience (4) 8:4;49:7;63:13; 73:18 Audrey (1) 6:8 Audubon (1) 69:13 Authority (4) 4:7;5:1,9;11;94:24 available (11) 17:1;22:14;37:22, 23;38:22;54:15,18; 73:18;90:9,10; 101:19 avenue (1) 5:17 average (1) 43:25 Averill (3) 82:4;84:13,14 aware (7) 6:25;10:12;14:18; 38:23;75:1,2;90:1 away (3) 53:8;60:8;62:17 awful (1) 12:13</p>
B				
<p>back (18) 7:4,14;10:1,5; 23:22;32:25;33:3; 41:6;49:8;52:4,14, 15,15;53:15;60:22; 77:23;82:3;101:5 Backing (1) 52:12</p>				

<p>backs (2) 57:11,12</p> <p>bad (1) 5:22</p> <p>balance (3) 98:15;102:7,8</p> <p>Barataria (5) 46:18;57:2;84:25; 85:11,12</p> <p>barrier (7) 12:21;13:2,3; 21:11;28:16;30:16; 52:16</p> <p>base (1) 73:25</p> <p>based (8) 59:19;60:9;64:3; 70:15;83:19,19,25; 84:1</p> <p>baseline (1) 73:14</p> <p>baselines (2) 72:15,20</p> <p>basic (2) 13:21;14:11</p> <p>basically (2) 82:19;96:5</p> <p>Basin (4) 43:14;49:5;62:9; 69:15</p> <p>basis (4) 69:19,24,25;77:2</p> <p>Baton (1) 63:7</p> <p>battle (1) 52:16</p> <p>Bay (4) 46:18;57:2;85:11, 12</p> <p>Bayou (4) 13:10;56:13; 66:24;76:22</p> <p>bays (1) 48:10</p> <p>beat (2) 6:12,19</p> <p>beautiful (1) 8:24</p> <p>become (2) 97:19;98:9</p> <p>becomes (1) 26:20</p> <p>becoming (1) 90:9</p> <p>began (1) 15:18</p> <p>begin (4) 18:4;21:20;44:12; 50:8</p> <p>beginning (2) 68:17;98:12</p> <p>beginnings (1) 65:5</p>	<p>begins (1) 71:2</p> <p>behalf (4) 45:11;66:9;79:10; 91:2</p> <p>behind (3) 16:22;63:19,20</p> <p>Bell (2) 84:12;85:24</p> <p>below (1) 59:5</p> <p>beneficial (1) 99:9</p> <p>beneficially (1) 19:10</p> <p>benefit (3) 12:23;36:22;60:18</p> <p>benefits (7) 27:9,10,17,17; 35:18;65:13;78:22</p> <p>benefitted (1) 99:22</p> <p>benefitting (2) 53:11;100:3</p> <p>Benny (3) 51:17;52:19;81:18</p> <p>Bernard (7) 38:6;46:7;61:4,8, 25;64:5;67:6</p> <p>Bernard's (2) 46:6,11</p> <p>Berry (1) 92:10</p> <p>best (8) 24:9,25;26:7;27:1; 68:19;69:2;70:5; 72:13</p> <p>bets (1) 47:8</p> <p>better (9) 15:1,23;27:6; 35:22;85:17;87:19; 88:2;97:19,20</p> <p>beyond (2) 59:10;80:18</p> <p>big (1) 103:9</p> <p>biggest (1) 56:2</p> <p>billion (24) 12:14;20:14,19; 22:6,9;25:9,15,24; 28:1;29:16;30:11,12; 34:15,18,21,24; 35:11;46:21,22;48:8; 67:21,23;78:6;100:2</p> <p>Biloxi (4) 61:1,3,25;67:4</p> <p>bit (8) 17:11;21:1;28:9; 57:25;83:9;95:9,11; 96:15</p> <p>blue (2)</p>	<p>33:1;64:9</p> <p>blues (3) 33:15,15,23</p> <p>board (7) 40:1;45:19;64:24; 76:18;80:7,12,20</p> <p>boat (2) 83:8;87:23</p> <p>boats (1) 79:12</p> <p>books (1) 51:5</p> <p>Bordelon (3) 77:24;79:8,9</p> <p>Borgne (1) 61:19</p> <p>Born (1) 71:23</p> <p>both (3) 22:25;54:16;84:25</p> <p>bottom (2) 39:12;54:5</p> <p>bound (1) 89:16</p> <p>BP (3) 77:7;86:13;97:1</p> <p>Bradberry (9) 4:6,25;5:2;6:17; 7:18;8:18;45:16,19; 53:23</p> <p>Bren (7) 4:9;7:25;8:14; 40:20;46:2;94:10; 95:17</p> <p>Bren's (1) 62:9</p> <p>Bridge (4) 56:13;66:23; 76:22;82:23</p> <p>bridges (1) 12:22</p> <p>brief (2) 52:23;95:8</p> <p>bring (3) 43:5;51:7;89:21</p> <p>broad (1) 24:1</p> <p>broadcast (1) 8:6</p> <p>brochures (1) 37:10</p> <p>broken (1) 30:9</p> <p>brought (3) 90:15;91:13;92:12</p> <p>brown (3) 65:3,8,10</p> <p>budget (3) 78:7;95:16;96:1</p> <p>buffering (1) 67:5</p> <p>build (11) 21:11;22:2;35:7;</p>	<p>47:3;63:20;70:11,13; 73:15;76:10;97:4,20</p> <p>building (3) 22:22;78:7;100:9</p> <p>builds (1) 18:3</p> <p>built (6) 17:25;47:25; 51:24,25;88:5;89:1</p> <p>bullet (1) 47:7</p> <p>bunch (1) 90:11</p> <p>Buras (1) 87:11</p> <p>Buras/Empire (1) 87:16</p> <p>Bureau (1) 91:21</p> <p>Burt (1) 6:7</p> <p>business (4) 13:25;36:8;45:13; 98:10</p>	<p>91:17;92:14</p> <p>Captain (5) 41:23;43:6;45:5, 10;47:11</p> <p>carbon (3) 56:10,13,25</p> <p>cards (1) 7:10</p> <p>care (3) 8:9,10;57:10</p> <p>career (1) 68:11</p> <p>carries (1) 48:15</p> <p>case (8) 26:24;36:1;49:11; 69:2,3;72:13,13;92:5</p> <p>cases (3) 19:6;37:23;98:25</p> <p>cast (1) 68:24</p> <p>catch (1) 102:14</p> <p>category (2) 26:8,9</p> <p>cause (2) 49:15;52:3</p> <p>caused (3) 52:5;63:17;87:17</p> <p>causes (4) 50:20;91:5,16; 92:16</p> <p>Causeway (1) 89:15</p> <p>causing (1) 50:25</p> <p>CCR (1) 104:23</p> <p>central (3) 28:13,18;66:24</p> <p>cents (2) 78:11,12</p> <p>century (2) 73:3,5</p> <p>certain (1) 82:9</p> <p>certainly (29) 9:3,23;10:16,23; 11:4,13,23;12:4,10; 13:16;14:20;15:8; 16:4,17;18:2,7;20:6; 26:25;29:25;30:4; 37:5,25;40:17;41:7; 69:23;88:14;91:7; 102:14;103:10</p> <p>Certified (1) 104:2</p> <p>Chairman (6) 4:5,25;7:18;8:17; 45:16;52:22</p> <p>challenge (1) 62:25</p> <p>challenging (1)</p>
C				
			<p>C3-25 (1) 59:20</p> <p>Calcasieu (1) 97:11</p> <p>call (6) 5:19;8:10;18:24; 29:25;41:20;96:7</p> <p>called (1) 41:16</p> <p>calls (4) 16:3,6;43:24;58:9</p> <p>came (4) 37:4;45:19;53:3; 91:3</p> <p>Campaign (1) 47:17</p> <p>can (73) 6:12,18;9:1,24; 10:3,19;11:10,15,21, 25;14:5;18:19; 19:10;21:17;23:6; 25:14;27:20;28:4; 29:6,17;30:9;31:16, 22;32:3,24;33:9; 35:4,7,9,13,25; 36:23;37:9,10,11,19, 20;38:8,16;39:5,9, 10;40:13;42:18; 43:9;44:15;47:4,24; 52:1,5,6;54:18;68:8; 70:11,12,16;71:10; 74:21;80:16;81:7,14; 92:16;94:7,9,14; 98:25;99:1,4,13; 103:12,13,16</p> <p>canals (2)</p>	

<p>26:21 chance (4) 17:2;37:24;70:18; 88:15 change (9) 7:7;45:20;52:5,6; 56:8;60:2,4;62:18; 82:24 changed (1) 81:22 changes (5) 14:19,24;32:16; 45:23;104:11 changing (1) 14:22 channel (1) 79:17 Chapter (2) 48:23;93:19 character (1) 59:1 Charles (7) 39:18;48:19; 51:16,16;52:19;64:4; 76:24 Charlie (2) 6:7,7 charts (1) 100:17 chat (2) 86:24;94:12 check (1) 31:12 Chief (1) 7:25 child (1) 53:13 children (1) 27:14 Chris (2) 6:3,4 Chuck (1) 43:3 church (2) 83:20,22 churches (1) 83:18 citizens (7) 8:8;9:19;12:2; 13:24;14:5;17:23; 36:4 City (2) 48:3;76:2 civil (2) 97:12;104:5 claimed (1) 88:5 clarity (2) 17:11;96:23 clear (5) 29:17;63:4;65:7; 69:19;85:9 clearly (3)</p>	<p>65:20,21;68:23 climate (2) 56:7;75:17 close (3) 39:21;69:1;96:19 closer (3) 28:3;29:2;74:21 closes (1) 96:8 Club (1) 48:23 CO2 (1) 72:25 Coalition (6) 42:25;45:12;47:2; 66:10,25;69:14 coast (28) 8:9,25;9:2;10:11; 12:1;13:9,25;14:19; 17:6;18:15,18;27:21; 28:13,18,25;30:23; 31:19;32:17;33:10, 25;62:16;65:14; 85:21;89:2,23;91:5; 93:13;97:15 Coastal (55) 4:3,6,11;5:1;8:2; 9:10,16,18,24;10:5, 21;11:6;12:16,23; 13:20;18:5,7,14,14, 21;19:20;28:15; 32:15;36:5;37:8; 41:9;49:19;50:21,23; 51:9;55:19,20;57:2; 59:2,7,21;60:5,6,13; 64:2,11,13,15,21; 65:22;66:14;67:7,19, 24;69:14;84:15; 85:1;94:23;98:16; 102:7 coastallagov (1) 94:6 coast-wide (1) 29:15 Cochran (5) 66:5;68:3,5;71:15, 16 code (1) 7:21 coincides (1) 95:6 collective (1) 59:3 color (5) 33:5,6,7;86:20; 93:20 colored (1) 29:3 colors (2) 33:1,24 coming (8) 31:23;41:2;45:1; 78:20;83:3;95:2,4;</p>	<p>97:18 commend (3) 45:16,18;93:5 comment (20) 39:21;41:10,13; 57:17,21,23;58:11; 66:20;70:20,22;87:2; 90:21;92:23;93:4; 94:3,4;96:8;101:24; 102:19;103:1 commenting (1) 63:10 comments (35) 4:14,16,20,22;5:7, 15,15;6:24;7:2,5,14; 25:4;39:24;40:3,4, 17;41:8;42:1,4; 52:23;57:24;62:1; 66:19;68:13,21; 70:21;71:24;72:8; 74:8;93:3;94:9; 101:20;103:7,13,16 commercial (9) 18:5;20:1;45:14; 46:3,4,9;65:9,15,19 commitment (2) 44:17;68:16 committed (1) 85:4 Committee (2) 43:14;52:23 commodity (1) 36:21 commonly (1) 43:18 communication (1) 45:2 communities (37) 10:14;16:17,19; 17:7;18:17;22:2; 23:3,12;32:18;45:15; 54:22;57:3,3,4; 58:17;59:10,12; 60:12;64:2,14,17,21; 65:23,23;67:5,6; 71:3,10;83:17,18,25; 84:2;93:11,20; 102:21,23;103:5 community (18) 23:1;24:6,11; 59:18;60:17;64:13, 16,18;74:3,18;75:4, 6,7,10;78:22;93:15, 18;102:20 community- (1) 58:24 community-level (1) 58:21 companies (2) 55:22;77:18 company (1) 81:7 comparison (1)</p>	<p>8:13 compassion (1) 81:23 competencies (1) 79:11 competitive (1) 74:24 complete (2) 67:24;99:15 completed (4) 13:12;80:8;99:16, 19 Complex (2) 61:3;97:8 comprehensive (4) 9:15;49:18,20; 72:4 concept (1) 46:17 concern (1) 89:25 concerned (7) 46:8;61:10;64:22; 66:16;78:3;80:15; 81:20 concerns (6) 45:21,25;64:10; 65:18,19;84:17 concluded (1) 103:19 conclusion (1) 4:16 conference (1) 82:12 conferences (1) 82:11 conflicts (1) 19:14 confused (1) 80:2 confusion (1) 53:25 congratulate (1) 72:2 Congress (1) 67:22 connected (2) 64:15;81:5 connecting (1) 81:4 consensus (1) 73:24 conservative (1) 27:2 considered (1) 91:8 consistent (1) 85:14 constrained (1) 22:10 constraint (4) 20:20;22:11; 25:12,12</p>	<p>constraints (3) 22:5,12;85:16 constructed (1) 12:25 construction (10) 34:5;44:12;46:19, 24;100:1,23;101:1,7, 9,13 consultant (1) 46:7 Consulting (1) 64:2 contact (1) 54:18 continue (5) 23:13;24:22,22; 58:11;99:10 continued (1) 100:1 continuously (1) 70:8 contract (2) 100:1;102:24 contractors (2) 86:18,20 contracts (1) 103:4 contradictory (1) 77:11 contributes (1) 76:8 conversations (2) 24:7,11 cooling (1) 76:5 cooperatively (1) 44:23 coordinator (2) 43:12;84:15 copies (1) 54:19 core (2) 9:14;79:11 Cormier (1) 6:6 corner (1) 31:8 Corporation (1) 61:1 Corps (7) 47:3;50:24;51:22; 56:15;61:14;67:16; 76:15 cost (4) 29:15;60:18; 85:15;92:25 costs (2) 46:23;57:11 Council (4) 6:5,9,13,15 Councilman (2) 6:7;53:18 councilmen (1)</p>
---	---	---	---	--

6:19 country (3) 11:23;36:15,24 couple (7) 36:4;40:22;43:16; 58:8;84:16;100:19, 20 coupled (1) 70:4 course (14) 7:9;10:20;11:18; 14:12;21:15;28:10, 21;31:16;39:17; 40:10;44:24;70:21; 96:16;98:3 court (3) 42:5;104:2,12 cover (1) 31:9 covered (2) 32:6;84:3 covering (1) 89:22 Covington (1) 89:2 CPRA (36) 4:6,19;6:21;8:1; 12:12;40:1,21;45:16; 47:20;52:25;53:7,23; 55:17,20,21,21,24; 56:8,24;58:8,17; 60:1,14;64:24,25; 65:7,20;68:7;70:23; 71:8;72:2;78:9,14, 18;95:17;98:14 CPRA's (3) 39:13;55:4;61:9 crab (1) 64:9 craft (1) 69:17 crawfish (1) 64:9 create (1) 72:16 created (1) 89:20 creating (1) 72:7 creation (6) 19:9;28:5;67:12; 70:13;85:12,12 credibility (1) 70:2 crisis (3) 9:23,24;62:20 critical (6) 68:18;69:25; 70:10;72:22;89:8; 97:18 cross (1) 5:12 crossing (3)	77:2;89:17;90:3 crowd (1) 103:9 crucial (2) 84:19;85:1 cubic (1) 12:19 cultural (1) 59:14 culture (1) 18:12 cumulative (2) 34:19;44:4 current (4) 60:18;72:25;73:5; 79:13 currently (4) 51:5;61:8,9;99:24 cut (1) 71:1	D	Daigle (3) 41:21;43:11,12 damage (1) 98:20 damages (4) 28:1;34:15;55:14; 56:1 Dare (1) 90:10 dashes (2) 104:10,14 data (4) 15:21;38:22; 39:11;62:2 date (1) 39:23 dates (1) 23:22 dating (2) 10:1,5 daunting (1) 85:19 David (5) 45:6;47:11,12,15; 48:18 day (2) 14:9;76:7 days (1) 26:18 DE (2) 58:3,4 dead (1) 43:18 deal (3) 43:20;69:16;87:14 dealing (9) 30:4;36:11,13,16, 20,24,25;47:21;84:8 dear (1) 18:10	dearly (1) 97:5 debate (2) 7:1,9 decade (1) 12:13 Decanto (1) 73:6 decided (1) 8:6 decision (2) 22:4;25:6 decision-making (1) 70:2 decisions (5) 13:22;14:9;20:17; 46:25;72:19 deck (2) 60:22;84:11 decline (2) 65:4;97:24 decrease (1) 78:8 deemed (1) 20:3 deep (2) 48:10;87:25 deepening (1) 11:22 deeply (1) 47:19 Deepwater (1) 17:12 defense (5) 61:5,22;62:22; 69:12;71:16 deficiencies (1) 55:15 defined (1) 104:4 defining (1) 70:25 delay (1) 72:14 deliver (3) 34:25;95:22; 100:15 delivery (1) 67:14 Delta (3) 42:25;47:17;48:22 demand (1) 20:23 denoted (1) 104:18 depicted (1) 9:25 depopulating (1) 59:16 deposited (1) 21:9 depth (2) 32:17;39:1	depths (7) 32:14,24;33:10,14, 18,25;39:4 deserve (3) 59:12;87:19;88:2 design (5) 81:3;101:2,3,5,13 designated (1) 76:25 desires (1) 5:18 DESMARAIS (4) 90:24,25;91:1,2 despite (1) 67:12 destroy (4) 51:4;52:7;55:19; 75:18 destroyed (1) 77:9 destroying (3) 75:22;77:3,3 destruction (4) 51:1;52:3;77:21; 87:15 detail (4) 20:22;28:10; 68:13;70:21 detailed (2) 29:23;66:20 details (3) 62:2;69:18;84:22 deteriorates (1) 32:16 deteriorating (1) 35:24 determines (1) 56:21 determining (1) 30:6 devalued (1) 59:15 develop (5) 9:15;15:9;19:18; 26:22;36:8 developed (4) 11:17;23:22;36:9; 69:6 developing (7) 16:10;18:21;25:7; 26:19,22;51:12; 58:24 development (11) 16:13;36:3,7; 49:15;50:1,4,6,8,12, 22;61:2 developments (1) 51:11 dialogue (2) 73:19,22 difference (5) 33:11,12,22;69:4; 83:2	differences (1) 63:19 different (6) 15:13;44:14; 62:15,19,19;103:15 differently (2) 15:20,22 difficult (3) 13:22;87:14;92:24 dig (1) 37:13 diminish (1) 67:8 diminished (1) 57:6 diminishes (1) 60:10 dinner (3) 24:12,13;101:19 dip (1) 89:17 direction (4) 69:21;70:6,19; 79:17 directly (2) 76:1;77:11 Director (1) 94:23 dirt (3) 13:11,15;83:3 disadvantaged (1) 86:19 Disagreement (1) 63:18 discourse (1) 104:9 discussed (1) 95:18 discusses (1) 17:4 discussion (2) 62:13;74:2 discussions (2) 24:1;91:21 dislike (1) 5:23 displace (1) 55:23 disproportionately (1) 93:21 disputed (1) 82:19 distance (2) 63:2;84:24 distributed (1) 27:21 diversify (1) 35:12 diversion (11) 30:18;44:10; 46:12,16;47:5;53:10; 65:2;83:5,7;86:8; 87:22
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<p>diversions (9) 19:9;28:15;44:8; 45:24;47:8;65:12,21; 88:6;97:10</p> <p>divide (1) 101:12</p> <p>divided (1) 91:23</p> <p>dock (2) 47:12;48:3</p> <p>docket (2) 41:22;45:7</p> <p>document (2) 4:15;17:1</p> <p>documentation (1) 37:15</p> <p>documented (1) 77:6</p> <p>documents (1) 54:15</p> <p>dollar (6) 12:5;20:13;30:14, 20;92:25;99:16</p> <p>dollars (11) 11:8;12:9,17; 20:15;22:10;25:9; 81:9;96:23;98:21,24; 99:8</p> <p>dolphins (1) 57:2</p> <p>done (11) 13:6;15:21;26:23; 29:24;45:17;47:4; 71:6;72:5;74:7;89:5; 91:12</p> <p>door (1) 28:22</p> <p>Doug (4) 41:21;43:2,12; 45:5</p> <p>down (15) 7:20,22;20:19; 27:15;30:9;44:18; 46:20;67:24;76:9; 83:3,5;89:15,18; 97:25;98:7</p> <p>download (2) 37:9;38:17</p> <p>downtown (1) 92:24</p> <p>DPE (1) 86:18</p> <p>Dr (1) 90:10</p> <p>draft (29) 4:2,11;5:6;16:14, 24;19:18;27:18; 30:25;31:4,25;39:15; 41:8;59:21;61:13,16; 64:7,12,18;65:17; 66:14;67:12;78:5; 79:13;85:6,6;94:18; 95:3;96:15;101:24</p>	<p>drafted (1) 61:9</p> <p>dramatic (2) 82:17;83:15</p> <p>drawings (1) 80:5</p> <p>dredge (1) 12:19</p> <p>dredging (3) 30:21,21;48:8</p> <p>drilling (1) 91:25</p> <p>drinks (1) 43:1</p> <p>drive (1) 89:10</p> <p>drivers (3) 12:4;21:22;22:4</p> <p>driving (1) 16:22</p> <p>dry (1) 15:17</p> <p>due (3) 56:7;85:20;104:8</p> <p>during (3) 13:1;41:15;65:2</p> <p>dying (1) 81:9</p> <p>dynamic (2) 14:19;88:23</p> <p>dynamics (1) 89:8</p>	<p>82:2</p> <p>effect (1) 79:18</p> <p>efficient (1) 98:9</p> <p>effort (2) 55:10;69:9</p> <p>efforts (4) 47:19;48:15; 77:11;103:2</p> <p>Egypt (1) 89:1</p> <p>eight (1) 89:12</p> <p>eighteen (5) 89:13;98:24; 101:2,2,8</p> <p>eighteenth (1) 39:17</p> <p>eighty (1) 78:10</p> <p>either (4) 21:9;23:19;34:4; 67:24</p> <p>element (1) 70:10</p> <p>elevated (1) 29:20</p> <p>elevation (2) 58:22;59:5</p> <p>elevations (2) 20:1;29:10</p> <p>eleven (2) 99:19,20</p> <p>elicit (1) 64:17</p> <p>eliminated (2) 45:24;53:4</p> <p>Ellis (3) 4:17;94:23;95:1</p> <p>else (5) 6:18;56:20;87:1; 88:13;90:20</p> <p>email (1) 94:12</p> <p>e-mail (3) 72:9;94:8;103:15</p> <p>emphasis (3) 16:16;27:16;93:14</p> <p>emphasize (1) 58:15</p> <p>EMR (1) 79:10</p> <p>encourage (4) 5:21;6:21;38:1; 99:6</p> <p>encouraged (1) 50:6</p> <p>encourages (3) 36:6,7,7</p> <p>encouraging (2) 58:25;70:6</p> <p>end (7)</p>	<p>14:9;32:9,12;56:1, 22;66:19;101:6</p> <p>energy (6) 11:14;12:4;78:16, 19;91:22;98:10</p> <p>enforce (1) 9:15</p> <p>engage (2) 93:15,20</p> <p>engaged (2) 5:14;6:22</p> <p>engagement (5) 17:9;64:17;93:7, 10;102:20</p> <p>engaging (1) 93:18</p> <p>engineer (1) 71:22</p> <p>engineering (1) 15:7</p> <p>engineers (5) 47:3;51:22;61:15; 67:16;76:15</p> <p>enough (4) 51:25;52:12,14; 54:8</p> <p>Entergy (3) 76:4,10,19</p> <p>entirely (1) 71:2</p> <p>environment (1) 21:6</p> <p>environmental (12) 21:17;23:1;49:20, 21,24;50:11;55:2; 66:11;69:12;71:16, 22;82:10</p> <p>environments (1) 26:11</p> <p>equation (1) 25:23</p> <p>Eric (4) 60:21,23,25;62:5</p> <p>erode (1) 87:24</p> <p>eroded (2) 88:7;91:18</p> <p>eroding (1) 89:24</p> <p>erosion (1) 60:13</p> <p>essentially (3) 19:12;26:6;33:24</p> <p>established (1) 11:16</p> <p>establishing (1) 72:15</p> <p>estimate (2) 29:14,21</p> <p>estimated (3) 12:9;25:21;29:7</p> <p>estimates (1) 72:11</p>	<p>estimating (1) 72:10</p> <p>estuary (1) 67:9</p> <p>Eustis (3) 53:20;54:23,24</p> <p>evaluate (2) 18:25;21:5</p> <p>evaluated (4) 16:7;19:16,22; 20:11</p> <p>evaluation (1) 16:9</p> <p>even (7) 14:2;63:6,21; 76:15;78:25;80:3; 98:9</p> <p>evening (3) 71:21;79:9;86:3</p> <p>event (2) 32:24;33:21</p> <p>everybody (5) 5:3;7:19,24;94:19, 25</p> <p>everyday (1) 55:18</p> <p>everyone (4) 54:12;63:11; 94:20;95:2</p> <p>everyone's (1) 57:18</p> <p>evidence (1) 9:3</p> <p>evolving (1) 53:7</p> <p>exactly (2) 26:15;85:9</p> <p>example (5) 14:2;23:3,5;50:2; 101:10</p> <p>excited (1) 100:12</p> <p>exciting (1) 96:22</p> <p>excluded (3) 61:12,16,18</p> <p>Excuse (4) 9:11;16:8;32:22; 79:16</p> <p>executive (2) 54:16;94:23</p> <p>existing (1) 47:22</p> <p>expanded (1) 17:9</p> <p>expansion (1) 38:25</p> <p>expect (2) 95:10;97:4</p> <p>expected (2) 34:15;100:18</p> <p>expended (1) 30:12</p>
	E			

<p>expenditure (1) 30:24</p> <p>expenditures (1) 100:18</p> <p>experience (1) 30:4</p> <p>expertise (1) 64:19</p> <p>experts (1) 64:19</p> <p>exploration (1) 91:10</p> <p>export (1) 56:17</p> <p>exportable (1) 36:21</p> <p>extract (3) 76:12,14,16</p> <p>extracted (1) 76:5</p> <p>extraction (1) 76:1</p> <p>extremely (2) 18:8;85:1</p> <p>E-Y-R-E-R (1) 74:12</p>	<p>59:24;63:21</p> <p>fastest (1) 76:3</p> <p>fault (3) 89:14,17;90:4</p> <p>faulting (2) 89:9;90:1</p> <p>faults (2) 89:17,19</p> <p>favor (1) 87:22</p> <p>feasibility (1) 67:18</p> <p>federal (5) 44:25;47:16; 86:16;98:12;104:5</p> <p>Federation (3) 47:16;66:9;69:13</p> <p>feds (1) 63:17</p> <p>feedback (3) 24:19;40:18;64:17</p> <p>feel (4) 75:3;79:4,6;97:14</p> <p>feeling (1) 83:12</p> <p>feet (11) 33:2,4,5,6,7,8,17; 59:5;73:2,4,12</p> <p>felt (1) 49:10</p> <p>few (4) 4:8;11:6;40:24; 54:3</p> <p>FICUS (1) 6:5</p> <p>field (1) 64:19</p> <p>fields (1) 89:20</p> <p>fifteen (5) 33:7,8;65:4;81:16; 92:25</p> <p>fifty (18) 14:7;25:18;26:17, 19,20;27:25;28:2; 32:1,3,5,9,13;33:19, 20;34:16,18,20; 62:10</p> <p>fifty- (1) 100:22</p> <p>Fifty-four (1) 19:23</p> <p>fifty-year (2) 32:12;56:23</p> <p>fighting (1) 11:24</p> <p>figure (4) 20:13;30:20;71:5; 97:2</p> <p>figures (2) 12:5;30:14</p> <p>fill (3)</p>	<p>37:3;79:7;94:7</p> <p>final (3) 40:2,6;48:10</p> <p>Finally (2) 67:15;92:7</p> <p>financial (1) 58:24</p> <p>find (2) 75:8;96:1</p> <p>fine (1) 72:2</p> <p>fire (1) 7:21</p> <p>First (20) 4:5,8;20;14:15; 16:18;18:1;29:25; 33:12;35:2;41:21,22, 24;45:15;47:25; 49:1;53:1;54:1;71:1; 82:8;95:14;96:25</p> <p>fiscal (4) 4:18;94:18;98:12; 101:24</p> <p>fish (2) 35:20;98:19</p> <p>fisheries (1) 11:3</p> <p>fishermen's (1) 65:19</p> <p>fishes (1) 46:4</p> <p>fishing (10) 23:3;45:15;46:3,9; 64:6,21;65:9,15; 74:19,24</p> <p>five (8) 11:16;14:17; 46:17,19;55:3;69:3, 11;96:18</p> <p>fix (3) 56:1;81:24;87:18</p> <p>flats (1) 88:8</p> <p>flip (1) 58:17</p> <p>flood (19) 16:11;20:6;22:1; 28:1;29:10;32:14,24; 33:10,14,18,25; 38:23;39:1,3,6,7; 59:5;60:14;62:23</p> <p>flooding (5) 17:23;32:17;33:8, 16;63:5</p> <p>flood-proofing (2) 19:25;58:22</p> <p>floods (1) 56:5</p> <p>Florida (2) 91:24;92:5</p> <p>flows (1) 70:9</p> <p>focus (5)</p>	<p>16:11;49:1;53:9; 58:19;89:6</p> <p>focused (2) 44:8;94:17</p> <p>focuses (1) 65:17</p> <p>folks (6) 7:23;23:18,20; 40:22;45:3;64:3</p> <p>follow (3) 13:19;79:6;96:6</p> <p>followed (2) 52:20;66:5</p> <p>following (8) 57:22;65:5;68:4; 71:18;74:14;77:24; 79:24;82:4</p> <p>foot (2) 87:25,25</p> <p>force (4) 16:22;43:15,20; 44:3</p> <p>foremost (1) 95:14</p> <p>forest (1) 55:19</p> <p>forever (2) 42:6;82:16</p> <p>forget (1) 53:13</p> <p>form (3) 60:5;87:4;94:6</p> <p>formally (1) 49:21</p> <p>format (2) 7:12;24:9</p> <p>formed (2) 9:12;12:12</p> <p>former (1) 52:25</p> <p>forms (3) 41:10,14;101:23</p> <p>forth (9) 10:15;11:3;12:22; 15:7;17:8;22:14; 29:18;35:21;36:14</p> <p>fortunate (1) 100:7</p> <p>forum (2) 5:22;9:5</p> <p>forward (11) 4:21;9:21;10:7; 40:17;50:3;58:13; 64:25;70:17;71:8; 97:10;100:10</p> <p>Foundation (5) 54:14;62:9;69:16; 98:19;100:13</p> <p>four (7) 5:10;33:4,18; 82:11;85:5;89:15; 93:9</p> <p>Fourchon (2)</p>	<p>11:12,17</p> <p>fourteen (1) 59:5</p> <p>fourth (1) 40:12</p> <p>fowl (2) 11:2;23:5</p> <p>frame (4) 10:6;12:24;13:1; 73:14</p> <p>framework (2) 14:8;100:14</p> <p>Francois (1) 91:2</p> <p>frankly (2) 34:7;35:6</p> <p>free (2) 79:4,6</p> <p>French (1) 54:17</p> <p>fresh (2) 22:13;52:15</p> <p>frightened (1) 80:8</p> <p>frightening (1) 80:24</p> <p>front (5) 7:22;40:22;42:14; 79:2;87:4</p> <p>full (2) 49:20;56:9</p> <p>full-scale (2) 49:24;50:11</p> <p>function (1) 59:2</p> <p>fund (3) 19:2;69:12;71:16</p> <p>fundamental (1) 10:10</p> <p>funded (1) 96:21</p> <p>funding (14) 17:12,17;22:10; 25:8,23;30:1,8; 78:15,21;98:1,2,18; 99:3;102:5</p> <p>funds (4) 86:11,14,15,16</p> <p>further (8) 6:1;8:14;9:8; 28:10,17,19;66:18; 93:8</p> <p>Furthermore (1) 58:20</p> <p>future (22) 18:12;25:22; 26:11,12,20,25; 31:15;32:1,19,20; 34:11;35:3,9,11,25; 36:17;38:10;39:7,8; 47:22;48:6;86:10</p> <p>FY (8) 95:3,6;99:17,24;</p>
F				
<p>face (3) 9:22;68:22;71:4</p> <p>Facebook (1) 8:5</p> <p>facilities (1) 42:23</p> <p>facility (1) 79:15</p> <p>facing (3) 9:23;10:10;60:6</p> <p>fact (12) 27:3;38:4,7,15; 45:25;50:3,5;71:3; 74:1;88:24;89:10; 90:17</p> <p>factors (4) 21:18,21;76:20; 91:19</p> <p>factual (2) 87:13;88:9</p> <p>fall (4) 57:11,12;69:20,20</p> <p>familiar (2) 11:12;20:6</p> <p>families (2) 64:7,11</p> <p>fantastic (1) 8:19</p> <p>far (3) 76:12;87:20;92:14</p> <p>fast (3) 77:15;78:25; 101:18</p> <p>faster (2)</p>	<p>feet (11) 33:2,4,5,6,7,8,17; 59:5;73:2,4,12</p> <p>felt (1) 49:10</p> <p>few (4) 4:8;11:6;40:24; 54:3</p> <p>FICUS (1) 6:5</p> <p>field (1) 64:19</p> <p>fields (1) 89:20</p> <p>fifteen (5) 33:7,8;65:4;81:16; 92:25</p> <p>fifty (18) 14:7;25:18;26:17, 19,20;27:25;28:2; 32:1,3,5,9,13;33:19, 20;34:16,18,20; 62:10</p> <p>fifty- (1) 100:22</p> <p>Fifty-four (1) 19:23</p> <p>fifty-year (2) 32:12;56:23</p> <p>fighting (1) 11:24</p> <p>figure (4) 20:13;30:20;71:5; 97:2</p> <p>figures (2) 12:5;30:14</p> <p>fill (3)</p>	<p>37:3;79:7;94:7</p> <p>final (3) 40:2,6;48:10</p> <p>Finally (2) 67:15;92:7</p> <p>financial (1) 58:24</p> <p>find (2) 75:8;96:1</p> <p>fine (1) 72:2</p> <p>fire (1) 7:21</p> <p>First (20) 4:5,8;20;14:15; 16:18;18:1;29:25; 33:12;35:2;41:21,22, 24;45:15;47:25; 49:1;53:1;54:1;71:1; 82:8;95:14;96:25</p> <p>fiscal (4) 4:18;94:18;98:12; 101:24</p> <p>fish (2) 35:20;98:19</p> <p>fisheries (1) 11:3</p> <p>fishermen's (1) 65:19</p> <p>fishes (1) 46:4</p> <p>fishing (10) 23:3;45:15;46:3,9; 64:6,21;65:9,15; 74:19,24</p> <p>five (8) 11:16;14:17; 46:17,19;55:3;69:3, 11;96:18</p> <p>fix (3) 56:1;81:24;87:18</p> <p>flats (1) 88:8</p> <p>flip (1) 58:17</p> <p>flood (19) 16:11;20:6;22:1; 28:1;29:10;32:14,24; 33:10,14,18,25; 38:23;39:1,3,6,7; 59:5;60:14;62:23</p> <p>flooding (5) 17:23;32:17;33:8, 16;63:5</p> <p>flood-proofing (2) 19:25;58:22</p> <p>floods (1) 56:5</p> <p>Florida (2) 91:24;92:5</p> <p>flows (1) 70:9</p> <p>focus (5)</p>	<p>16:11;49:1;53:9; 58:19;89:6</p> <p>focused (2) 44:8;94:17</p> <p>focuses (1) 65:17</p> <p>folks (6) 7:23;23:18,20; 40:22;45:3;64:3</p> <p>follow (3) 13:19;79:6;96:6</p> <p>followed (2) 52:20;66:5</p> <p>following (8) 57:22;65:5;68:4; 71:18;74:14;77:24; 79:24;82:4</p> <p>foot (2) 87:25,25</p> <p>force (4) 16:22;43:15,20; 44:3</p> <p>foremost (1) 95:14</p> <p>forest (1) 55:19</p> <p>forever (2) 42:6;82:16</p> <p>forget (1) 53:13</p> <p>form (3) 60:5;87:4;94:6</p> <p>formally (1) 49:21</p> <p>format (2) 7:12;24:9</p> <p>formed (2) 9:12;12:12</p> <p>former (1) 52:25</p> <p>forms (3) 41:10,14;101:23</p> <p>forth (9) 10:15;11:3;12:22; 15:7;17:8;22:14; 29:18;35:21;36:14</p> <p>fortunate (1) 100:7</p> <p>forum (2) 5:22;9:5</p> <p>forward (11) 4:21;9:21;10:7; 40:17;50:3;58:13; 64:25;70:17;71:8; 97:10;100:10</p> <p>Foundation (5) 54:14;62:9;69:16; 98:19;100:13</p> <p>four (7) 5:10;33:4,18; 82:11;85:5;89:15; 93:9</p> <p>Fourchon (2)</p>	<p>11:12,17</p> <p>fourteen (1) 59:5</p> <p>fourth (1) 40:12</p> <p>fowl (2) 11:2;23:5</p> <p>frame (4) 10:6;12:24;13:1; 73:14</p> <p>framework (2) 14:8;100:14</p> <p>Francois (1) 91:2</p> <p>frankly (2) 34:7;35:6</p> <p>free (2) 79:4,6</p> <p>French (1) 54:17</p> <p>fresh (2) 22:13;52:15</p> <p>frightened (1) 80:8</p> <p>frightening (1) 80:24</p> <p>front (5) 7:22;40:22;42:14; 79:2;87:4</p> <p>full (2) 49:20;56:9</p> <p>full-scale (2) 49:24;50:11</p> <p>function (1) 59:2</p> <p>fund (3) 19:2;69:12;71:16</p> <p>fundamental (1) 10:10</p> <p>funded (1) 96:21</p> <p>funding (14) 17:12,17;22:10; 25:8,23;30:1,8; 78:15,21;98:1,2,18; 99:3;102:5</p> <p>funds (4) 86:11,14,15,16</p> <p>further (8) 6:1;8:14;9:8; 28:10,17,19;66:18; 93:8</p> <p>Furthermore (1) 58:20</p> <p>future (22) 18:12;25:22; 26:11,12,20,25; 31:15;32:1,19,20; 34:11;35:3,9,11,25; 36:17;38:10;39:7,8; 47:22;48:6;86:10</p> <p>FY (8) 95:3,6;99:17,24;</p>

100:18,20;101:9,9	35:5,12;37:6;68:9, 11;71:8,21;75:24; 79:9;86:3;95:15; 96:12	59:23 growth (2) 59:19;60:10 guess (4) 52:8;53:6;69:1; 71:1 Guillot (1) 41:3 Gulf (18) 43:15,17;44:5; 48:4;55:1,3,5;56:3, 18;57:10;58:5;59:7; 67:17;78:15;91:19, 23,23;98:10 guys (4) 68:16;69:9;70:3; 84:21	heart (2) 54:1,6 heat (2) 5:24;55:6 held (1) 24:11 Helen (2) 83:4,15 Hello (1) 102:3 help (13) 19:2;28:14,24; 43:4;44:14;53:14; 59:9;70:11;75:4,8; 77:19;80:22;84:6 helpful (1) 83:24 helps (3) 15:9;19:5,12 hereby (1) 104:6 Here's (1) 103:14 heritage (4) 18:7,12;57:5; 59:14 heroes (1) 92:12 Herrin (3) 75:13;78:1,2 Heurich (4) 74:14;75:14,15; 77:16 hey (1) 5:24 Hi (7) 43:12;58:4;64:1; 66:8;78:2;84:14; 87:10 high (5) 29:21;49:3,4; 72:21;99:12 highlight (1) 34:11 highlights (1) 64:12 himself (1) 82:18 hinder (1) 61:23 historical (2) 10:1;14:1 historically (1) 60:12 hit (1) 89:16 hold (4) 18:10;36:18; 38:10;52:14 holding (1) 55:13 holds (1) 26:12	home (7) 8:10;20:1;21:2; 29:9;59:22;86:7; 101:18 homes (1) 56:7 honest (2) 73:22;74:1 hope (10) 16:23;25:11,11; 29:16;37:3;50:13; 53:15;58:12;74:13; 81:21 hopefully (6) 14:13;17:1;23:13; 31:6;38:22;40:9 hoping (1) 27:1 Horizon (1) 17:13 host (2) 86:3;102:18 hotter (2) 56:3,18 Houma (1) 40:11 hour (4) 14:20,20;86:4; 102:18 house (1) 30:15 housed (1) 42:6 huge (1) 55:15 hundred (4) 8:3;12:19;51:4; 77:1 hundreds (2) 55:19;56:5 hurricane (2) 9:13,17 hurricanes (2) 9:20;17:24 hydration (1) 45:14 hydrologic (2) 28:7;30:16 Hypoxia (4) 43:13,15,17,24 hypoxic (1) 44:1
G	government (1) 102:9 Governor (1) 77:17 GPRO (1) 99:7 grab (2) 79:3;96:10 Grace (1) 82:8 GRAFFENREID (1) 58:3 Graffenried (1) 58:4 grand (3) 85:11;87:24,24 grandchildren (1) 27:15 grant (1) 54:13 graph (1) 100:21 graphs (1) 100:17 grateful (2) 77:17;85:3 gray (1) 49:7 great (7) 5:21;50:1;69:16; 70:18;72:6;74:7; 101:21 greater (5) 19:7;54:14;61:6; 62:25;63:6 greatly (3) 20:23;53:11;61:23 green (5) 10:3;31:11,17,22; 100:22 greens (4) 33:4,15,16,23 Greg (5) 68:4;71:18,18,21; 74:10 Gregory (2) 104:2,23 Gretna (1) 64:3 grew (1) 47:18 ground (13) 12:17;17:16,20; 27:12;29:25;30:7; 34:5;35:13;75:25; 76:5,13,14,16 Group (3) 43:13;55:2;83:5 growing (1)	H	Haase (4) 4:9;7:25;8:14,16 habitats (2) 18:5;67:9 hairs (1) 49:7 hand (6) 41:13;43:6;51:17, 19;60:22;93:24 handle (2) 41:19;56:9 handled (1) 56:15 happening (2) 38:9;89:6 happens (4) 21:10;35:20; 44:18;78:17 Happy (7) 51:21;84:21;85:3; 86:24;92:21;99:21; 103:10 hard (3) 53:25;54:6;91:1 harness (1) 17:25 Harvey (3) 47:13;48:18,22 head (2) 36:18;55:7 headed (1) 39:15 hear (8) 4:23;7:2;13:17; 23:20;40:4,5;41:7; 95:3 heard (3) 40:5;64:10;78:14 hearing (4) 4:2;40:17;49:11; 103:19 hearings (2) 8:7;39:20	I
gain (5) 10:3;31:18;32:4, 11;75:23 gallons (1) 76:7 gamut (1) 23:23 gap (1) 67:4 gas (6) 55:13;56:11; 65:16;74:4;91:11,15 Gasperecz (3) 68:4;71:20,22 gate (1) 50:10 gates (2) 20:6;49:6 gave (2) 53:2;54:1 generally (1) 35:21 generate (1) 62:22 generations (1) 54:25 generous (1) 54:13 geological (2) 60:3;90:14 geologist (1) 88:19 geology (2) 88:23;90:2 Geophysical (1) 90:13 George (4) 41:23;43:6;45:5, 10 gets (3) 12:3;23:23;74:12 given (2) 49:19;50:14 gives (1) 35:2 giving (1) 7:8 goes (6) 8:20;49:8;50:3; 69:7;89:14;98:15 Golden (1) 66:23 GOMESA (1) 78:20 good (30) 5:3,4,12,22;6:4; 7:16;8:24;9:1,5,14;6, 13,17;24:18,19,20; 26:14;31:6;33:24;				
				ice (1) 73:9 icon (2) 31:8;32:21 idea (2) 20:9;47:23 ideas (2) 16:2,6

<p>identified (2) 35:15,16</p> <p>identifies (2) 18:23;65:21</p> <p>identify (1) 19:13</p> <p>imagine (1) 99:1</p> <p>immense (1) 12:6</p> <p>immensely (2) 10:24;11:15</p> <p>impact (16) 11:10,21;32:16; 38:12;49:24;50:11; 51:6;56:14,25;58:1; 60:6;64:23;65:21; 66:1,15;79:14</p> <p>impacted (2) 98:16;102:21</p> <p>impacting (1) 77:4</p> <p>impacts (4) 56:11,12;65:24; 74:5</p> <p>implement (4) 9:15;15:1;95:19; 96:2</p> <p>implemented (2) 51:8;79:17</p> <p>implementing (2) 15:2;97:7</p> <p>importance (3) 46:2;61:18;67:1</p> <p>important (22) 10:24;11:15;18:6, 8;22:21,24;24:17; 25:2;34:16;39:23; 46:10,13;47:6;49:10; 57:25;65:20;75:3; 85:16;95:5;96:18; 98:22;101:4</p> <p>importantly (2) 61:13;65:25</p> <p>impress (1) 73:16</p> <p>improve (2) 59:3;97:19</p> <p>improved (2) 12:25;15:16</p> <p>improves (1) 15:8</p> <p>inaudible (19) 13:11;47:4;50:5; 54:4;61:20;63:10; 65:11;66:9,10;67:9, 23;74:24;78:3,6; 87:12;88:1,7;103:9; 104:18</p> <p>Inc (1) 61:2</p> <p>incentives (1) 58:21</p>	<p>include (4) 39:1,2;46:23; 49:23</p> <p>included (8) 20:12;49:25;50:4; 61:11;66:17;67:18; 85:9,18</p> <p>includes (1) 85:10</p> <p>including (5) 15:14;61:20;74:3; 76:20;82:12</p> <p>income (3) 58:20;59:4;60:17</p> <p>incorporate (1) 40:3</p> <p>incorporated (5) 5:15;15:4;16:1,2; 20:11</p> <p>increased (2) 16:11,16</p> <p>independent (1) 88:19</p> <p>indicate (3) 72:25;104:10,14</p> <p>indicates (1) 19:4</p> <p>indication (1) 6:23</p> <p>individual (5) 30:14;38:16,18,21; 98:16</p> <p>induced (3) 49:15;50:1,4</p> <p>industries (5) 46:3,9;64:23; 65:18;66:2</p> <p>industry (7) 57:8;65:9,15;74:4, 19,24;92:13</p> <p>infamous (1) 62:10</p> <p>influenced (1) 81:14</p> <p>inform (2) 23:1;71:2</p> <p>information (23) 16:2;37:2,4,6,19, 22;38:18,20;39:1,3; 40:14,15;55:24;57:9; 71:7,9;72:18,18; 73:17;75:5;86:5; 88:10;90:15</p> <p>informative (1) 31:6</p> <p>informed (1) 72:19</p> <p>Initially (1) 84:17</p> <p>initiatives (1) 60:15</p> <p>ink (1) 15:17</p>	<p>inland (1) 52:16</p> <p>innovations (1) 15:4</p> <p>input (1) 58:12</p> <p>instances (1) 19:10</p> <p>insure (1) 17:5</p> <p>integrate (1) 15:10</p> <p>intentionally (1) 93:20</p> <p>interact (2) 24:10;103:11</p> <p>interaction (3) 24:20,25;104:8</p> <p>interchangeably (1) 29:5</p> <p>interested (6) 24:15;37:17;38:5, 16;44:18;63:9</p> <p>interesting (1) 88:22</p> <p>interim (1) 44:16</p> <p>international (1) 10:18</p> <p>internationally (1) 11:1</p> <p>intersections (1) 43:23</p> <p>intertwined (1) 18:13</p> <p>into (36) 7:24;8:21;9:9; 12:3,9;15:4;16:1,3; 18:2;20:21,25;25:18, 21;26:5,25;28:9,11, 14,16,17;35:9;37:13; 48:4;49:22,51:7; 66:12;67:10;68:14; 73:19;88:6,24;90:15; 91:23;94:16;99:24; 102:25</p> <p>intricately (1) 18:13</p> <p>intrinsic (1) 12:7</p> <p>introduce (2) 4:24;94:22</p> <p>introduction (2) 8:18;91:17</p> <p>invested (2) 11:8;93:11</p> <p>investigation (1) 60:4</p> <p>investment (2) 34:24;36:6</p> <p>investments (4) 11:5;27:13;46:22; 47:1</p>	<p>involved (2) 74:18;87:11</p> <p>island (1) 30:16</p> <p>islands (4) 12:21;13:3;21:11; 28:16</p> <p>issue (11) 43:17,22;45:3; 46:12,16;47:5;56:9; 73:19,22,23;82:25</p> <p>issues (9) 17:4;24:17;36:12, 13,14,20,25;46:8; 79:16</p> <p>iteration (2) 38:4;53:8</p> <p>Ivan (1) 63:6</p>	<p>justice (1) 75:17</p> <p>juvenile (1) 37:18</p>
K				
			J	
			<p>James (1) 76:24</p> <p>jam-packed (1) 42:23</p> <p>January (3) 39:16,17;85:7</p> <p>Jeff (7) 77:24,25;78:24; 79:4,6,9,23</p> <p>Jefferson (5) 6:16;64:5;82:5; 84:15;85:2</p> <p>job (8) 11:16;15:23; 53:24;69:10;72:2; 74:7;97:2;103:3</p> <p>jobs (2) 11:11,16</p> <p>Johanna (4) 57:16,16;58:2,4</p> <p>John (10) 60:21,22;62:5,6,8; 63:24;68:21;71:4; 92:10,12</p> <p>Johnny (3) 4:6,25;53:23</p> <p>JOHNSON (9) 87:3,5,7;88:12,16, 17;90:20;92:20,21</p> <p>join (1) 40:21</p> <p>joined (1) 41:5</p> <p>joining (1) 41:12</p> <p>judge (1) 49:10</p> <p>jump (1) 89:13</p> <p>jurisdictional (1) 51:1</p>	<p>Kang (3) 62:5;63:25;64:1</p> <p>keenly (1) 14:18</p> <p>keep (2) 45:2;89:22</p> <p>Ken (3) 87:1,8,10</p> <p>KENNA (2) 102:2,3</p> <p>Kenner (1) 88:18</p> <p>Kerner (5) 41:4;52:20;53:19, 21;54:10</p> <p>key (5) 25:6;37:8,8;44:24; 49:16</p> <p>Khai (4) 71:19,19;74:14,17</p> <p>kicking (1) 98:11</p> <p>kidding (2) 6:21;68:19</p> <p>kilometers (1) 44:1</p> <p>kind (13) 12:15;15:5;20:23; 21:2,12;23:9;26:14; 55:5;62:12;75:3,8; 88:22;96:19</p> <p>kinds (2) 36:12,20</p> <p>kitchen (1) 5:25</p> <p>knowledge (1) 30:6</p> <p>known (2) 6:25;43:18</p> <p>knows (1) 54:12</p> <p>Kolp (1) 72:23</p>
L				
				<p>lace (1) 89:18</p> <p>lack (1) 52:13</p> <p>Lafitte (1) 41:5</p> <p>Lafourche (2) 51:3;64:5</p> <p>LAGov (1) 37:9</p>

<p>Lake (7) 39:18;61:19;62:8; 67:7;69:15;76:24; 85:11</p> <p>lakes (1) 89:19</p> <p>Lakeview (1) 61:1</p> <p>land (47) 10:1,9,11;17:4; 18:3;22:3,22;26:24; 27:24;31:17,18;32:4, 5,10,11;35:7;38:13; 45:13;46:23;50:18; 51:7;56:21;59:7; 60:4,7,7;61:2,7,25; 66:23;70:11,12;76:8; 77:9;80:23;83:8,9, 10,15,20;84:8;88:5, 7;91:16,18;92:17; 93:21</p> <p>Lands (1) 61:1</p> <p>landscape (8) 14:23;16:25; 18:14,19;32:15; 37:11;39:4;62:18</p> <p>lanes (1) 89:16</p> <p>large (6) 56:11;75:20; 77:20;97:12,13; 100:22</p> <p>larger (1) 97:7</p> <p>largest (3) 30:24;61:7;65:16</p> <p>Last (18) 8:11;11:9;12:13; 39:16,18;47:2;58:8; 69:1;70:20,22;72:13; 74:11;77:5,13;82:11; 83:11;96:24;99:18</p> <p>Lastly (2) 42:22;99:7</p> <p>late (1) 41:12</p> <p>later (3) 17:16,20;73:17</p> <p>Lauren (4) 82:4;84:11,14; 85:24</p> <p>law (2) 5:8;14:16</p> <p>lays (1) 100:13</p> <p>lead (1) 70:8</p> <p>leader (1) 55:13</p> <p>leadership (4) 47:21;55:4,6; 79:20</p>	<p>leading (1) 69:9</p> <p>leads (1) 70:19</p> <p>learn (3) 14:25;15:2;97:19</p> <p>learned (1) 15:14</p> <p>least (1) 86:14</p> <p>leave (1) 67:4</p> <p>leaving (1) 54:13</p> <p>left (3) 56:21;57:7;104:15</p> <p>legislature (1) 40:7</p> <p>Leopold (1) 6:3</p> <p>less (2) 27:5;76:13</p> <p>lessons (1) 15:13</p> <p>letters (1) 55:17</p> <p>levee (4) 53:5;54:4;76:17, 18</p> <p>levees (4) 13:1;20:7;53:13; 84:22</p> <p>level (11) 14:1,1;29:21; 36:13;72:10,11;73:2, 12;83:19;89:12; 99:12</p> <p>levels (2) 72:25;73:5</p> <p>leverage (1) 58:23</p> <p>life (1) 52:9</p> <p>life-cycle (1) 56:10</p> <p>likely (2) 49:15;50:2</p> <p>limit (1) 42:10</p> <p>line (9) 13:16;31:23; 46:20;47:8;49:23; 51:2;69:4;89:2,23</p> <p>lines (5) 10:16;45:2;61:5, 22;62:22</p> <p>links (1) 75:25</p> <p>list (5) 14:10,12;29:18; 41:11;84:20</p> <p>listed (5) 10:20;17:22;</p>	<p>22:11,19;84:19</p> <p>listen (1) 7:13</p> <p>listened (1) 45:20</p> <p>listening (2) 7:12;45:22</p> <p>litigation (1) 49:11</p> <p>little (11) 8:11;17:11;20:22; 28:9;31:8;83:9;92:1; 93:1;95:9,11;96:15</p> <p>live (9) 8:6;10:21;16:20; 17:6;18:9,17;38:19; 59:15;82:21</p> <p>lived (2) 87:15,22</p> <p>livelihood (1) 59:6</p> <p>living (4) 10:15;16:21; 18:20;59:4</p> <p>loading (1) 44:5</p> <p>local (6) 30:3,3,6;61:5; 86:19;88:20</p> <p>located (1) 61:4</p> <p>locked (1) 67:24</p> <p>logistics (1) 92:23</p> <p>long (8) 4:21;35:5;66:22, 25;77:1;80:1;84:24; 90:17</p> <p>longer (1) 90:4</p> <p>long-term (3) 27:9,17;73:10</p> <p>look (38) 4:21;17:3;21:2,12; 23:6,7;27:20;28:3,4; 29:2;31:7,19,25; 33:10,19;34:10,12; 35:24;37:10,20,24; 38:2,8,11;39:6; 40:17;51:6;52:4; 53:4;57:21;73:19; 80:5,10,25;81:22; 84:18;99:16;101:16</p> <p>looked (3) 25:20;49:12;53:1</p> <p>looking (12) 10:7,23;34:21; 35:11;46:17,20,21; 67:10;70:16;81:19; 91:3;99:6</p> <p>looks (4) 13:5;60:1;83:21;</p>	<p>101:20</p> <p>Lopez (7) 60:21;62:5,7,8; 71:4;83:14;84:7</p> <p>Lopez's (1) 68:21</p> <p>losing (1) 77:9</p> <p>loss (17) 10:1,2,9,11;17:4; 26:25;31:17;59:8; 60:7,7;65:8;76:8; 83:15,20;84:8;91:5; 93:22</p> <p>lost (3) 10:4;48:4;52:8</p> <p>lot (29) 7:10;12:13;13:6; 14:6;28:4;34:7;35:4, 5;37:5;40:15;44:21; 50:20;53:11,24;55:6; 56:25;62:11;68:10; 74:18,23;83:9,23; 88:4,9;89:3,19;90:6; 100:5,6</p> <p>louder (1) 74:21</p> <p>Louisiana (42) 4:8;8:25;9:17,24; 10:11,17,21,25; 12:16;18:1;36:6,10, 23;43:13,19;44:3; 45:11;46:5;47:18,20; 48:23;50:22;54:25; 56:22;57:4;60:5; 67:25;69:6,15;72:5; 75:16;76:25;77:6; 78:20;83:2;85:2; 87:11;88:18,23; 91:11;92:2;104:3</p> <p>Louisiana's (3) 44:7;60:11;67:16</p> <p>love (1) 70:3</p> <p>low (6) 58:19;59:4;60:5, 11,17;72:21</p> <p>Lower (2) 43:13;92:22</p> <p>LPBF (1) 62:21</p> <p>LSU (1) 90:8</p> <p>luck (2) 68:9,19</p> <p>lying (2) 60:6,11</p>	<p>57:25;94:9</p> <p>Main (1) 84:2</p> <p>mainly (1) 99:18</p> <p>maintain (4) 22:3;70:2;78:9; 95:20</p> <p>maintaining (2) 22:23;78:19</p> <p>maintenance (1) 46:24</p> <p>major (8) 50:25;86:1,2,22; 98:2;102:5,16,17</p> <p>makes (4) 18:2;56:17;83:1; 95:15</p> <p>making (3) 11:5;27:13;28:20</p> <p>man (2) 8:19;92:4</p> <p>manage (1) 69:5</p> <p>management (3) 50:24;91:22;97:17</p> <p>mandate (2) 9:14,14</p> <p>mandated (2) 5:8;95:14</p> <p>Mandeville (1) 40:12</p> <p>man-made (1) 50:22</p> <p>many (19) 10:20;12:16; 15:25;16:8;18:9; 19:6,10;28:25;34:6; 37:23;49:9;55:16,21; 80:7;93:1;98:25; 100:16,17,17</p> <p>map (16) 9:25,25;10:2,3,4; 27:19;29:1;31:10,12; 33:11,12,13,23; 62:14;91:22,23</p> <p>mapping (1) 90:8</p> <p>maps (6) 31:3,17;32:19; 62:10;83:17;84:1</p> <p>March (6) 39:22,24;73:6; 94:5;96:8;103:14</p> <p>marches (1) 15:8</p> <p>marking (1) 59:10</p> <p>marsh (12) 19:9;28:5;30:16; 61:1,3,25;67:3,4,11; 70:13;85:11,12</p> <p>marshes (3)</p>
M				
			<p>magnitude (2) 49:14;62:21</p> <p>mail (2)</p>	

<p>12:21;87:16;91:18 massive (1) 84:8 Master (55) 4:3,11;5:13,20;8:2, 10,14;9:16;13:20; 14:7,11;15:5;16:7, 24;17:21;18:21; 20:13;21:24;23:19; 30:25;37:7;38:4,12, 21;39:2;41:9;42:7; 45:17;46:15;51:9; 53:7;54:16;59:21; 61:9;64:12,20;66:15; 67:19;69:1;75:1; 78:8;79:13;80:2,9; 81:11,11,12;84:4; 89:3;95:5,23;96:6, 10,17;103:13 masterplan@lagov (2) 94:8,13 match (1) 99:2 matches (1) 93:11 material (3) 12:20;48:8;104:17 Matt (2) 6:9,10 matter (2) 14:3;27:3 Maurepas (1) 63:7 may (8) 20:3;23:2;29:12, 22,22;36:1;39:3; 68:11 Maybe (1) 80:20 Mayor (4) 41:4;52:20;53:18; 54:10 mayor's (1) 82:12 mean (7) 5:8;32:7;34:14; 35:1;68:10;69:22; 75:19 meaning (1) 86:18 means (6) 31:10;32:8;57:12; 69:23;70:14;74:2 measure (1) 22:18 measured (1) 65:24 median (1) 31:14 medium (2) 32:22;72:21 meeting (14) 5:5,6;6:11;8:5,13;</p>	<p>39:18;40:1;45:21; 64:24;65:7;92:23; 93:2;94:10,17 meetings (6) 5:9,11;7:6;24:1; 58:9;68:11 Member (6) 6:9,13,15;52:22, 25;88:19 members (7) 45:12,14;60:17; 64:18;74:18;75:6; 93:15 mention (2) 50:9;76:16 mentioned (14) 15:13;18:24; 20:15;22:5;23:14; 24:8;25:8;26:10; 35:6;37:10;49:2; 93:12,25;102:6 messaging (1) 52:10 Mestzyer (3) 48:20;51:16,20 method (2) 13:21;104:12 methodology (1) 14:10 metrics (3) 22:18,25;23:1 Metropolitan (1) 61:6 Mexico (4) 48:5;56:3;78:16; 98:10 Miami (1) 82:21 mic (5) 42:11;43:5,7;45:8; 74:21 Michael (2) 4:17;94:22 Michoud (2) 76:4,4 microphone (1) 43:3 mics (2) 41:20;43:9 Mid-Barataria (1) 65:1 Midcity (1) 82:8 Mid-inaudible (1) 65:1 might (16) 6:12;11:22;19:14; 21:8;23:4;25:17; 26:24;29:14;31:18; 34:20;37:13;39:7,8; 80:21;83:24;84:6 mileage (1) 15:3</p>	<p>miles (13) 10:4;12:25;13:2; 27:24;32:10;35:8; 76:1;77:1;86:8; 89:16;92:3,3;100:3 million (10) 11:8;12:19;20:20; 76:6;98:5,8,13; 99:21;100:20;101:3 millions (1) 81:9 mind (1) 95:21 minds (1) 81:15 mineral (1) 98:3 minus (2) 33:17,18 minute (6) 4:10;14:19,20; 42:10,15,15 minutes (2) 42:12;48:25 mispronouncing (1) 74:11 missed (1) 6:12 Mississippi (13) 11:20;28:21; 42:25;43:14;47:17; 48:1,9,13;67:7,13, 17;83:3;92:2 misunderstanding (1) 88:4 mitigate (1) 66:1 mitigated (2) 29:7,23 mitigation (5) 30:2;46:25;50:18; 51:11;56:16 model (1) 24:18 modeled (1) 37:17 modeling (1) 70:16 models (6) 19:1,4,17;21:1,4; 23:25 modern (1) 76:12 modify (1) 14:23 moment (1) 20:22 money (11) 22:7;25:17,21; 75:20;81:2,6,14; 86:13;97:2,3,9 monitor (1) 95:20</p>	<p>months (3) 58:8;82:12;89:13 Moore (3) 66:4,7,8 more (42) 8:8;13:8,16,18; 20:22;24:1;26:16,20, 20;28:9;29:23;30:4; 36:5;37:2;39:19; 46:15;55:12,25;56:4, 8,18,19,20;59:22; 61:13;62:1;66:20; 68:22;73:8,17;76:12; 77:4;80:2;81:19; 85:12;86:25;90:22; 91:9;97:7;98:9; 101:8;103:1 most (20) 9:1,1;13:21;14:11, 13,13;20:6;26:7; 36:19;49:4,10;52:3; 58:17,19;59:7;60:16; 65:25;70:25;82:9; 88:23 mother (1) 50:20 move (5) 8:21;28:17;58:13; 97:10;100:9 moved (1) 12:20 moves (1) 21:7 Moving (13) 13:12;28:10,18; 35:9;43:21;48:8,16; 52:15;60:8;64:25; 69:4;70:6;99:24 MRGO (4) 61:15,21;66:15; 67:11 much (32) 8:9,10;13:8,9; 22:22,23;25:24;27:6; 29:23;30:4;40:3,3; 48:4;49:22;50:14,14; 54:8;56:21;60:19; 66:2;68:6,21,22; 71:11;72:6;73:3; 74:6;84:9;89:24; 91:8;103:8,17 mud (1) 88:8 multiple (3) 54:19;61:22;94:1 municipalities (1) 30:3 must (1) 78:12 Muth (4) 45:6;47:11,14,15 myself (1) 74:3</p>	<p>N name (23) 42:2;47:15;54:24; 58:4;60:23,25;64:1; 71:13;74:11,17;78:2; 79:9;82:7,16;84:14; 87:10;88:17;90:23, 25,25;92:19,21; 102:3 names (1) 104:16 Nancy (1) 90:10 NASA (2) 75:24;76:8 nation (1) 10:25 national (10) 10:18;43:15,20,24; 66:8;69:12,13;72:24; 88:20;98:19 native (1) 47:18 natural (5) 12:8;17:25;22:12; 89:25;98:19 nature (5) 14:19;20:7;50:20; 73:7;86:6 near (5) 18:10;36:17;86:9; 91:24;92:1 near- (1) 27:16 nearly (1) 67:23 near-term (1) 27:9 necessary (3) 20:3;29:12;97:14 need (34) 4:21;11:24,25; 15:20;16:20;17:15; 19:16;27:8,10,10,11; 28:24;29:19,22;36:9; 44:14;45:1;47:9; 50:9;52:4;55:12,12; 57:1,1,2,2,3,5;59:8, 16;73:13,24;82:17; 97:5 needed (2) 29:15;30:7 needs (7) 10:13;23:11; 29:24;58:16;64:13; 90:15;91:8 negative (1) 64:23 negatively (1) 79:14 neighborhood (1)</p>
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<p>59:2 neighbors (1) 58:25 net (1) 32:11 Network (3) 55:1;58:5;92:3 New (43) 6:10;8:12;9:12; 10:23,25;11:16,19; 16:2,3,6,6,11;18:24; 34:10;38:3;44:25; 47:18;48:3;51:12,21; 54:14,24;57:5;61:6; 63:1,5;66:23;67:6; 71:23,24;76:10,18, 19;80:10,19;82:8,15, 19;90:7,14;92:24; 97:25;100:7 newly (1) 96:21 Next (31) 7:25;14:6;25:18; 39:19;40:11;44:9; 45:6;47:12;48:19; 51:15,18;52:20;53:3, 19;57:15,16;62:6,6, 25;66:5;75:12;81:8; 87:1,7;93:8;94:16; 95:16,22;98:7,24; 100:20 NFWF (1) 98:18 Nguyen (4) 71:19;74:16,17,22 nice (2) 20:17;88:22 Nick (1) 8:17 Nicolas (3) 84:12;85:24,25 night (5) 7:11;8:11;37:12; 39:18;103:9 nine (2) 33:5,17 nineteenth (2) 39:25;40:1 non- (5) 16:13;29:10;58:6; 70:22;78:16 none (1) 11:4 non-English (1) 54:20 non-native-English (1) 54:21 non-structural (15) 19:23,24;28:8; 29:2,4,8;30:13; 58:16,18;60:15;71:9; 75:9;78:4,13,21 NORCM (1)</p>	<p>56:15 North (3) 13:10;76:25;86:8 Notable (1) 99:11 note (5) 32:20;34:17; 39:23;97:21;101:12 noted (2) 72:12,17 notice (1) 89:5 noticeable (1) 91:9 noticed (1) 91:4 noting (1) 44:9 November (1) 72:23 nowhere (1) 92:15 number (13) 18:23;25:13;26:3, 5;29:6,21;34:3,17; 35:1;41:22;43:7; 64:8;88:20 numbers (3) 32:8;34:14;96:12 numerous (1) 45:21 nutrient (2) 44:5,7 nutrients (1) 22:14</p>	<p>88:20;104:4 official (7) 25:3;39:19,21; 41:7;57:21;94:2,4 officials (4) 6:2,5,11;40:21 offshore (2) 48:9;78:19 often (1) 93:21 oil (12) 17:13;55:13; 56:11;65:16;74:4; 77:8,10,18;86:13; 91:11;97:1;98:21 old (1) 55:2 older (1) 97:23 OM (1) 101:13 omission (2) 67:3,13 once (4) 63:13;70:11; 85:19;101:1 one (42) 7:20;8:23;12:18; 13:19;17:2;19:7,7; 33:2;36:5;37:13; 42:15;44:3;46:15; 47:24;49:4;56:2,8; 61:17;62:16;64:8; 65:3;69:18;74:12; 75:24;77:1;79:11; 82:14,14,18;83:1; 86:4,25;90:22;91:8, 9;92:12;96:7;97:21; 100:16;101:10,11,15 ones (1) 58:1 ongoing (4) 9:23;80:13;90:6; 100:6 online (3) 44:10;94:6;103:17 only (6) 46:25;56:17,19; 69:3;70:10;95:18 open (2) 45:2;89:20 opened (1) 79:2 operate (1) 98:6 opinion (1) 5:17 opportunities (7) 23:18;24:12;36:3; 94:1;102:24;103:3,4 opportunity (10) 7:8;25:2;48:24; 57:20;58:10;69:17;</p>	<p>74:8;79:19,19; 102:22 opposed (1) 6:20 opposite (1) 27:7 options (1) 59:8 orange (1) 33:5 order (4) 48:11,12;62:20; 71:6 organization (4) 42:3;64:3;71:13; 75:17 organizations (6) 66:11;69:11;75:4, 7,22;88:21 organize (1) 19:2 Orleans (28) 6:10;8:12;10:24, 25;11:19;38:6; 47:19;48:3;54:14,25; 57:6;61:6,24;63:1,5; 64:5;66:23;67:6; 71:23,24;76:10,19; 82:8,15,20;90:7,14; 92:24 otherwise (4) 17:17;27:25; 32:11;57:10 ourselves (3) 15:19;17:5;25:13 out (52) 5:25;8:19;11:7,7; 16:3;24:3;25:19; 26:6,18,18;28:3; 29:22;30:19;34:2,4, 10,16;35:11;41:14; 42:8;43:4;52:11; 53:3;54:2;56:6;57:7; 63:12;69:20,20;71:5; 72:22;75:8,18;81:18, 20;83:7;86:6;87:4; 88:8;90:8;94:7;95:2, 4;96:1,7;97:2,12; 98:5;100:21;102:14; 103:10;104:15 outcome (2) 19:3;31:13 outcomes (2) 31:3,3 outgrowth (1) 38:24 Outlet's (1) 67:17 outlook (1) 73:8 outpaces (1) 20:24 outreach (6)</p>	<p>17:9;23:14,16; 45:21;54:20;93:6 outright (2) 75:18;77:3 outside (1) 28:22 over (35) 8:11;11:8,9;12:13, 23;14:6;21:16,18; 25:18;28:2;31:20; 32:5,12;33:7;34:20; 37:14,23;46:24;48:7; 58:7;59:18,22;60:9; 61:2;64:6;65:6; 68:11;82:22;89:22; 90:4,17;95:22;98:24; 99:22;100:3 overall (2) 16:9;25:8 overs (1) 104:11 oversee (1) 95:19 oversight (1) 95:8 overview (2) 4:10;67:15 owner (1) 61:7 owners (3) 45:13,14;61:2 oyster (2) 57:1;67:3 oysters (3) 23:4;46:6;64:8</p>
O		P		
	<p>object (1) 92:6 objection (1) 55:17 objectives (1) 17:21 obsolete (1) 79:12 obvious (1) 45:22 Obviously (4) 13:6;37:8;43:22; 97:4 occur (3) 29:24;50:2;73:3 occurred (2) 70:24;96:24 Ocean (1) 91:21 October (1) 64:24 off (4) 18:23;27:14; 89:13;92:2 officer (2)</p>			<p>pack (1) 55:7 pages (2) 37:14;93:17 Pallor (1) 73:6 papers (1) 72:22 pare (1) 20:18 Parish (23) 6:6,16;38:4,6,6,7, 8,11,14;46:7;50:7; 51:3;53:2,10;61:4,8, 24;82:5;84:15;85:2; 86:7;87:19;102:4 parishes (6) 30:3;64:6;98:16, 17;102:7,9 park (1) 92:25 parking (1) 93:3 part (40) 9:5;11:9;13:14,18;</p>

<p>16:7,9,14;19:22,22; 20:12;21:23;23:7,10; 28:13,18,19;29:7; 31:24;35:15,17; 41:15;42:13;43:15, 19;48:11;50:16; 52:2;57:4,5;61:4,14; 64:15;69:8;72:7,9; 86:13,15;91:24;92:1, 2</p> <p>participate (1) 102:23</p> <p>participating (1) 95:4</p> <p>particular (5) 59:4;61:17;69:2, 10;103:5</p> <p>particularly (2) 79:15;86:17</p> <p>partisanship (1) 73:23</p> <p>partnered (1) 47:2</p> <p>partners (1) 24:5</p> <p>parts (4) 36:15,15,24;91:24</p> <p>pass (6) 41:14;48:13; 78:18;87:23,24,25</p> <p>passage (1) 67:19</p> <p>passing (2) 48:2;92:9</p> <p>past (7) 23:16;24:23; 89:21;95:12;97:9; 98:4;100:6</p> <p>pastor (1) 82:7</p> <p>pastors (1) 83:5</p> <p>path (1) 96:6</p> <p>patience (1) 42:20</p> <p>Patterson (2) 83:4,16</p> <p>pauses (1) 104:10</p> <p>pay (6) 27:14;46:1;77:19, 19;80:16;92:13</p> <p>paying (1) 26:10</p> <p>payments (1) 97:1</p> <p>peer (1) 73:7</p> <p>people (29) 9:1;10:20;14:14; 16:19,25;17:6;18:17; 24:14;27:16;35:5;</p>	<p>37:11;52:15;55:8; 56:6;60:8;62:11; 68:17;72:12;75:8; 78:25;81:3,4,9; 82:15;87:18;92:5; 93:1;96:12;97:15</p> <p>people's (2) 83:13;84:6</p> <p>per (1) 76:7</p> <p>percent (11) 44:6;46:4,5;65:4; 78:6,7,10;100:23; 101:2,2,8</p> <p>perfect (1) 69:23</p> <p>Perhaps (2) 19:8;24:24</p> <p>period (8) 13:4;28:2;32:5,12; 34:20;39:21;66:20; 96:8</p> <p>permitting (2) 46:18;55:16</p> <p>person (2) 41:21;82:10</p> <p>petroleum (2) 91:15;92:13</p> <p>phase (1) 84:23</p> <p>phases (1) 101:12</p> <p>phone (1) 58:9</p> <p>phrase (2) 49:16;104:18</p> <p>phrases (1) 104:15</p> <p>Picayune (1) 49:2</p> <p>pick (1) 17:2</p> <p>picked (1) 25:15</p> <p>pictures (1) 84:5</p> <p>piece (2) 25:23;67:14</p> <p>pipe (2) 13:16;51:2</p> <p>pipeline (5) 56:12;67:14; 76:23;77:6;84:24</p> <p>pipelines (3) 55:18;77:7;92:3</p> <p>place (21) 8:9;16:18,20,20, 21;18:1,19;31:11,13, 16;32:2,3;33:20,22; 34:1;35:22;39:9; 47:25;51:8;81:1; 85:21</p> <p>placed (1)</p>	<p>27:16</p> <p>placement (1) 103:4</p> <p>places (1) 36:19</p> <p>placing (1) 30:22</p> <p>Plan (198) 4:3,12,19,20;5:7, 13,20,23;7:7;8:2,11, 15;9:16;13:18,20; 14:7,11,15,22,24; 15:5,9,17,18,23;16:3, 8,10,15,24;17:21; 18:22;19:18,20;13; 21:24;22:6;23:7,8, 19,21;25:7;26:19,22, 23;27:16,18,19,20, 23,25;30:25;31:4,4, 9,11,13,15,22,25; 32:2,3;33:9,20,21; 34:1,24,25;35:15,17, 22,23;37:7,9;38:4, 12,21;39:2,15;40:2, 6,18;41:9;42:7; 43:19,24;44:9;45:18, 23;46:15;48:7,11; 49:13,18,19,22,24; 50:4,10,13,15,16; 51:9,10,23,23;52:24; 53:1,3,3,7,16;54:4, 16;56:23;57:7; 58:11;59:22;61:9,12, 13,15,16,19,21,22, 25;63:14,20;64:7,12, 12,20;66:13,15,18; 67:2,12,13,18,20; 68:25;69:1,2;70:5; 72:3,7;75:1;78:4,5,8; 79:13;80:2,9,24; 81:11,11,12,13; 83:25;84:1,4,18; 85:15;86:9;89:3; 91:4,20;92:15;93:4, 8,16;94:18;95:3,5,6, 9,10,13,16,18,21,24; 96:6,10,11,15,17; 99:5,6,14,18;100:13; 101:4,11,16,25; 103:13,13</p> <p>Planing (3) 8:1;31:24;36:13</p> <p>planning (12) 19:4,12,18;21:20; 27:4;50:18,19;55:9; 59:9;64:14;78:15; 101:13</p> <p>plans (3) 51:7;72:16;80:19</p> <p>plant (5) 76:1,4,5,11,20</p> <p>plants (1) 76:9</p>	<p>Plaquemines (8) 6:6;38:7;53:1,10; 64:4;86:7;87:19; 102:4</p> <p>plausible (1) 25:17</p> <p>play (2) 28:16;76:20</p> <p>players (1) 44:24</p> <p>please (13) 7:23;42:1,3,12,17; 43:4;51:16;60:23; 71:14;79:7;90:23; 92:19;94:20</p> <p>pleased (2) 67:1;89:4</p> <p>plenty (2) 7:22;79:1</p> <p>plus (2) 8:3;19:7</p> <p>pm (1) 103:19</p> <p>point (14) 4:12;8:20;24:3; 29:20;30:19;34:2; 76:2;77:13;81:21; 86:9;93:25;98:4; 100:21;101:23</p> <p>pointed (1) 34:3</p> <p>pointing (1) 11:7</p> <p>points (3) 25:6;43:16;64:7</p> <p>political (1) 69:25</p> <p>Polly (1) 40:25</p> <p>polygons (2) 29:3;31:23</p> <p>Pontchartrain (5) 49:5;62:8;63:9; 67:8;69:15</p> <p>poorest (1) 102:20</p> <p>population (5) 59:19,23;60:1,9; 65:4</p> <p>Port (8) 6:10;10:23;11:12, 17,19;42:22;61:20; 82:25</p> <p>portion (5) 41:17;42:21; 78:19;86:14;94:17</p> <p>ports (1) 10:22</p> <p>possibility (2) 52:11;53:3</p> <p>possible (1) 103:2</p> <p>possibly (2)</p>	<p>46:18;52:1</p> <p>poster (1) 53:13</p> <p>potential (8) 11:22;19:14; 25:21;29:11;33:8; 44:22;62:17;65:13</p> <p>potentially (2) 20:12;29:7</p> <p>power (3) 76:4,11;81:24</p> <p>predicative (1) 19:16</p> <p>predicted (1) 26:23</p> <p>predicting (2) 26:13,19</p> <p>predictions (3) 10:7;36:18;38:10</p> <p>predictive (3) 19:1,3;20:25</p> <p>prepare (1) 35:3</p> <p>presentation (11) 4:11,13,18,22;8:1, 21;13:19;41:15,18; 62:9;65:3</p> <p>presentations (1) 23:25</p> <p>presented (2) 52:24;88:10</p> <p>presenting (1) 40:2</p> <p>preserve (4) 18:11;28:24,25; 59:1</p> <p>President (2) 6:6;45:11</p> <p>pressing (1) 56:14</p> <p>pretty (8) 9:13;20:18;74:25; 82:9;92:24;95:8; 96:12,22</p> <p>previous (2) 96:4;102:19</p> <p>pricing (1) 77:19</p> <p>primarily (2) 28:12;98:6</p> <p>primary (1) 22:3</p> <p>prior (1) 49:24</p> <p>priorities (1) 66:25</p> <p>prioritization (2) 58:18;60:10</p> <p>prioritize (2) 58:16,21</p> <p>prioritizes (2) 60:16,16</p> <p>private (1)</p>
--	---	--	--	--

<p>75:23 probably (2) 7:11;73:4 problem (4) 10:10;43:21; 50:23;52:2 problematic (1) 67:22 problems (1) 50:21 Procedure (1) 104:5 proceeding (2) 104:9,13 proceedings (1) 72:24 process (16) 16:10;17:19; 19:23;23:20;39:14; 42:18;56:16;64:14; 66:18;70:4;71:25; 72:7;81:5;89:25; 93:9,10 procurement (1) 86:16 producer (1) 64:8 production (4) 11:2,3,14;12:4 products (1) 56:17 profile (2) 49:4,4 program (10) 16:14;29:8;55:16; 58:7;60:15;97:17,24; 99:8,10;101:12 programs (4) 58:18;65:6;97:22, 23 progress (2) 93:5;101:14 Prohibit (2) 50:12;51:10 prohibitive (1) 93:1 project (36) 13:11,13;19:9; 21:8,11,23;22:1,2; 29:4;30:8;37:18; 38:15,16,19,21;49:1, 8,14,19,23;50:3; 61:17;65:2;75:24; 76:22;77:10;78:13; 81:3;84:20;85:20; 86:8;97:3,12,13,22; 98:7 projection (2) 62:11,15 projects (124) 12:18;13:14; 14:10,12;15:1,2; 16:4,6,9;17:15,18,</p>	<p>19;18:24,25;19:5,6, 8,11,15,20,21,24; 20:4,10,14,19;21:5, 14;22:8;23:2,7; 25:14,25;26:2,8; 27:19,22;28:4,5,6,6, 7,8,21,25;29:3;30:2, 5,11,20,23;34:3,10; 35:12,14,15,16; 38:11,13;39:3,9; 48:16;49:4;50:25; 53:5,12,16;55:18; 61:11,14;63:8,20; 64:22;65:22;66:14, 16,22;67:4,21,23; 69:20;71:25;73:15; 75:5,10,18;78:12,17; 80:7,11,11,13,19,25; 81:16,18,19;84:19; 85:1,5,8,17;86:12; 90:16;95:20,23;96:2, 4,21;97:5,7,8,14,20; 99:2,13,15,19,25; 100:9,15,24;101:5; 102:22 pronounce (1) 91:1 proofing (1) 29:10 proper (1) 104:12 properly (1) 34:4 properties (1) 29:11 proposed (2) 38:12;49:6 proposing (1) 48:7 prospective (1) 34:10 prospects (1) 81:19 protect (8) 9:19;12:1;17:23; 52:13,17;53:6;80:22; 97:15 protecting (1) 61:5 Protection (24) 4:7;9:10,17;12:18; 14:3;19:23;27:11; 28:6;30:13,18;53:2, 9,14;54:2,4;61:19, 24;62:23;66:14; 78:21;85:10,13; 87:20;90:3 proud (2) 24:4;69:8 provide (20) 4:10,14;8:8;14:3; 18:4,15,18;27:23; 35:12;41:13;42:4,15;</p>	<p>57:20,23;59:13;75:6, 7;87:2;90:21;94:2 provided (1) 6:24 provides (2) 14:8;100:14 providing (4) 36:2;42:1;43:1; 71:9 public (35) 4:14,14,16,20,22; 5:6,9,16;6:2,11,24; 8:7;16:6;24:10;25:2, 3;39:20,21;41:7,13; 42:1,4;57:21;68:10; 70:4;87:2;90:21; 93:2,2,3;94:2,4;96:7; 101:24;103:19 pull (1) 42:11 pulled (1) 25:19 pulling (1) 52:11 purely (1) 69:24 purple (1) 33:7 purpose (1) 8:23 purposes (3) 7:21;76:6;86:5 push (2) 57:8,8 pushing (1) 55:8 put (14) 16:3;17:15,17; 19:5,14;25:13;35:13; 42:10;43:6;49:22; 56:6;63:19;73:23; 90:2 putting (4) 15:23;47:7;56:12; 72:3 pyramids (1) 89:1</p>	<p>94:21 quite (2) 34:7;35:5 R Ragas (4) 87:1,9,10;88:12 railroad (2) 89:11,11 rain (2) 56:4,18 rains (1) 56:7 raise (4) 41:13;51:17,19; 60:22 raised (2) 45:25;71:23 raises (1) 93:24 Ram (1) 6:9 ramp (2) 96:20;97:21 range (3) 21:17;33:1,1 rate (1) 76:6 rather (2) 17:16,20 rationalize (1) 7:6 re- (1) 89:11 reach (2) 44:4,15 react (1) 14:22 read (3) 33:3;37:16;96:11 reading (2) 96:10,13 ready (4) 41:21;53:19; 94:19,25 real (8) 21:1;36:22;77:15; 78:25;96:4;98:2; 99:12,17 reality (1) 13:24 realizing (1) 54:7 really (38) 5:13;8:7,20;13:21; 15:17;20:16;21:21; 23:14;24:8,18,19,20; 30:7;34:16;35:19; 36:11,21;38:25; 41:15;42:8;44:13; 56:19;58:10,15; 68:19,23;69:1,6,8;</p>	<p>71:8;72:2,11;77:10; 81:22;84:6;95:3; 101:17;102:23 reason (4) 14:17;16:18; 25:15;46:15 reasonable (1) 103:2 reasons (3) 12:2;36:5;49:9 rebuild (4) 12:21,22;55:21; 92:14 receive (5) 58:1;96:25;98:3, 23;99:7 received (1) 98:5 receiving (1) 58:12 recent (2) 23:16;77:5 recently (4) 13:12;49:3;74:25; 75:25 recognition (2) 12:11;17:14 recognize (8) 6:2;16:17;24:9; 27:2;40:23;42:24; 44:19;91:14 recognized (2) 67:2;68:1 recommendations (1) 58:14 recommended (1) 67:21 reconcile (1) 68:20 record (4) 25:3;86:23;100:8; 104:7 recorded (1) 42:5 records (1) 71:14 recreate (1) 16:21 recreational (2) 18:6;46:9 Recycling (3) 79:10,11,14 red (5) 10:2;31:10,16; 33:6;62:10 reduce (4) 22:1,23;28:1;35:9 reduced (4) 33:14,18,24;34:15 reducing (1) 43:25 reduction (11) 13:7;14:4;15:11;</p>
		Q		
		<p>qualify (1) 75:9 quality (1) 68:12 questionable (1) 50:8 quick (7) 52:11,14;57:17; 65:9;96:4;98:2; 99:17 quickly (1) 69:4 quiet (1)</p>		

<p>16:11;26:1,2,9; 30:11;34:23;38:14; 44:5 reductions (2) 33:16;34:19 reef (1) 67:3 reefs (2) 52:17;57:1 reference (2) 43:19;104:17 referenced (1) 94:10 reflected (4) 16:13,25;34:9; 64:20 reflection (1) 52:24 reflects (1) 51:9 refreshments (1) 43:1 regarding (3) 5:6;64:11;73:8 regards (1) 93:12 region (5) 9:6;11:23;18:9; 34:6,8 reintroducing (1) 91:7 reiterate (1) 93:25 related (2) 37:7;98:21 relates (3) 5:20;11:11;41:8 relatively (1) 9:21 released (3) 39:15;85:7;93:8 relocation (1) 58:23 remaining (3) 98:15;102:6,7 remarks (2) 4:8,9 reminder (1) 103:12 removal (1) 91:15 removed (1) 21:10 Renate (2) 74:14;75:15 repair (2) 92:17;97:15 repeat (1) 82:13 replaced (1) 97:25 report (1) 77:5</p>	<p>reporter (2) 42:5;104:3 Reporter's (1) 104:12 represent (10) 31:23;42:2;45:13; 60:25;64:2;66:10; 69:11;78:2;99:20; 100:22 representation (1) 13:4 Representative (4) 6:3;40:25;41:3,4 representatives (4) 6:20;40:25;73:20, 21 represents (7) 10:2,3;20:10; 23:18;29:4;100:18, 19 request (6) 56:24;63:12; 73:15,18;94:14; 103:1 requesting (1) 56:9 requests (2) 55:23;68:8 require (3) 30:21;55:22;76:18 required (3) 14:16,16;86:12 requirements (1) 86:17 requires (1) 95:25 resettlement (1) 59:11 resident (3) 86:6;92:21;102:3 residential (3) 29:11;59:18;60:11 residents (4) 54:7;58:20;59:4; 64:11 residing (1) 71:23 resilience (2) 16:12;60:14 resiliency (2) 38:24;59:3 resolution (1) 78:18 resource (2) 22:12;44:21 resources (6) 17:25;58:24; 59:13;90:9,12;98:20 respect (1) 42:8 respected (1) 82:15 respectful (3)</p>	<p>42:13,18;57:18 responsibility (1) 77:20 responsive (1) 23:11 Restoration (36) 4:7;5:1;9:11,16; 12:18;13:8;19:21; 20:4;25:25;26:1,8; 27:10;28:5,7,8; 30:15,16,17,17,23; 35:14;47:17;53:12; 55:1;58:5;61:11,13, 15,17,21;62:23; 66:13;67:3,25;85:2; 94:24 restorations (1) 15:10 restore (10) 9:18;12:1;13:25; 28:15,24;47:24; 69:14;75:20;77:12; 98:20 restoring (1) 93:13 restricted (1) 98:25 result (3) 14:12;33:25;73:1 results (1) 14:10 retired (2) 51:21;102:17 return (1) 34:24 revenue (2) 11:11;78:20 revenues (2) 97:24;98:4 Reverend (4) 79:5,23,25;82:2 review (2) 53:15;73:7 reviewing (1) 66:18 revisit (1) 46:16 rich (1) 81:13 Ricks (6) 41:23;43:6;45:5,9, 10;47:11 Ricky (2) 6:15,18 ridge (3) 28:5;30:17;66:24 ridges (1) 92:4 right (26) 8:17;9:9;13:11,15; 15:6;18:4;28:22; 31:21;32:15;34:6; 37:1;42:14;43:4;</p>	<p>48:22;58:15;63:3,3; 70:1,19;74:12;76:3, 9,25;88:25;90:6; 101:1 right-hand (5) 21:3,19;22:19; 31:7;32:21 right-side (1) 68:8 Rigolets (3) 49:6;50:10;89:10 Riley (5) 86:1,2,22;102:16, 17 rise (6) 36:13;72:10,11; 73:2,12;83:19 rises (1) 56:19 rising (1) 56:20 risk (27) 13:7;14:4;15:10; 16:11;21:16;22:1,23; 26:1,1,9;30:11; 34:23;35:10;38:14, 23;39:6,7;47:22,22; 58:17,19;59:7,20; 60:14,16;70:25;71:3 risks (1) 9:19 rivals (1) 69:7 River (19) 11:21,22;28:22; 42:25;43:14;44:20, 20;47:17;48:1,9,13, 14;67:14,17;70:9,9; 83:4;88:1;89:21 rivers (1) 28:11 road (1) 27:15 Robert (4) 41:3;90:22,23,25 robust (1) 97:17 role (1) 76:21 room (4) 33:3;62:12;82:10; 92:11 Rosa (5) 75:12;77:23,24; 78:2,24 Rose (2) 83:4,15 Rosen (1) 42:13 Rouge (1) 63:7 roughly (9) 9:12;20:14;26:2;</p>	<p>27:22,22;33:4;34:21; 35:11;37:14 Roussell (6) 51:18,18;52:19,21; 53:18;81:18 row (1) 8:5 Rule (1) 104:4 Rules (1) 104:5 run (1) 76:23 runs (1) 46:24 rural (1) 59:15</p>
S				
				<p>salinity (2) 21:7;97:11 Salvador (1) 85:11 same (10) 10:8;13:3;28:20; 40:13,13;57:19; 76:11;93:14;96:6; 104:11 save (1) 11:25 saving (2) 10:17;11:4 savings (1) 34:22 saw (5) 40:9;57:16;63:6; 77:7;95:23 saying (4) 51:10;68:24; 76:17;80:17 scale (1) 62:18 scenario (4) 31:14;32:23; 68:25;69:2 scenarios (2) 21:17;26:25 schedule (2) 101:10;102:25 scheduled (1) 76:23 schedules (1) 101:15 schematic (1) 18:22 scholars (1) 80:21 schools (1) 88:25 science (15) 15:7,16;23:9; 55:25;69:21,22,24;</p>

70:8;72:25;74:1; 76:1;80:15,16,17; 93:13 scientific (7) 60:4;62:2;69:19; 72:18;80:4;81:15; 88:21 scoot (1) 7:23 Scott (6) 53:19;54:10,22,24; 57:15,17 screen (2) 57:21;94:3 sea (8) 36:13;56:19,20; 72:10,11;73:2,12; 83:19 SEAPP (1) 97:23 search (1) 65:10 season (1) 9:13 seat (3) 79:3;94:19,24 seats (5) 7:22,24;43:9;79:1, 7 second (9) 5:5;6:11;8:5;11:4; 33:13;41:25;79:3,5; 102:15 secondary (1) 51:12 Secondly (1) 73:6 secretary (1) 67:20 section (4) 5:12;78:4;99:13; 100:22 secured (1) 12:14 Security (2) 78:16;98:10 sediment (16) 21:9;22:13;28:15; 30:17,22,22;48:2,14; 65:2;67:11,14;79:16; 86:8;87:22;89:21,23 sedimentation (2) 91:6,7 seed (1) 48:5 seeing (5) 34:9;62:14,15,17, 21 Seems (2) 80:12;81:3 segments (1) 84:23 select (1)	25:14 selected (3) 21:23,23;25:16 selecting (2) 26:5,7 sell (1) 81:7 send (3) 55:17;94:8,12 sending (1) 75:4 sense (3) 17:14;18:2;46:14 separate (1) 43:21 series (2) 19:1;32:19 serious (1) 51:1 seriously (2) 58:13;68:18 serve (1) 74:17 serves (1) 64:3 service (1) 72:6 services (2) 11:2;75:7 set (1) 73:13 sets (1) 95:21 settlement (3) 17:13;86:13;96:24 seven (2) 33:5;54:25 seventeen (1) 66:10 seventies (1) 49:8 seventy (1) 77:3 seventy-six (1) 35:13 several (5) 6:5;11:10;51:4; 58:8;64:10 shape (1) 27:6 shared (1) 44:20 Shawn (4) 79:24;82:2,3,7 sheet (3) 38:7,15;86:25 sheets (1) 38:5 shelves (1) 73:9 shift (1) 101:8 ships (1)	79:12 shoals (1) 48:9 Shore (1) 13:10 shoreline (5) 28:6;30:18;61:19; 85:10,13 shorelines (1) 13:3 short (1) 63:2 shorthand (1) 68:24 shot (1) 70:17 shoulders (1) 36:19 show (8) 7:16;29:1;31:3; 33:11,22;62:10;84:5; 86:5 showed (7) 33:13;40:23;41:1; 46:2;62:9;65:3;84:1 showing (4) 9:5;31:10,12; 47:21 shown (3) 35:4;80:4;91:22 shows (2) 33:14;84:24 shrimp (5) 37:19;64:8;65:3,8, 10 shut (1) 76:9 side (7) 21:3,19;22:19; 30:15;34:23;75:21; 89:18 Sierra (1) 48:23 significant (2) 16:22;82:25 silver (1) 47:7 Simi (4) 62:5;63:24;64:1; 66:4 similar (3) 24:2;28:25;36:25 simple (1) 22:22 simply (3) 48:5;49:13;59:15 single (1) 30:24 sinking (1) 76:3 sit (4) 7:9,20;24:12;41:6 sitting (5)	42:14;57:16;63:3; 78:25;103:8 situation (2) 17:12;62:19 six (7) 33:4;46:4;73:12; 82:11;99:12,19; 100:23 sixty (2) 13:2;76:7 sixty-four (1) 46:5 sixty-two (1) 77:1 size (1) 43:25 sky (1) 56:5 slated (1) 44:12 sleeping (1) 37:12 slide (5) 21:19;22:5,20; 65:3;102:5 slides (3) 31:8;46:2;102:25 slope (1) 89:18 small (1) 86:18 sneeze (1) 12:10 Society (3) 69:14;90:13,14 soil (1) 56:14 solid (1) 69:24 solution (1) 64:16 somebody (1) 81:7 someone (2) 83:12;101:25 somewhat (1) 44:11 somewhere (1) 89:2 soon (2) 51:25;54:17 sooner (1) 17:20 Sorry (1) 74:23 sort (15) 4:3;13:5;18:22; 27:4;29:5;30:1; 31:14;34:18;41:19, 24;43:8;72:12; 82:13;83:12;103:12 sources (5) 98:1,3,18;99:3;	102:5 south (5) 18:1;82:19;89:16, 16;91:11 southeastern (2) 28:19;90:13 Southern (2) 79:10,14 southwest (1) 11:9 S-P- (1) 74:11 Spanish (1) 54:17 speak (14) 5:25;7:8;13:10,15; 24:13,14,16,16; 48:24;75:17;79:20; 84:21;88:14;102:1 speaking (5) 35:21;45:10; 54:21,21;91:2 spear (1) 36:11 specific (7) 23:25;38:8,18; 39:11;62:1;71:25; 86:25 specifically (7) 49:1;50:17;58:6; 60:1;61:10;63:8; 79:21 spend (5) 48:7;80:14;97:2,4; 99:4 spending (1) 75:19 spent (3) 78:11,13;81:2 SPEYRER (38) 4:1;7:17;40:19; 45:4;47:10;48:17; 51:14;52:18;53:17; 54:9;57:14;60:20; 62:4;63:23;66:3; 68:2;71:12,17;74:9, 11,20;75:11;77:14, 22;78:23;79:22; 82:1;84:10;85:23; 86:21;87:6;88:11; 90:19;92:18;93:23; 101:22;102:11;103:6 spill (5) 17:13;77:7;86:13; 97:1;98:22 spills (2) 77:6,8 split (4) 25:24;26:3,4; 30:10 spoke (1) 97:11 spoken (1)
--	--	---	---	---

<p>97:8 spontaneous (1) 104:9 spot (1) 26:7 square (5) 10:4;27:24;32:10; 35:8;44:1 St (12) 38:6;46:6,7,11; 50:7;61:4,7,24;64:4, 5:67:5;76:24 stability (1) 73:9 stack (2) 41:9;42:19 staff (2) 45:16;53:23 stage (1) 64:18 stakeholder (1) 64:13 stakeholders (1) 24:14 stand (3) 43:4;51:16;97:16 standards (1) 86:17 standing (2) 18:3;78:25 start (13) 18:23;19:20; 41:11;42:1;56:24; 63:19;73:19;94:25; 96:25;97:21,24; 100:25;101:8 started (4) 40:24;46:1;80:12; 94:19 starting (3) 11:7;81:16;96:20 starts (1) 54:12 State (39) 9:12,17;11:9;13:5, 14;25:18;28:20;40:6, 25;42:2;44:6;45:11; 47:20;49:19;52:14; 55:12;57:6;58:23; 59:9,14;60:23;62:24; 63:13,17,21;65:16; 66:1;67:16;68:25; 71:13;73:20,20;78:5; 90:23;92:19;98:3,15; 104:3,6 statement (4) 49:20,25;50:12; 85:14 States (7) 11:14;44:2,15,17; 55:3,5;64:9 state's (3) 46:5,11;48:15</p>	<p>stats (3) 10:19;38:9,20 stay (2) 43:8;81:5 step (2) 71:8;93:8 steps (1) 59:3 Stern (5) 47:13;48:18,21,22; 51:15 Steve (5) 66:5,5;68:3;71:16, 18 stewardship (1) 52:7 sticking (1) 40:16 still (8) 65:7;76:13;84:5; 85:16,25;94:1,22; 99:7 stop (1) 4:13 stopped (1) 83:8 storage (1) 67:11 storm (9) 9:20;17:24;21:13, 15;59:20;61:7,23; 67:5;87:20 straight (1) 9:21 strategy (2) 44:7,8 Strauss (1) 72:23 Street (1) 84:2 stress (1) 100:5 strict (1) 9:14 strong (1) 9:5 structural (14) 16:14;20:4;28:7; 30:12;35:14,16; 51:23;53:14;58:7; 70:23;75:9;78:11,17; 90:3 structures (5) 20:1;29:6,13,18,22 students (1) 90:11 study (2) 67:18;75:25 stuff (1) 88:8 Sub (1) 43:14 subject (1)</p>	<p>86:16 submit (7) 40:6;62:1;66:19; 70:21;87:4;94:7; 103:16 submitted (2) 41:10;72:9 subside (1) 91:16 subsidence (1) 36:14 subsiding (1) 89:24 subsurface (1) 89:7 successful (3) 70:15;90:5,17 successfully (1) 100:9 suffered (1) 54:7 suggest (2) 49:13;73:11 suit (1) 92:13 summary (3) 54:16;96:14;99:15 supply (1) 20:24 support (5) 11:13;17:18;18:5; 44:22;61:8 supported (1) 62:2 sure (10) 5:11;26:12,16; 27:6,13;45:1;54:11; 59:17;78:17;90:16 surface (1) 89:7 surge (5) 21:13;52:12; 59:20;61:23;87:20 surges (5) 9:21;17:24;21:13, 15;61:7 surprise (1) 55:14 surprised (1) 55:11 surrounding (1) 59:23 survey (1) 60:3 survive (1) 53:14 sustain (4) 35:7;48:11;70:12; 73:11 sustainable (2) 36:5;82:20 sustained (1) 32:5</p>	<p>sweet (1) 26:7 sworn (1) 104:6 synergy (1) 19:13 system (4) 11:20;15:10; 47:24;48:12 systemically (1) 93:19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p>table (2) 24:13;40:22 tables (2) 100:16,17 tag (1) 5:10 talk (11) 12:15;21:20; 23:19;46:14,21;58:6; 74:21;80:1;84:16; 91:6;104:11 talked (1) 63:16 talking (14) 11:18;19:8,25; 20:8,16;21:3;29:9; 49:3;50:16;80:14,18; 83:14;93:17;100:24 talks (1) 50:17 tally (2) 34:19;68:7 Tammany (1) 50:7 tap (1) 18:2 target (1) 44:16 Task (3) 43:15,20;44:3 team (1) 54:19 technical (3) 15:16;23:9,24 technicalities (1) 93:12 technology (2) 15:6,14 TEMPLET (3) 6:14,15,18 ten (7) 26:18;33:6;46:20; 65:5;81:8;83:21; 84:23 term (4) 27:17;29:5;90:4, 17 terms (29) 5:22;9:6,6;10:22;</p>	<p>11:1,13;12:17;13:7; 18:21;19:15;22:13; 25:13,21;26:10,24; 30:8;32:7;33:18; 34:13;35:20;36:19; 38:13;39:14;40:10; 43:17;65:11;68:12; 86:11;93:6 Terrebonne (2) 51:3;64:4 testament (1) 68:15 testimony (1) 104:6 Texas (1) 92:1 Thanks (5) 8:17,17;40:18; 54:13;83:4 that'll (1) 32:9 third (3) 39:16;53:8;65:15 thirteen (1) 33:6 thirty (3) 31:14,19,21 thirty-five (1) 51:22 thirty-two (1) 35:16 Thomas (1) 41:1 though (4) 47:5;55:15;80:4; 96:5 thought (2) 54:2;104:11 thoughtfulness (1) 68:13 thoughts (1) 5:18 thousand (1) 45:12 thousands (2) 56:6;83:2 threatened (1) 60:13 threatening (1) 63:6 three (15) 5:9;23:23;33:2,17; 42:10,11;48:25;73:4, 12;91:24;92:6;95:16, 22;96:1;98:7 threshold (1) 78:10 ths (1) 80:14 Tim (1) 52:20 timeline (1) 44:14</p>
---	--	--	--	--

<p>Times (4) 49:2;54:3;58:9; 92:6</p> <p>tip (1) 36:11</p> <p>today (10) 5:4;8:3;17:2; 19:19;40:10;50:25; 52:25;53:5;54:14; 92:10</p> <p>today's (1) 57:20</p> <p>together (9) 15:24;19:6,15; 44:4,20;59:1;70:14; 71:5;72:3</p> <p>tomorrow (2) 26:16,17</p> <p>tonight (14) 5:13;6:22;7:9;3; 12:16;17:3;40:14; 42:4,24;48:24;57:19, 22;58:1;90:21</p> <p>tons (1) 83:3</p> <p>Tony (1) 84:7</p> <p>took (6) 83:5,16,17,18,25; 84:17</p> <p>tool (7) 19:4,12,18;21:21; 28:23;47:6,25</p> <p>tools (2) 19:1;28:14</p> <p>top (4) 21:3;31:7;32:21; 72:16</p> <p>total (2) 98:14;99:20</p> <p>touch (3) 35:19;98:1;99:12</p> <p>tough (4) 14:9;20:17,18; 48:25</p> <p>tour (1) 83:16</p> <p>toward (1) 101:3</p> <p>towards (1) 101:8</p> <p>town (1) 41:5</p> <p>track (4) 43:22;52:8;100:8; 101:14</p> <p>tracks (1) 89:12</p> <p>Tracy (2) 86:1;102:17</p> <p>trades (1) 10:22</p> <p>traditional (1)</p>	<p>23:3</p> <p>trains (1) 89:13</p> <p>transcript (1) 104:15</p> <p>transcription (1) 104:13</p> <p>transition (1) 94:16</p> <p>translated (2) 21:16;54:15</p> <p>translates (1) 32:14</p> <p>transmission (1) 51:2</p> <p>transportation (3) 11:19;12:7;65:17</p> <p>treasure (2) 10:18,19</p> <p>tremendous (8) 9:4;37:21;55:9; 100:8,10,10,25; 101:6</p> <p>trending (1) 10:8</p> <p>Triangle (1) 66:24</p> <p>Tricia (2) 104:2,23</p> <p>trillions (1) 12:9</p> <p>tropical (1) 9:20</p> <p>trouble (1) 37:12</p> <p>troubling (1) 73:8</p> <p>true (1) 36:18</p> <p>Trufant-Salavant (1) 6:8</p> <p>trumped (3) 80:10;81:10,25</p> <p>truth (1) 81:23</p> <p>try (6) 5:11;15:23;20:18; 52:6;73:16;92:13</p> <p>trying (6) 16:23;68:7,20; 75:20;77:18;92:7</p> <p>Tulane (2) 90:7,10</p> <p>tune (2) 35:8,10</p> <p>turn (3) 8:19;41:6;47:9</p> <p>turning (2) 13:11,15</p> <p>turnout (1) 9:2</p> <p>turns (1) 26:6</p>	<p>twelve (4) 33:6;35:14;81:1; 89:12</p> <p>twenty (6) 12:19;20:4;44:6; 78:12;80:6;87:23</p> <p>twenty- (2) 40:11;46:3</p> <p>twenty-fifth (2) 40:7,12</p> <p>twenty-five (8) 4:10;30:10,10; 32:22,23;33:9;84:4; 87:12</p> <p>twenty-nine (1) 99:25</p> <p>twenty-sixth (5) 39:22,24;94:5; 96:8;103:14</p> <p>twenty-two (1) 55:1</p> <p>two (20) 8:3;16:3;19:7,9; 21:21,22;39:19; 41:20,23;42:15;43:7; 65:18;72:22;84:18, 23;86:7;93:17; 96:16;99:13;102:24</p> <p>type (4) 30:2,5,8;39:5</p> <p>types (2) 25:14;28:20</p> <p>Tyrone (2) 79:5,23</p>	<p>25;15:9;17:2;30:19; 32:25;33:17;40:23; 41:1,16,17;42:17; 43:5,6;47:18;48:19; 51:15,16;52:10,12, 14;53:19;57:15,21; 75:12;78:25;79:2; 95:16;96:21;97:16, 21;102:1,13,14</p> <p>upcoming (2) 13:17;102:25</p> <p>update (2) 14:16;96:3</p> <p>updates (1) 15:5</p> <p>updating (1) 14:21</p> <p>upon (1) 55:20</p> <p>upstream (1) 44:22</p> <p>upwards (2) 45:12;98:13</p> <p>urgency (2) 17:15;46:14</p> <p>use (9) 22:25;28:24;29:5; 42:7;50:18;51:7; 72:15;78:15;98:25</p> <p>used (5) 49:16;53:12; 68:22;89:21;104:10</p> <p>using (4) 28:14;44:19; 47:24;80:16</p>	<p>62:12</p> <p>via (1) 72:9</p> <p>viable (1) 17:7</p> <p>Vietnamese (1) 54:17</p> <p>viewed (1) 19:17</p> <p>viewer (3) 38:22,24;39:11</p> <p>views (1) 8:12</p> <p>vital (2) 38:9;67:9</p> <p>voice (1) 5:17</p> <p>voluntary (5) 19:25;20:2;29:9, 10;59:11</p> <p>volunteer (1) 75:16</p> <p>vulnerable (1) 50:6</p>
				W
				<p>walk (2) 4:4;102:14</p> <p>walking (1) 103:10</p> <p>wants (2) 5:19;76:10</p> <p>Ward (1) 92:22</p> <p>warning (2) 42:15,16</p> <p>Washington (1) 81:4</p> <p>wasted (1) 48:4</p> <p>watched (1) 87:24</p> <p>Watchtower (2) 86:4;102:18</p> <p>water (13) 11:2;21:6,8;22:13; 23:5;52:15;75:25; 76:5,13,14,17;83:23; 84:3</p> <p>waters (1) 46:6</p> <p>waterway (1) 84:25</p> <p>waterways (1) 77:2</p> <p>waves (3) 21:13,14,15</p> <p>way (12) 10:8;20:17,17; 21:6,9;48:5;51:25; 52:11;70:1;72:8; 74:13;91:8</p>
				U
		<p>ultimately (5) 19:17;40:6;56:16; 73:1,11</p> <p>uncertain (1) 44:11</p> <p>under (5) 10:19;34:5;78:20; 82:23;83:23</p> <p>underlying (2) 89:9;90:2</p> <p>underneath (1) 91:16</p> <p>uneducated (1) 82:9</p> <p>United (2) 11:14;64:9</p> <p>universities (1) 90:13</p> <p>University (2) 90:7,8</p> <p>unprecedented (2) 23:15;56:7</p> <p>unsupported (1) 59:25</p> <p>up (38) 4:9,17;6:12,19;7:9,</p>		V
			<p>validity (1) 50:15</p> <p>valuable (2) 28:23;59:22</p> <p>value (10) 12:8;50:14;59:17, 24;60:9,10;65:12; 68:15;99:17;100:2</p> <p>valued (1) 59:12</p> <p>vast (1) 48:1</p> <p>vegetation (2) 21:8;77:9</p> <p>Venice (1) 87:23</p> <p>venue (2) 24:25;25:5</p> <p>venues (1) 37:6</p> <p>verified (1) 104:17</p> <p>versus (2) 25:25;60:18</p> <p>veterans (1)</p>	

<p>ways (4) 23:6;56:8;57:22; 63:16</p> <p>WBOK (1) 86:4</p> <p>wealth (1) 91:13</p> <p>weather (2) 26:13,15</p> <p>website (8) 37:7;38:1,17; 39:10,13;50:24,24; 57:24</p> <p>week (5) 14:20,21;39:16,19; 40:11</p> <p>welcome (8) 4:25;5:3,7,14; 7:15;8:2,4;45:20</p> <p>well- (1) 72:3</p> <p>well-organized (1) 72:4</p> <p>weren't (2) 31:5;75:2</p> <p>west (6) 11:7;13:12;28:3, 10;84:25;97:12</p> <p>western (3) 13:13;29:1;91:25</p> <p>wetland (4) 51:1,11,23;85:13</p> <p>wetlands (25) 10:5;12:24;50:12, 18;51:5,6,13;52:4, 13,13;55:20,23; 56:11,13;66:24; 75:19,21;76:25;77:4, 8,12,21;99:23;100:3, 4</p> <p>what's (8) 13:20;38:9;43:17; 72:13;80:24;87:17; 89:6;95:9</p> <p>white (2) 7:10;37:18</p> <p>whole (3) 46:11;62:12;80:9</p> <p>wide (2) 58:25;87:25</p> <p>wildlife (5) 35:21;47:16;66:8; 69:13;98:19</p> <p>win (1) 52:16</p> <p>wireless (1) 41:20</p> <p>wise (3) 27:13;46:22,25</p> <p>wisely (1) 42:7</p> <p>within (1) 20:19</p>	<p>Without (16) 8:13;9:8;27:25; 31:11,15,19;32:1,2, 19;33:20;35:23,25; 39:8;47:24;70:14; 93:24</p> <p>wonderful (1) 53:24</p> <p>words (3) 42:7;104:14,16</p> <p>work (38) 7:14;9:10;12:13, 15;13:2,6,8;18:19; 19:10,11;20:23,24; 29:23;31:24;34:7; 42:18,21;44:4;45:17; 53:25;54:6,25;58:5; 64:6;66:12;67:17; 74:4;75:3;88:2;89:5; 90:6;95:18,19,19,22; 100:5,6,11</p> <p>worked (2) 13:13;24:5</p> <p>working (10) 18:15;20:21; 41:11;43:13;44:19, 23;47:16;70:14; 82:16;85:22</p> <p>works (1) 97:13</p> <p>world (4) 22:7;36:16,24; 69:7</p> <p>worry (1) 37:16</p> <p>worse (1) 26:24</p> <p>worst (3) 27:4;68:24;72:13</p> <p>worth (6) 10:17;11:4,24; 20:19;44:9;68:23</p> <p>wrap (2) 41:17;102:13</p> <p>Write (1) 103:15</p> <p>written (2) 62:1;72:4</p>	<p>20;37:24;38:3;40:8; 44:6;47:2;51:21; 53:2;55:2;62:10,18, 25;63:1,4;65:6;69:3; 77:5;93:16;94:18; 95:12;96:1,24;98:12, 13;101:24;103:1</p> <p>years (30) 11:10;14:7,17; 23:23;25:18;26:17; 27:25;32:9,13;46:17, 19,20;51:23;65:5; 76:7;80:6;81:1,8,17; 83:21;84:4;87:12,23; 93:9;95:17,22;96:18; 97:18;98:7,24</p> <p>year's (1) 99:18</p> <p>yellow (1) 33:4</p> <p>young (1) 80:21</p>		
		Z		
	Y			
	<p>yacht (1) 82:23</p> <p>y'all (6) 43:3;46:1;54:5; 64:1;79:6;96:9</p> <p>yards (1) 12:19</p> <p>year (45) 4:18;14:21,21; 26:19,20;28:2;31:14, 19,21;32:1,2,5,22,23; 33:8,19,20;34:16,18,</p>			

In The Matter Of:

State Of LA Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority

*CPRA Meeting For Master Plan/Annual Plan
January 24, 2017*

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Original File HOUMAM.TXT

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1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATE OF LOUISIANA
COASTAL PROTECTION and RESTORATION AUTHORITY

The CPRA Meeting for MASTER PLAN/ANNUAL
PLAN, taken in connection with the above
captioned matter at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic
Center, Pelican Room, 346 Civic Center Blvd.,
Houma, Louisiana, 70360, on Tuesday, January
24, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Reported by:

Tricia S. Gregory
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate Number 2015008

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2
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17
18
19
20
21
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A P P E A R A N C E S

NICK SPEYRER

CHAIRMAN: Johnny Bradberry

Gordy Dove

Senator Chabert

Bren Haase

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Michael Ellis

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12
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14
15
16
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18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

	PAGE
Caption:	1
Appearances:	2
Proceedings:	4
Reporter's Page:	150
Reporter's Certificate:	151

1

2

3 MR. SPEYRER:

4 Good afternoon, everybody. My name is
5 Nick Speyrer. It is certainly a pleasure to be
6 here in Houma for what is clearly an important
7 meeting not just for us, but certainly for all
8 of you from this region and elsewhere. We
9 thank you for taking time out of your busy
10 schedules to participate in certainly this
11 important meeting. We'll go ahead and we'll
12 get some more chairs in here, and there are
13 some in the front as you come on in. Just a
14 quick run to show what to expect from here on
15 out in the evening. We'll be happy to stick
16 around as long as we need to. In a second
17 Johnny Bradberry, the chairman of CPRA will
18 provide some opening remarks and will recognize
19 a few special guests. Then we'll turn the
20 program over to Brent Haase, who will give
21 about a twenty-five, thirty minute presentation
22 on the draft of 2017 Coastal Master Plan. He
23 will talk about the work we did in development,
24 he will talk about the work to come as we work
25 through this public comment period.

1 At that point in time we will then open up
2 the floor to hear from you, which is really why
3 we are here, to hear from you to provide your
4 public comments. We'll talk about this a
5 little bit more as we get into the day. We
6 will ask everyone to please be respectful in
7 the audience in keeping their comments to three
8 minutes. And you will have needed to complete
9 a form of the white sheets that were in the
10 back, and we'll be passing more of those around
11 this evening. You'll certainly have an
12 opportunity to put your name on it and get
13 called up to the mic and provide your official
14 public comment.

15 Once that concludes we will then turn the
16 presentation over to Michael Ellis, Executive
17 Director of CPRA. And he's going to do a
18 presentation on the draft fiscal year 2018
19 Annual Plan for CPRA. At that point in time we
20 will then open the comments back up to the
21 floor for official public comments on that
22 document. So, sort of, how long we stick
23 around depends on how many comments we hear.
24 As long as you need us to be here as we work
25 through those portions of the presentation.

1 Certainly a lot of media coverage here. I
2 do want to recognize as well, we've got, we've
3 got a live Facebook feed. It's a, it's a
4 tactic we started using at our public meetings
5 last week. We had several thousand people
6 watch these presentations both live and in
7 recording as well. So just more ways we are
8 trying to provide information to more people
9 about the work that we are doing. So that's
10 our plan for tonight, we appreciate you, your
11 being here with us. And with that I'd like to
12 introduce to you Chairman Johnny Bradberry with
13 the Coast Protection and Restoration Authority.

14 MR. BRADBERRY:

15 well, good evening. Can you hear me back
16 there? It's really good to be here tonight.
17 It's a great turnout. You know, we've had two
18 of these meetings already. We are required by
19 state law to have three of these across the
20 coast and we have had two, one in New Orleans
21 and one in Lake Charles. We had really good
22 turnouts, but I think tonight we may have more
23 people than we did at the other two.

24 Before I say any more comments I want to
25 introduce some people in the audience, some

1 elected officials. President Gordy Dove, there
2 he is. Senator Chabert. Who else have we got
3 there? Representative Zeringue, thank you for
4 being here. Representative Beryl Amedee.

5 There are several council members here from
6 Terrebonne Parish that I'll let Gordy Dove talk
7 about when he gets up here in just a second.

8 We have Windell Curole, not an elected official
9 but a member of the CPRA Board here tonight.

10 Thank you for coming, Windell, where are you?

11 And then we have a couple of former politicians
12 and legislators, Senator Reggie Dupre. I'm
13 sure you've heard by now, you can't not live in
14 Terrebonne Parish and not know that Reggie had
15 a hand in putting this together. And then
16 Parish President Charlotte Randolph, where are
17 you? And then we have David Carrell with
18 Congressman Garrett Grave's office.

19 We're going to let a couple of, a couple
20 of our elected officials come up and talk in a
21 minute but I want to say a little bit about
22 what we're trying to do here tonight and why.

23 As you know the master - this is the third
24 iteration of the Master Plan and it's critical
25 to what we do and how we address, what we do to

1 our coast and how we address our coastal
2 issues. We - this is the third iteration of
3 that plan. We started back in 07 with the
4 first plan, and Reggie was critical to that
5 plan. Remember that, Reg? And I - and so was
6 I as the Secretary of the Department of
7 Transportation and the Secretary of DNR we
8 combined our forces and our efforts and we put
9 together the first plan. This plan, and the
10 plan in 2012, are step-change, step-change
11 plans in changes from the original plan. So
12 what you're going to see here tonight is, is a
13 lot of good science, you're going to see a
14 reflection of projects that hopefully reflect
15 what you think. We spent a lot of time in the
16 public trying to get public comments. We spent
17 a lot of time with scientists trying to get
18 their comments. We tried to apply the best
19 approach and practices that we can. But at the
20 end of the day it's about how you feel about
21 what the plan is going to bring to you and what
22 it means to you. And so this is another
23 opportunity for you to get up here and for you
24 to make public comment around how you feel
25 about this plan.

1 Hopefully Brent will do it in twenty-five
2 to thirty minutes. Now, you've got to
3 understand, this is a six thousand page plan.
4 But he's going to try in twenty-five to thirty
5 minutes to give you an overview of the quality
6 of the plan, what went in it, what the
7 assumptions were, how the projects were
8 selected, and give you hopefully, again, a
9 better appreciation for how the plan came
10 together. And, you know, your public comments,
11 your comments are extremely important to what
12 we're trying to do here. This is a draft plan.
13 That means that the plan is subject to change
14 depending upon the quality, and the logic, and
15 the sensitivity, and your feelings around what
16 you think you want to do in your particular
17 area. So it is subject to change, it is not
18 set in stone at this point in time.

19 So I encourage you to come up here and to
20 make those comments. We want to listen to you,
21 we want to hear what you have to say. We're
22 going to take that back and rationalize these
23 comments. I want you to know we're committed
24 to doing that. And I'm sure that you have
25 legislators here that are going to ensure that

1 we do that. They represent you very well,
2 particularly Senator Chabert and Zeringue, I
3 guarantee they do. And so they're going to
4 help us to make sure that this process is
5 representative of what it is you want to see in
6 the plan. Not everybody is going to be happy,
7 okay?

8 You'll see in a few minutes that there
9 were two hundred nine projects that were
10 submitted for consideration in this plan. At
11 the end of the day, if you're going to find
12 fifty billion dollars over fifty years, you can
13 only do so many projects. And so you'll hear
14 that only a hundred and twenty of those
15 projects are going to be selected. All those
16 people, and all those areas and communities
17 associated with those hundred and twenty
18 projects are going to be very happy. The other
19 eighty-nine projects? Well, we're going to
20 have some debate about that and you're not
21 going to see some happy people and happy
22 communities. You know, we've got constraints,
23 and this is a constraining plan. Again,
24 hopefully you'll get a, a good appreciation for
25 what's in it and what it means to you. And

1 again, I encourage you to do that.

2 Having said all that, Gordy Dove wants a
3 few minutes and I asked him to keep it less
4 than ten. Come up here, he'll hear me, you
5 know, ring a bell, I guess. But he'll come up
6 and say a few words, and then Senator Chabert
7 wants to say a few words about his position on
8 the plan and what - how he views it and what
9 he wants to see addressed. So, President Dove,
10 it's yours, you're on the clock.

11 PRESIDENT DOVE:

12 Thank you, Chairman Bradberry. It's
13 always a pleasure to work with the CPRA. And I
14 want to thank the other members of the CPRA.
15 Terrebonne Parish and the State of Louisiana
16 has built its hurricane storm protection system
17 and multiple lines of defense. You know, you
18 know, we started in Morganza. We decided to
19 build Morganza ten years ago when we saw the
20 federal government wasn't going to, wasn't
21 going to come to our rescue. We, the people of
22 Terrebonne Parish put up a three-quarter cent
23 sales tax, the State of Louisiana put up
24 approximately \$175,000,000.00, with
25 \$350,000,000.00 in total, we, you know, we now

1 have eleven operations, eleven operations of
2 flood gates and thirty-five miles of levees,
3 with another about fifteen miles to be
4 completed.

5 No one strategy is sufficient to achieve
6 our ultimate goal. Number one, we have the
7 barrier islands, the first line of defense.
8 Which is, right now as we speak there's a
9 dredge out on Whiskey Island that is starting,
10 that is digging a channel to get, to get
11 started to pump 9.3 mor million cubic yards of
12 sand on, on Whiskey Island at a cost of about
13 \$118,000,000.00. This is restoration, this is
14 ongoing, this is an island that we started
15 working on four or five years ago, and I thank
16 the CPRA for keeping that project moving
17 forward. Something I need on the Master Plan,
18 which I will discuss with Chairman Bradbury, is
19 the lake rim on Terrebonne Bay was taken out of
20 the 2017 Master Plan, which we had in 2012
21 Master Plan. And I cannot stress the
22 importance, of course, and Chairman Bradbury is
23 familiar with what I'm talking about because we
24 - on the east side of Terrebonne is where
25 we're getting, we're getting eaten out the

1 worst on high salinity levels, as you all know.
2 The west side, we have projects going in that
3 area. But unless we put these, I call them the
4 land bridges, or you can call them a rim,
5 around Terrebonne Bay. We will lose the
6 eastern side of, of Terrebonne Parish and the
7 western side of Lafourche. This is critical to
8 us and I ask this board, I've already formally
9 asked them to put that back in. We vetted that
10 out in 2012, a lot of you in here supported it.
11 And it was, you know, it was taken out and so,
12 you know, we are asking it back. It wasn't
13 2007, it was in 2012, and for some reason it
14 was taken out in 2017.

15 And, you know, on the 2012 plan we also
16 had all our barrier islands to be rebuilt in
17 the plan. In the 2017 the word problematic was
18 used, which we take to use maintenance. We
19 discussed that with CPRA, we're hoping they go
20 back to rebuilding our islands, not just
21 maintaining them. Now, they are, they are
22 getting - this year they should go forward
23 with East Timbalier Island, which is in
24 Lafourche Parish but that is permitted to
25 Terrebonne Parish. So that they have moved

1 forward with and I thank them for that. But we
2 still have Timbalier Island, we have East
3 Island, Trinity Island, and Wine Island. And
4 we need these islands to be put back in there
5 to be rebuilt, not on a problematic
6 maintenance. And what I understand, they are
7 looking at the language on that.

8 And under the 2010 RCA Eco-restoration
9 Terrebonne Barrier shoreline restoration
10 completed by the Corps of Engineers and the
11 CPRA, the Terrebonne Basin Barrier Islands is a
12 unique ecosystem that helps to maintain the
13 integrity of the Gulf shore islands, they
14 protect the interior coast from further loss.
15 Aside from supporting coastal habitat, the
16 coast of Louisiana is the first line of defense
17 for protecting wetlands, inland bays, and main
18 regions from direct and effects of wind. And
19 basically, what the Corps said in the study is
20 that all of our islands work in a unique area
21 to protect Terrebonne Parish. To do a couple
22 of them and maintain the rest with our passes
23 so wide, we're defeating the purpose since they
24 protect the (inaudible) and Montague area on
25 the east side of Terrebonne. So that is

1 something that we are going to meet with the
2 CPRA, the delegations with me, Reggie and
3 everyone. We've had meetings with them.

4 So with that, I'm trying to cut it short
5 here. And another thing we are looking at is
6 the sediment pipeline that was just released.
7 We could build a pipeline, a thirty-six inch
8 pipeline. We had a study that, that was put in
9 by Terrebonne Parish and the State where we
10 could put a thirty-six inch pipeline from
11 Atchafalaya into the Lake Barre area, and pump
12 over the years approximately 80,000,000 cubic
13 yards. I think this is a, the future of
14 Terrebonne for building up, using sediment from
15 the Atchafalaya. And with this, Mr. Chairman,
16 you know, I want to thank you and the Board for
17 all your, your hard, continuous work to protect
18 and restore Louisiana. You know, the west side
19 of Terrebonne is, has the influx of Atchafalaya
20 water, as you all know. The east side is where
21 we are getting eaten out and we have to do the
22 land bridge and the rim, and we have to restore
23 our barrier islands. And, of course, you know
24 Morganza is full steam ahead. You know, we're
25 running Morganza, there is no doubt about it.

1 We just, today we just transferred \$16.8
2 million dollars to Terrebonne Parish for the
3 Levee Board and there was an announcement that
4 for the final floodgate. We should put out for
5 bids in the next month and a half, two months.
6 And that's the last floodgate in the southern
7 regions.

8 So with that I thank each and every one of
9 you. We have a great crowd, it's so important
10 everyone takes home what's happening here. But
11 we are moving forward thanks to a lot of
12 people, you know, there's a lot of people that,
13 that have gotten Terrebonne Parish to this
14 point. And thank y'all, every one for coming.
15 And thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was that short
16 enough?

17 MR. BRADBERRY:

18 Congratulations, that was six minutes.
19 Holy smokes.

20 PRESIDENT DOVE:

21 Well, wait. I got four more.

22 MR. BRADBERRY:

23 As you can see the president has no
24 passion for this topic. Senator Chabert. And
25 by the way, when you talk to Gordy, and

1 ninety-nine percent of the time the word rocks
2 in going to come up. If you'll notice, he
3 didn't say rocks one time in his presentation.

4 PRESIDENT DOVE:

5 But I still mean it.

6 SENATOR CHABERT:

7 I can't tell you how impressed I am with
8 this crowd. I really appreciate y'all, from
9 the bottom of my heart, showing up and showing
10 your passion. One thing that surprised me when
11 I got to Baton Rouge seven years ago was how
12 little my colleagues knew about the challenges
13 that, you know, people from this region, you
14 know, not just Terrebonne, Lafourche, and St.
15 Mary, face on a day-to-day basis and how
16 complex it is, how complicated it is. And, and
17 I tell them all the time, all right? Just look
18 at Terrebonne Parish. You've got half of the
19 parish that's starving because they don't get
20 any silt and they don't get any sediment, and
21 the salt water is just destroying everything
22 there is. All right? On the west side, Lake
23 Boudreaux basin is kind of the dividing line.
24 You've got an area that's thriving, lush,
25 because that which is being deprived out east

1 is coming so naturally for the west. So much
2 so that the people in St. Mary have a problem
3 because they have too much of it. The science,
4 the technology, and most important the funding,
5 you know, just quite ain't there yet. To
6 enable us to do everything that we want to do
7 - I tell you a funny story about how
8 complicated and difficult the issues that we
9 face are. You know, one of the first folks
10 that were able to get an audience with the new
11 governor, Governor Edwards, was, you know, our
12 folks from Terrebonne Parish, Reggie, Gordy,
13 myself. And, you know, Gordy and I, I mean, at
14 the Capital, I mean, people saw us coming
15 together and they knew it was a coastal issue
16 and how hard we were going to fight for our
17 piece of funding and how desperate our needs
18 are. And we pulled on that rope so many times
19 in the same direction, okay? And then he gets
20 elected parish president, and I get elected to
21 my next term, and we've got the new governor,
22 and this is going to be his first impression of
23 the camaraderie. The force that is Norby and
24 Gordy, you know, Senator Chabert and President
25 Dove. So we're sitting at the conference room

1 table on the fourth floor, and he is in the
2 middle, Gordy is to his right and I'm to his
3 left. And, you know, all the technical folks
4 were there, Mark, and everybody, and Reggie,
5 and they started talking about the need for
6 funding for the Falgout Canal floodgate which
7 is a lynchpin of a water control structure with
8 marking.

9 And I'm happy to say that we did find a
10 little cooperative endeavor between the
11 parishes to, once again, hold up our end of the
12 bargain of not just going to Baton Rouge and
13 saying, "Hey, we've got a \$30,000,000.00
14 project, will you give us thirty million?"
15 Thanks to the wisdom, and the desperation
16 unfortunately, of the people of our area we
17 taxed ourselves and we go to the Capital and we
18 say, "We need the State to come up with half of
19 that because we can only put up so much."

20 That's one of the main reasons why we've been
21 successful. So it's all kumbaya and everything
22 is getting along, and then we move on to the
23 next phase and, and Gordy starts pushing. From
24 one direction he starts talking about rocks and
25 I start pushing from another direction. And

1 the governor is in the middle, he's going one
2 way and I'm going that way. But we're both
3 fighting for protection and the betterment of
4 Terrebonne Parish. And once we got the mission
5 accomplished of getting him to agree to one
6 thing, the governor got a true taste of how
7 complex it is. When that force that so many
8 times is going in the same direction, can have
9 a difference of opinion.

10 And the Master Plan is representative of
11 that. You look at the letters on the screen,
12 it says Coastal Protection and Restoration
13 Authority. All right? Now, they're going to
14 use a phrase risk reduction, and that's fine.
15 Okay? But at the end of the day that means
16 protection, that's the name of the doggone
17 agency for God's sake. I'm going to keep it
18 simple for y'all, all right? We ain't always
19 going to agree, but everybody in this room, the
20 folks that do this 24/7/365 on not only the
21 people that are here, the people across the
22 coast, the people in our state, but America.
23 Everybody knows how important this is. I saw
24 some folks from Buffalo coming down here from
25 Bayou Gray who helped volunteer and plant

1 vegetation on restoration projects. That's
2 amazing, all right? That is amazing that
3 people are aware of the challenges we face.
4 But here, where the water meets the rock, or
5 lack thereof sometimes, all right? There is,
6 there is concern and there should be. And not
7 everybody in this room is going to hear whoever
8 walks up to the mic and gives their public
9 comment. And not everybody is going to be
10 bobbing their head in agreement. The most
11 important thing is that we're doing something.

12 I want to publicly applaud CPRA for the
13 very hard work that they've put into this plan.
14 And just to give you a little insight into how
15 the process is going to work, Bren Haas, and
16 incredibly bright man, I enjoyed working with
17 him. They're going to walk you through the
18 process for approval of this plan, and after
19 they include public comment, we've got to tweak
20 this however we've got to tweak it. It's going
21 to go to CPRA Board and then it's going to come
22 to the legislature. And I chair the Senate
23 Natural Resources Committee, and it's going to
24 go through the House Natural Resource
25 Committee, which Gordy used to chair. The

1 House Transportation Committee, the House for a
2 full vote. It's going to come over to the
3 Senate. So I want you to be fully informed
4 that by the time you get to the Senate - you
5 guys are tired of seeing me already. My staff
6 and I have met with them for literally
7 four-hour sessions and said, "We need to have
8 another one." And we've got one, I think it's
9 next Monday. Right? So I'm, I'm as involved
10 and immersed in this as anybody could be, and
11 now they know why. Because this is what I've
12 got to come home to and these are the people
13 that I've got to face.

14 So I appreciate your hard work. Thank
15 you, too. Thank you for being here.

16 MR. BRADBERRY:

17 Thank you, Senator. And, no, we're not
18 tired of seeing you, yet. Before I turn it
19 over to Brent for the program I need to say
20 something about your governor and tell you how
21 he feels about coastal activities, and about
22 the condition of our coast, and about the
23 situation we are in. This governor is indeed a
24 coastal governor. Not once has he told me,
25 "Johnny, go look at that project over there and

1 make sure you work with this legislator and
2 make sure you get that in the program." More
3 than once he has helped protect our money,
4 okay? He is totally immersed in this effort,
5 he is genuine, he listens, he is a hunter, he
6 is a fisherman, you know, he is appreciative of
7 what we are trying to do. And more
8 importantly, he understands the sensitivities
9 around all the issues we have around our coast,
10 the oyster men, and shrimpers, and fishermen,
11 and the oil and gas companies, etc. I mean,
12 I'm telling you, you have a coastal governor.
13 Not once did he tell me to, to go do something
14 specific. He said, "Be fair, be urgent, let's
15 get results, let's make sure that we put
16 projects on the ground, let's make sure that we
17 keep this money in Louisiana. Let's try to
18 use," - Okay. I want my cake and I want to
19 eat it, too. I want to have the best science,
20 I want to have the best project. Sometimes
21 that means I have to bring in experts from
22 somewhere else. But we have a focus on, and he
23 has made it very clear to me, that we want to
24 use as much local talent and local input as we
25 can. Keep the money in Louisiana. And Lord

1 knows we need it given the condition of the oil
2 and gas business today. So I wanted you to
3 know how he feels. He is a coastal governor,
4 ladies and gentlemen. And if you don't believe
5 me just, I mean - when have you heard of a
6 governor sitting in a room dealing with DOTD,
7 or hospitals, or coastal activities? We had
8 him in the room for six hours, okay? Listening
9 to all our issues on the coast, educating him
10 on what the issues were, and getting his input
11 on those things. And then we had him another
12 four hours, okay? Doing the same thing,
13 bringing him up to speed on the Master Plan.
14 That's sort of unprecedented. I haven't, you
15 know, I haven't been in government that long
16 but I haven't seen a bunch of that in the past
17 in the State of Louisiana.

18 So, again, I just wanted to give you an
19 appreciation for the fact that you do have a
20 coastal governor. And he is willing, and is,
21 and does listen. And he is very much behind
22 what we're trying to accomplish.

23 So having said that - if we are ready.
24 Brent, where are you? You can have it.

25 MR. HAASE:

1 Thank you, Mr. Bradberry. These are tough
2 acts to follow so I'll do my best. Thank you
3 all for being here tonight. This is, as was
4 already discussed, a fantastic turnout. I
5 think it's really evidence of the fact that,
6 you know, you all are certainly aware of the
7 fact that this is ground zero for the issues we
8 are going to be discussing in terms of land
9 loss and the issues across our coast that that
10 land loss affects. And that's certainly
11 evidenced by the turnout here tonight and by
12 the passion of the folks, and the interest of
13 the folks in this area in what we're doing. So
14 I want to thank you for that.

15 Before I get started I just want to point
16 out, you know, this tagline here, "Committed to
17 our coast." And it goes to what I just said, I
18 think. But I'd like to echo, perhaps, Senator
19 Chabert's comments in that we are real
20 confident there's a lot of good stuff in this
21 plan. One thing we also know is there's a lot
22 of good stuff that's not in this plan. And so
23 there are some things that folks will be happy
24 about and some things that Chairman Bradberry
25 mentioned that folks, you know, may not be all

1 that happy about. But at the end of the day I
2 hope you get an appreciation for the process
3 that we're going through and an appreciation
4 for some of the hard decisions that go into
5 trying to, to figure out, you know, what are
6 those best things that end up going into the
7 plan. So -

8 So we are the Louisiana Coastal
9 Restoration and Protection Authority. We are
10 the single state entity charged with
11 developing, implementing, and enforcing a
12 Master Plan for coastal Louisiana to, to help
13 protect our citizens from storm surges
14 associated with hurricanes and storms, and to
15 restore our ecosystem across our coast, our
16 coastal ecosystem. So, again, you folks are
17 more aware of this than many. This is a land
18 of historical - a map of historical land loss
19 across coastal Louisiana dating back to about
20 1932. About two thousand square miles of land
21 have been lost in that time. You can see that
22 noted here in red, that green is land gain on
23 this map. And if we look out into the future,
24 predictions are pretty grim as well, frankly.
25 If we don't do anything about that historic

1 loss or the loss that we might, you know, we
2 might experience into the future, we anticipate
3 losing more coast than that. This certainly is
4 not a good thing.

5 Why is it important? Again, I'm preaching
6 to the choir here. But coastal Louisiana is a
7 national treasure. Over two million people
8 live in coastal Louisiana. And I'm not going
9 to go through each of these stats, but in terms
10 of fishery production, water fowl production,
11 commerce, transportation, and so forth,
12 Louisiana provides tremendous benefit, not just
13 to this region, but to the rest of the nation,
14 and indeed the world. We're investing in our
15 coast. As we speak, just a few examples here,
16 whether it's over in Calcasieu Parish, in
17 Cameron Parish, a hundred million dollars of
18 recent of investments of coastal industry. You
19 see the impacts in terms of jobs and the
20 dollars associated with that. For all of
21 America, of course, Port Fourchon is important
22 in terms of jobs creation and support of the
23 oil and gas industry in the, in the Gulf of
24 Mexico. And then you can see the economic
25 benefit associated with the potential deepening

1 of the Mississippi River and the impact it
2 might have on transportation and commerce,
3 again, nationwide.

4 And again, we know we're worth fighting
5 for. And preaching to the choir, but in terms
6 of some of the dollar figures associated with
7 the benefit and the worth of coastal Louisiana.
8 You know, we want to put these up and make sure
9 folks are aware of these. These are things
10 that we need to be proud of, these are things
11 that we could use when we go to Washington to
12 talk about getting dollars to come to the state
13 and for some of the projects we want. Or when
14 we have a buddy that might be visiting us from
15 the Midwest that's coming down here for a
16 fishing trip and wants to know, "Why is coastal
17 Louisiana important to me? I live in
18 Minnesota," or wherever it may be. So all
19 this, that information is available in the
20 draft plan.

21 So a tremendous amount of work has
22 occurred to date over the last decade or so.
23 These are sort of some of the stats on that.
24 About twenty billion dollars has been secured
25 for coastal Louisiana. Much of that has been

1 executed in terms of projects that are on the
2 ground right now, or going on the ground right
3 now. A hundred and twenty million cubic yards
4 of dredge material has been used to build
5 marshes, barrier islands, or ridges. Other
6 wetlands across our coast are benefitting.
7 Over 36,000 acres of land, about 282 miles of
8 levees have been built or improved, and over
9 sixty miles of barrier island shorelines have
10 been built in the, again, just in the last
11 decade. And just by way of where most of those
12 projects are, this is an exhaustive map, this
13 is where many of those are. You can see the
14 locations of most of those projects.

15 And there's work going on now. President
16 Dove, you know, mentioned this. But, you know,
17 whether it's the bayou in the east part of the
18 state, Whiskey Island is underway right now in
19 this neck of the woods, or Oyster Bayou out in
20 Cameron Parish. We're turning dirt now, we're
21 doing work as we speak. Soil is being moved to
22 create wetlands. And there's more to come. So
23 you'll hear about a little bit more of the,
24 sort of, the more to come if you stick around
25 for the Annual Plan presentation once we're

1 done discussing the Master Plan here today.
2 But just to let you know there's roughly
3 \$663,000,000.00 worth of expenditures, new
4 projects just like this one, identified for FY
5 18. And it will be discussed, again, after we
6 get through the Master Plan portion of this
7 event.

8 So, so what is the Master Plan overall?
9 What is it? People ask me this all the time.
10 And it's, to me it's really two things. It's a
11 way to make really hard decisions. So, none of
12 this is easy. I mentioned earlier, there are
13 lots of new projects out there that are not all
14 in the Master Plan. So how do you decide which
15 ones are the best, which ones do we think can
16 do the most good for the most people and the
17 most good for our coast? And the Master Plan
18 provides a framework for us to be able to make
19 those hard decisions. And then at the end of
20 the day, once those decisions are made through
21 this process it's a list of projects. So it's
22 the number of projects that we - that guide
23 the work that we do, that CPRA - that again,
24 is the guiding document for the projects that
25 we implement, or the projects that we get on

1 the ground across our coast.

2 Why are we updating it? Why are we doing
3 another plan? Well, first we are legislatively
4 mandated to update the plan. It's the law, we
5 have to update it every five years. But also
6 there's some real practical reasons to do that.
7 You know, first of all, as you all are aware
8 more that many, many folks across our state,
9 our coast is a dynamic place, it changes minute
10 to minute, hour to hour, certainly year to
11 year. So as that coast is changing, the plan
12 that we have for that, for that coast needs to
13 be updated. We need to be able to adjust to
14 those changes. Predictions for our future
15 change as well. We are going to talk a little
16 bit about some future scenarios, and you may
17 have seen some of them. Sea level rise and
18 some other changes in the, in the 2017 Master
19 Plan. Well, those predictions change as well,
20 so updating the plan around those.

21 We also, you know, I talked a little bit
22 about much of the work that has gone on over
23 the last decade. We've learned a lot from that
24 work. So we learned how to do things better,
25 we've learned how to spread our dollars more

1 efficiently so that we stretch those dollars
2 and are able to build more projects for less
3 money. And technology improves as well. So
4 updating the plan allows us to roll all those
5 lessons learned, all those changing predictions
6 and our changing environment into the plan as
7 we, as we move forward.

8 So some of the key differences between
9 2017 - yeah, 2017 and the 2012 plan. First we
10 have improved our science and technical
11 analysis, of course. I always say the ink
12 wasn't dry on the 2012 plan when we began -
13 took a step back and said, you know, what are
14 the things that we can do better, what are the
15 things that we need to improve on, how could
16 our tools be better, should we change some
17 things, should we be doing some things
18 differently. And we took a good, hard look at
19 that. And the plan will incorporate many of
20 those changes, improve the tools that we use in
21 developing a plan. We incorporated some new
22 ideas and information that, just now, in terms
23 of lessons learned. But we also, we don't
24 think we know it all, what the right projects
25 are, what all the perfect projects are. And so

1 if we want to, if we want to incorporate those
2 new ideas and new information. And so, in
3 fact, in 2014 we made two phone calls for new
4 information for new projects. Had tremendous
5 response to those and we had a number of
6 projects admitted to us by parishes,
7 individuals, anybody could provide new ideas
8 for projects. And many of those were part of
9 the 2017 - part of the evaluation, and many of
10 those ended up getting included in the 2017
11 Master Plan.

12 There's an increased focus on flood risk
13 and resilience and I think you'll see that -
14 hopefully you saw some of that before the
15 meeting here, but also evidenced in the
16 discussion and the more robust development of
17 our non-structural risk reduction, or
18 protection program. There's an increased
19 emphasis on community in terms of how the
20 changes across our coast, either with the plan
21 or without the plan, affect - the whole reason
22 we're doing this is first, for the people,
23 right? It's for our communities. How does all
24 this affect our communities and our people's
25 ability to live on the coast? So it discusses

1 things like our, our capability of insuring
2 ourselves and things along those lines. It's a
3 little bit of a less technical document than
4 the draft plan itself. So we encourage you to
5 take a look at that. And we're pretty proud of
6 it, we think it's a nice, a nice companion
7 piece to the actual plan.

8 We also expanded outreach and engagement.
9 And I'll touch on that in a little bit, in just
10 a little bit. And we've also got a little bit
11 of clarity in terms of where our funding
12 situation is. So when BP obviously settled,
13 that litigation settled, and so we got a better
14 idea of what funding might be come into stake
15 over the next ten or fifteen years. And
16 because of that we are able to move some of the
17 funding that we might have expected to expend
18 later in the fifty year project in the Master
19 Plan earlier. And obviously, also recognizing
20 that sense of urgency that Chairman Bradberry
21 and the governor have expressed.

22 So in terms of objectives of the plan,
23 there are five of them listed here. We want to
24 protect our citizens from flooding. Again,
25 flooding associated with hurricanes and storm

1 surges along the coast. We want to harness the
2 natural processes that built Louisiana in the
3 first place. It just makes sense to, to use
4 those free processes, obviously, that are
5 generally cost effective in terms of rebuilding
6 our coast. We want to provide those coastal
7 habitats that are important to both the
8 commercial and recreational activities.
9 Cultural heritage is something that is really
10 near and dear to all of our hearts. I know,
11 again, it's one of the reasons that we live
12 here. It's why we love Houma, it's why we love
13 New Orleans, it's why we love coastal
14 Louisiana, and we want to be able to preserve
15 that as best we can. And that heritage is, you
16 know, intricately intertwined in our coast and
17 our Gulf ecosystem. And we want to provide for
18 a working coast. Most of the stats I mentioned
19 earlier in terms of the benefits of coastal
20 Louisiana to the nation relate to that working
21 coast, and that economy, and those benefits
22 that we provide the rest of the nation. It's
23 tremendously important.

24 In terms of developing the plan, this is
25 the schematic for that. We mentioned the

1 coastal - the projects earlier. So we want to
2 identify what those projects are that sort of
3 form our universe of what we evaluate. Those
4 projects are evaluated through these predictive
5 models which are then, the output of which the
6 predictive models are run through a planning
7 tool, which is really just a way for us to
8 organize those outputs and help us better
9 understand those outputs. Better understand
10 which projects might fit better together or
11 which projects perhaps don't fit so well
12 together. And for those projects that do fit
13 well together, we can perform alternatives. We
14 fit those projects together to a group of
15 projects together called alternatives that
16 then, again, is reevaluated through these
17 models and ultimately run back through the
18 planning tool and results in the plan, which
19 you see before you today.

20 So let's talk about the projects a little
21 bit. There are two hundred nine, as Mr.
22 Bradberry mentioned, that we evaluated. A
23 hundred thirty-five of those are restoration
24 projects, you can see them on the map here.
25 Fifty-four of those are non-structural

1 protection projects, you see those listed here.
2 Each of these - when I talk about
3 non-structural projects, two things. Each of
4 these colored polygons represents a
5 non-structural protection project or an area,
6 so you can sort of use that term
7 interchangeably. And also, when I'm talking
8 about non-structural protection, what I'm
9 talking about is elevating homes,
10 flood-proofing of businesses, and acquisition,
11 voluntary acquisition of homes should, should
12 that be deemed necessary and appropriate in
13 some cases. And then twenty structural
14 protection projects were evaluated as well.
15 And these are things that we are more familiar
16 with. This would be like flood gates, levees,
17 flood walls, those kind of things.

18 So I'll talk a little bit about the
19 predictive models. And there's really sort of
20 two, two pieces to this. There's this top
21 piece here, which is the integrated compartment
22 model. But what we're really talking about
23 here is, is our ability to evaluate how a
24 project or group of projects affects things
25 like how water moves along our coast; what the

1 salinity is of that water along our coast; what
2 the vegetation looks like, does it change from
3 one type to another, does it die, does it
4 sprout; what happens to sediment; and also what
5 happens to our fish and wildlife resources as
6 well. And then on the bottom half of this is
7 the, sort of, flood risk inside of things where
8 we're looking at how projects affect storm
9 surges and waves and how that's translated to
10 this - to risk, to risk assessment, to, again,
11 what's really important to most of us, our
12 homes, our businesses, our communities. And
13 all of this is being done over a range of
14 environmental scenarios into the future. So as
15 we, as we try to predict the future and predict
16 what these projects might do into the future,
17 we've got to have an idea of what the future
18 might look like without the projects on the
19 ground. So we don't pick just one potential
20 future, we pick several so that hopefully the
21 projects that we end up selecting as part of
22 the Master Plan perform well within that range
23 of potential futures because we're not sure
24 which of those futures we're going to get.

25 And then moving into the planning tools,

1 there are really two key factors that affect
2 whether a project is selected. It's how well
3 does it reduce risk and how well does it build
4 remaining land in the future. So those are the
5 two, sort of, key decision drivers we call, is
6 what we call them. In terms of project
7 selection you see those listed up here in the
8 top, left-hand part of the slide. But we
9 talked about this notion of constraints and
10 that, you know, this plan doesn't do everything
11 for everyone. It doesn't fulfill all the needs
12 that we want to fulfill for our coastal
13 citizens and that we think y'all deserve, quite
14 frankly. And the reason is that we don't have
15 all the money that we think we need to have
16 over the next fifty years, or we don't think
17 we'll have all the money that we'll need over
18 the next fifty years to do all those things.
19 So funding is a key constraint, right? It's
20 the key constraint in most of our lives, and
21 certainly a constraint in terms of how we put
22 this plan together and how we select projects.
23 There are also some real constraints related to
24 natural resources. Sediment, we don't have all
25 the sediment everywhere that we need.

1 Certainly Senator Chabert alluded to that in
2 terms of the western part of Terrebonne Parish
3 versus the eastern part of Terrebonne Parish.
4 So it's a blessing and a curse depending on
5 where you are. So there's not enough of it in
6 some places to do, again, all the projects that
7 we need. Fresh water, nutrients, and other
8 natural resources can be categorized there as
9 well.

10 But we know it's not just as simple as
11 these two main decision drivers. Those are
12 key, and they are very, very important. If you
13 had to boil it down, you know, again, those are
14 the key drivers. But there are these other
15 things we call metrics listed over here.
16 Community metrics and environmental metrics,
17 these are just other things that we can measure
18 in terms of, again, what a project or group of
19 projects might deliver. And so we can ask
20 ourselves, well, what does the plan do in terms
21 of affecting traditional fishing communities,
22 or what does it do for agricultural
23 communities, or how does it affect the
24 sustainability of land, or water fowl, or
25 shrimp. And so these metrics allow us to look

1 at, again, a project outcome or a group of
2 projects outcome through the lenses of those
3 sort of specific, specific measurables, if you
4 will.

5 So that was the technical, science side of
6 things. And, you know, it's good stuff. But
7 we also know it's not the end all, be all, it's
8 not perfect, and it's certainly not the only
9 answer to a lot of the questions that we have,
10 or the solution to the problems that we have.
11 We also do need to be responsive to our
12 communities, and that's one of the reasons that
13 we're here today, one of the reasons we have a
14 draft plan ultimately leading to a final plan.
15 So in terms of being responsive, I put this up,
16 I mentioned that we had really an
17 unprecedented, so far, kind of an unprecedented
18 outreach and engagement effort. And I won't go
19 through all these, don't worry. But this
20 represents roughly a hundred and fifty
21 opportunities for folks to talk to us about the
22 plan, or us to talk to other people about the
23 plan, and for folks to talk with each other
24 about the plan. And not just the draft plan,
25 but the process, and the real technical

1 nitty-gritty. We have some modeling webinars
2 and some things along those lines, again, for
3 people to be able to plug into the process,
4 plug into the plan development, and provide us
5 feedback along the way. This dates back
6 roughly, you know, two and a half years or so.
7 One of the things I want to point out,
8 something that we are proud of is this, these
9 community conversations that are listed over
10 here. We've had quite a few of those,
11 actually. And these were different from this
12 kind of venue, these weren't a situation where
13 I'm standing up and giving a presentation and
14 then we hear, you know, public comment, and
15 it's sort of a one-way dialogue. This was an
16 opportunity where we were able to go into
17 communities, one of the ones where we had one
18 of the communities where we had one of these
19 meetings was, in fact, in Dulac. Dinner was
20 served, we were able to work with some of our
21 partners to help us organize and support the
22 dinner that was served. We were sitting around
23 enjoying dinner at the table and, you know,
24 break bread, and have discussions about coastal
25 issues and the plan. So it was a real good

1 way, I think, for us to interact. A real, much
2 better transfer, I think, of information than
3 some other potential venues. It is something I
4 think you will see more and more of.

5 So we're going to get into the plan, the
6 specifics of the plan. But before I do that I
7 want to touch on some of the key decision
8 points. So in terms of the overall funding
9 amount, you know, we mentioned that the funding
10 is a constraint. One thing I didn't mention on
11 an earlier slide, and I should have, was the,
12 the two hundred and nine projects that we
13 evaluated as part of - potentially to be
14 included as part of this plan represents
15 roughly \$150 billion in work and projects. We
16 don't think \$150 billion is a realistic amount
17 of money to come to the state, but we do think
18 that \$50 billion might be a reasonable amount,
19 or a plausible amount. And so for that reason
20 that dollar figure was selected. Again,
21 constraints, project selection and constraints
22 in developing the plan. And I mentioned
23 already that we have moved some of those dollar
24 amounts up earlier in the implementation period
25 because we need work now, obviously. There's a

1 funding split associated with that \$50 billion.
2 It's 50/50 and that's not just an arbitrary
3 figure. We did look at spending additional
4 dollars over the \$25 billion in different
5 areas. It turns out that that 50/50 split, or
6 \$25 billion, is roughly the sweet spot in
7 getting the most bang for the, for the dollars
8 that you spend.

9 I mentioned scenarios and some sort of
10 different futures earlier. And the approach
11 that we've taken in developing this plan is, is
12 really a plan for the worst and then sort of
13 hope for the best situation. So we looked at
14 - probably a better way to put that is looked
15 at, sort of, a no regrets kind of analysis.
16 And if you plan for, for a worst situation in
17 the future, worst situation in the future and
18 you actually experience something better, if
19 you've planned for that worst scenario you're
20 in good shape. It's a conservative approach.
21 If you actually achieve a future that is not as
22 bad as you might have thought it was, then the
23 projects you put on the ground are probably
24 going to perform pretty well. And so our
25 analysis indicated that that was the case. So,

1 again, if you plan for that sort of worst case
2 scenario and certainly are hoping for the best,
3 in terms of near-term versus long-term
4 benefits, obviously we know we need projects on
5 the ground now, we need benefits now, we need
6 to do good things now. But we also need to
7 make sure that we're being responsible, that
8 we're doing things that will last, you know,
9 that will benefit both our children and our
10 grandchildren into the future.

11 So let's get into the plan. This is it,
12 this is the draft plan. And I hope you have a
13 chance to look into it in a little more depth
14 across the, the hall there or in the other room
15 there. There are 120 projects in this plan, in
16 the draft plan. They result in a net land
17 change of about 802 square miles, so over and
18 above what you would have if you didn't
19 implement the plan, in fifty years. And we
20 think we've reduced flood damages by about \$150
21 billion across the coast over that, over that
22 fifty years.

23 So just a closer look at the projects in
24 the western part of the state. You can see the
25 project types listed here at the bottom. But

1 it's probably pretty hard for folks to read so,
2 again, I hope you had a chance to look at it
3 over there. These maps obviously are in the
4 draft plan as well, so pick a copy of that up
5 as well, please. But these green areas are
6 marsh creation areas, excuse me, marsh creation
7 areas. There's some non-structural, sort of,
8 shaded areas you see listed here; hydrologic
9 restoration, ridge restoration, some shoreline
10 protection projects, and some structural
11 protection projects are these sort of, these
12 lines that you see on the map, on the map here.

13 So let's look at the central part of the
14 coast right here. Of course we're getting over
15 into the area of the Atchafalaya and the
16 Mississippi Rivers and Bayou Lafourche. And so
17 we're starting to bring in some of the
18 freshwater and sediment diversion projects as
19 part of the plan. We're also starting to pick
20 up the barrier islands, of course, barrier
21 shore islands in this neck of the woods. And
22 then you see some of the projects out west,
23 marsh creation, ridge restoration, and so
24 forth.

25 And we'll look a little, again, a closer

1 look out east. And, again, the Mississippi
2 River obviously is in this part of the country
3 and so you're starting to see some of the
4 sediment diversions continue further on the
5 eastern side of the state over here.

6 In terms of non-structural projects, these
7 are those that were selected. So, again, each
8 of these polygons represents a project, a
9 non-structural project. There are roughly
10 26,000 structures that have been identified
11 coast-wide, and the dollar figure associated
12 with the potential mitigations for those
13 structures which, again, are elevations,
14 flood-proofing, or voluntary acquisitions,
15 there's a little over \$6 billion. You know, I
16 said this earlier and I'll say it again, this
17 is a very, very rough estimate, 26,000 acres is
18 a very high level for the planning to attach a
19 dollar figure to this. There's not a list of
20 addresses anywhere associated with that number.
21 Certainly the first call we would make is, you
22 know, if we were going to implement one of
23 these projects would be to President Dove or
24 one of the local, you know, communities here.
25 You folks certainly have been dealing with

1 these issues in much greater detail and for a
2 longer period of time than we have. And
3 frankly we think you're better at it, and you
4 know more about it, and we want to certainly
5 leverage that expertise and that mileage before
6 we would ever do any of these things. So I
7 wanted to mention that.

8 In terms of breakdown of projects, in
9 terms of dollar figures. Again, you can see
10 the 50/50 split listed here. Restoration
11 projects are over here on the left-hand side of
12 the screen, structural and non-structural over
13 here. You know, I just mentioned one of the
14 things that we hear sometimes is, you need to
15 spend more money on dredging, you need to spend
16 more money on dredging. That's, you know, for
17 benefits of some of the other projects,
18 sediment diversions and others. And, you know,
19 if you add up the dollar figures associated
20 with dredging in this plan, again, it's the
21 single barge expenditure identified as part of
22 the plan.

23 So we're going to look through a few
24 series of slides that, that are going to
25 actually put where we are going to predict the

1 plan will deliver on the landscape. So we've
2 already looked at the red maps in terms of what
3 the future might hold in terms of land loss and
4 this is what you're looking at again here. So
5 this is at year thirty, a future without
6 action. An easy way to keep track if we're
7 talking about no action or a map with the plan
8 in action is this, you'll see a green check if
9 it's a plan, a future with action. So this is
10 land loss, again, at year thirty without
11 implementing the plan. And this is what the
12 landscape might look like with the green plan
13 of land sustained on it as a result of
14 implementing the plan at year thirty.

15 We'll look at it at year fifty. Again,
16 this is without the plan. Then at year fifty
17 with the plan. Again, you start to see some of
18 the green, the two greens that's land gained or
19 land sustained. The take on that is that is
20 land sustained that you otherwise would not
21 have but for implementation of the Master Plan.

22 So in terms of numbers, what does that
23 deliver? Well, at year fifty we have roughly
24 802 square miles of coastal land that we
25 wouldn't have otherwise, again, as a result of

1 implementing the plan.

2 So how does that translate to flood
3 depths? We talked a little bit about that and
4 how it is certainly so important to our
5 communities. Again, we'll look at some future
6 without action slides, some future with action
7 slides, then I'm going to show you a different
8 slide which will be a difference between those
9 two maps. So this is at year twenty-five for a
10 hundred-year event, which is a hurricane that
11 has a one percent chance of occurring in any
12 given year. This is without action, these are
13 flood depths of with action. And I should
14 point out that the sort of blue color is one to
15 three feet and it ranges up to over fifteen
16 feet, which is this sort of purplish color. So
17 let me just go back. This is without action,
18 year twenty-five. This is with action, year
19 twenty-five. And then that's the difference.
20 And so in terms of differences, what does that
21 mean? Well, the greens and the blues are
22 reduced flood depths as a result of
23 implementing the plan. And so potentially
24 these greens and blues are good numbers,
25 they're good numbers, I mean, the flood depths

1 are reduced in those areas.

2 In year fifty we'll look at the same
3 thing. So this is without action for the
4 hundred year event, and then with action for
5 the hundred year event at year fifty. And then
6 I'll show the difference map again.

7 So in terms of, again, raw numbers, I
8 mentioned that 802 square miles of land. At
9 year fifty we think we can reduce expected
10 annual damages by a little over \$8 billion.
11 It's important to note that's an annual number
12 so that's that at year fifty number. And I
13 mentioned \$150 billion earlier. So if you sort
14 of add those, reduce the ADs up over the fifty
15 year period of the Master Plan, we believe you
16 could reduce those damages by roughly \$150
17 billion, roughly a 3:1 return of investment
18 n just economic damages.

19 So what does the plan deliver, what does
20 all this mean? Well, we do a few things. We
21 provide a lot of projects. There are 120
22 projects as part of this draft plan,
23 seventy-six of those are restoration. There
24 are twelve structural and thirty-two
25 non-structural protection projects. We do have

1 benefits to the ecosystem. I didn't mention it
2 in great detail, but generally speaking in
3 terms of fish and wildlife we're better off
4 with the plan at fifty years than we are
5 without, without the plan at fifty years. And
6 we, we can reduce risks. I mentioned that, in
7 terms of \$8.3 billion at year fifty. We're
8 building new land to the tune of 800 or so
9 square miles that I mentioned. If you look at
10 some other future scenarios, 1,200 square miles
11 depending on what future we might have. We
12 give ourselves times to prepare and adapt to
13 some of these changes. So certainly recognize
14 that, that some of the red maps and even some
15 of the maps with the green on it are pretty
16 stark, and their startling to a lot of us.

17 And, you know, the good news is we can do,
18 I think, a lot of good for a lot of people for
19 a long time. And again, related to the risk
20 reductions and land building benefits that we
21 have. And the other thing is that we've got
22 some time to adjust to these things, if these
23 predictions are going to come into fruition.
24 And we also have time to determine whether or
25 not they are coming into fruition, right? So

1 as we update the plan every five years we are
2 able to look at the predictions that were made
3 and look at the trends and what's actually
4 happening on the ground and determine whether
5 or not we think those predictions were valid or
6 not. And we're able to adjust to those as we
7 move forward.

8 And lastly, I'll mention briefly, we are
9 providing some economic development
10 opportunities. So certainly a healthy,
11 resilient coast feeds a healthy, resilient
12 economy across our coast, that is certainly
13 important to us. But, you know, another thing
14 that we're doing and you should be really proud
15 of in Louisiana, is we're really at the tip of
16 the spear in terms of dealing with these
17 issues. We're leading the way, we're dealing
18 with these because we've have subsidence and
19 land loss occurring for so long. We've been
20 dealing with these things for a number of years
21 now and we've gotten better at doing it, and
22 we're really leading the charge in terms of
23 developing this sort of planning approach and
24 look at adapting to those changes. You know,
25 if the predictions that are laid out in this

1 Master Plan, you know, come true, many parts of
2 the country, Miami, New York, San Francisco,
3 and others are going to be dealing with some of
4 these same issues. And we're going to have a
5 leg up on them because we've already started
6 doing it, and that's an exportable commodity
7 that we can, you know, be proud of, and
8 something that can help all of our economies as
9 well.

10 So in terms of getting more information
11 about the Master Plan, I hope it was clear
12 from, from the room over there. But in case
13 it's not, you can get more than you ever wanted
14 to know about the Master Plan at
15 coastal.la.gov. Each of these represents a
16 link to either the main document, a flier, and
17 appendix, or a technical report related to
18 every - again, everything you want to know
19 from what happens to juvenile brown shrimp or
20 white shrimp to, again, the overall plan
21 itself. So please take a look at our website
22 if you're interested in getting more in depth
23 information related to any of this.

24 One of the things we've done for 2017 is
25 develop the parish fact sheets. So if you're

1 just interested in what's happening in
2 Terrebonne Parish you can go to that fact
3 sheet, you can get sort of our stats for
4 Terrebonne Parish, or Lafourche Parish, or any
5 other parish for that matter, both in terms of
6 what the future might hold without action and
7 then what's in the plan for your parish and
8 what impact those projects that are in the plan
9 for your parish might have on your parish. We
10 have similar fact sheets for, for projects.
11 Each project has a fact sheet that is very
12 similar to what I just described for the parish
13 fact sheets. We have a Master Plan data viewer
14 that I hope you have an opportunity - had an
15 opportunity to take a look at again tonight.
16 But if not, this is a fantastic tool. It's
17 available, again, at our website. You can go
18 an type in your address and look at how this
19 plan might affect your flood risk for, you
20 know, now or in the future, for example. So I
21 encourage you to go take a look at that, it's
22 very informative.

23 In terms of where we're headed, the ground
24 plan was released a few - a couple of weeks
25 ago on January third. We are in the midst of

1 the public hearings here, obviously tonight is
2 the twenty-fourth. March twenty-sixth, the
3 official public comment period will end, so
4 you've got a good bit of time left before that,
5 before that ends. And the April nineteenth is,
6 Senator Chabert mentioned, we will be
7 presenting a final plan that will be formed by
8 your comments, not only comments that we hear
9 tonight but the written comments that we
10 receive. We have e-mail, and online, and
11 written, and regular mail as well. We'll
12 present that to the board on the nineteenth.
13 Hopefully with the final plan being submitted
14 to the legislature on April twenty-fifth of
15 this year.

16 Most of these are behind us now that we're
17 a good way through to the twenty-fourth but we
18 will have one more meeting, it will be in
19 Mandeville tomorrow night. It will be the same
20 format, same information that you've seen here
21 tonight. But if you know folks who want to
22 travel from here to there, they're certainly
23 welcome. Or if you know folks from that area
24 that need to be at a meeting like this, please
25 let them know. We'll be happy to have them.

1 So I'm going to end it there and we're
2 going to move in to the formal public comment
3 period. I'm going to let Nick handle that. I
4 appreciate your attention and we'll be here
5 this evening for as long as we need to, to
6 answer questions after all this is all over
7 with. Thank you.

8 MR. SPEYRER:

9 Thank you, Bren. What we're going to do
10 right now is we're going go ahead and we're
11 going to move the table, and I'll be joined
12 here in the front by not just Chairman
13 Bradberry, but also by Bren Haase, by Chip
14 Klein in the governor's office, and Michael
15 Ellis, Executive Director. And we're working
16 to make sure both microphones are working. If
17 you haven't already completed a form and you
18 would like to speak tonight, please raise your
19 hand. Zach, walking down the middle, can get
20 you a form. You can turn it in and then we'll
21 call your name up.

22 Here is essentially how it is going to
23 work. We've got, you know, upwards of
24 twenty-five or thirty folks that have already
25 completed cards that would like to speak

1 tonight, which is fantastic. And we're, we're
2 here all night. But we will ask you to please
3 respect a time limit that we are going to put
4 in, we're going to ask that you speak for three
5 minutes. And the way the process is going to
6 work and - if I could have everybody's
7 attention, please. A couple things that are
8 important to remember is, you've got multiple
9 ways to provide public comment. You can speak
10 here tonight, for which we've got - can I have
11 your attention, please. There's multiple ways
12 to provide public comment and we want you to
13 understand, each of these avenues is equally
14 important and the comments provided will all be
15 weighed equally. So you've got the opportunity
16 to come speak at the mic within three minutes,
17 you've got the opportunity to go online and
18 submit through an online form at
19 coastal.la.gov, you can also send us an e-mail,
20 and you can still handwrite us a note as well.
21 All of those forms will be captured and will be
22 published in the final Master Plan appendix.
23 So all these public comments we receive through
24 all these avenues will be provided that way.

25 Can y'all hear me pretty good in the back

1 with this one? Okay. All right. So we've got
2 the quite a few comment forms that have been
3 turned in, I'm going to call them in the order
4 in which it was received. There's a couple
5 things that I would like to say - a couple of
6 things that I would like to say. If you have
7 your form and it's completed make sure you pass
8 it back in, when we get it we'll put it in our
9 stack. We want to get to everybody that's been
10 here with us all night. We want to start our
11 public comment period now. When you come up to
12 the mic please state your name and if you're
13 representing an organization please say the
14 organization. And then we'll be keeping time
15 up here and let you know when you're at a
16 two-minute warning, a one-minute warning, and
17 then when your time is up. We're going to
18 start with Representative Jerome Zeringue.
19 Representative Zeringue, come up. And while
20 you're coming up, I would like to recognize
21 Representative Tanner Magee who did show up
22 here a little later on during the presentation.
23 We appreciate your being here, Representative
24 Magee. And we would like to thank Simone Maloz
25 with Restore or Retreat for all the gifts and

1 goodies that the organization was able to
2 provide all of us here. Following
3 Representative Zeringue will be Mr. Donald
4 Lirette, he's been here a long time. Mr.
5 Donald, you'll be next.

6 MR. ZERINGUE:

7 Thank you, Nick. And it was Simone's
8 birthday on Friday, by the way. Mr. Bradberry
9 and members of the CPRA, again, having
10 participated in the process I have a deep
11 appreciation for the work and the science and
12 engineering that was involved. And thank you
13 all for putting this together and coming here
14 tonight, and thank you public for the
15 participation. A couple things I want to touch
16 on, I don't want to repeat, I'll be brief and
17 I'll provide written comments. But there's a
18 few things in the plan, obviously, that are
19 important and as Secretary Bradberry indicated,
20 it's important that you all get up here and
21 make comments because I can assure you when the
22 2012 Master Plan was completed, it changed from
23 the draft process to when the public comments
24 were heard. So I, - it just doesn't fall of
25 deaf ears, so it's important that you get up

1 and make comments.

2 A few things, obviously the Houma
3 navigation channel - flood gate, lock complex
4 is important and we encourage you to - we
5 would encourage you guys to expedite that as
6 much as possible from the flood protection
7 aspect but also the environmental aspect.

8 Considering that Atchafalaya is going to be a
9 critical component in terms of addressing marsh
10 creation and sustain that marsh. In looking at
11 the marsh creation project, and I don't know if
12 it's possible, but it might be helpful if we
13 had the region up on the screen. I don't know,
14 but - you don't have to do it now. But, oh,
15 it blinds you? That might be good, you won't
16 have to see us. But at least one of the things
17 in terms of the marsh creation when you're
18 looking at it, I think important aspects to
19 consider in terms of the earliest marsh
20 creation when - which is in the near-term
21 category is eleven to twelve years off. And
22 part of that creation, I think, is going to be
23 utilizing the Atchafalaya, but the sediment
24 source hasn't been identified. And that's why
25 I would encourage you all - and the parish

1 president indicated the sediment pipeline
2 project. Not only would it be important in
3 terms of providing that capability to build the
4 wetlands, similar to the long distance sediment
5 pipeline, we believe you could do it cheaper,
6 you could do it quicker. And the sediment
7 source is in the plan although they haven't
8 been identified. The good thing about the
9 sediment pipeline project in the Atchafalaya,
10 keeping with the intent of the Master Plan,
11 taking sediment from outside the system and
12 bringing it in.

13 The pipeline would also be important in
14 trying to get sediment to the eastern portion
15 of the parish. You're going to hear from
16 everyone else how critical it is. And that bay
17 rim function is going to be important. We need
18 to establish and try to reintroduce - I know
19 it was in the 2012 plan, putting in the bay rim
20 function on Lake Barre. Because if you don't
21 have anything, you've seen here the unfortunate
22 reality of a without project.' We are going
23 to do one of two things, either you are going
24 to establish a rim along Lake Barre or just
25 start armoring the Morganza to the gulf system

1 right now. Just, as Gordy would say, put rocks
2 all over it. Because the unfortunate reality
3 is that is going to be the last line in the
4 sand and we don't need it to be. And I think
5 there are opportunities if we start now to
6 establish that rim and then use the pipeline to
7 provide sediment to restore and maintain those
8 projects. I think it will be critical in
9 establishing that marsh. I have a few more
10 comments, I think, on the Annual Plan and I'll
11 submit some written ones, but I'll keep it
12 within my three minutes. And thank you all for
13 coming.

14 MR. SPEYRER:

15 Thank you, Representative Zeringue.
16 Donald Lirette, you're next. Ms. Suzanne
17 Carlos, if you're still here, you'll be next.

18 MR. LIRETTE:

19 I want to thank y'all for coming to Houma.
20 I want to take y'all back in time because I've
21 been involved in coastal restoration from the
22 beginning. I'm originally from Dulac and over
23 the years I've, I've had my hands in just about
24 everything from the (inaudible) to the creation
25 of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

1 which I chaired for three terms. We were the
2 catalyst that got the whole coastal restoration
3 movement going. Back in those days we had to
4 look at reality, dollars, what could be done
5 for the few dollars that we had. I understand
6 today we got money burning holes in our
7 pockets. So maybe we should look and rethink
8 what our desires and our wishes were back then.

9 One of the things that I have experienced
10 back then was an idea from a brilliant
11 scientist, a good friend of mine, Dr. Shay
12 Pinlon from New Orleans, from UNO, about
13 slurring sand from Ship Shoal, which is a
14 sediment source, inside the barrier island
15 which would change the dynamics of coastal
16 restoration. It sounded like a good idea but
17 the other restraint that held us back was
18 money. We were hoping within twenty-five years
19 to have \$1 billion to restore coastal
20 Louisiana.

21 A lot of the small projects we're doing
22 today wouldn't have to be done if we displaced
23 water volume inside the barrier islands and
24 build land mass. Engineer Bob Jones of
25 Terrebonne Parish made the remark to me when I

1 was chairing the coalition that if we slowed
2 the tidal prism we would be most effective.
3 When the Corps held its meeting here several
4 years later I got up to the microphone and
5 said, "Okay. What we can afford and what
6 Terrebonne Parish wants is barrier islands,
7 barrier islands, and barrier islands," because
8 in practicality that's what we could afford.

9 Today, now that we got money burning holes
10 in our pocket, I think we should look back at
11 it and say, "Why don't we have the courage to
12 change the dynamics inside the barrier islands
13 and build land mass?" Then we might not have
14 to do all these small projects. So it's
15 something to consider.

16 The last point that I wanted to make was
17 local employment. You have people on the
18 bayous that's losing their culture because
19 they're having to move away. They're losing
20 jobs because of erosion. I don't see anything
21 in the Master Plan that promotes a percentage
22 of local employment put into the Master Plan.

23 And then, of course, I'm going to leave a
24 legacy behind. I told my grandchildren that
25 when I go I hope that they don't have to buoy

1 off my property to remember where it was. I've
2 been flooded six times and it's not a good
3 feeling.

4 I thank y'all. I'm going to submit this
5 in written comments and give y'all some more of
6 my ideas. But I wanted to share that with
7 everybody tonight that in Terrebonne Parish I
8 don't think it's just barrier islands, barrier
9 islands, barrier islands anymore. I think it's
10 let's get the water out and rebuild some land
11 mass. Thank y'all.

12 MR. SPEYRER:

13 Thank you. Suzanne Carlos, are you here?
14 Up next will be Herdis, or Hendis, Neil.

15 MS. CARLOS:

16 Good evening, thank you. One of our most
17 significant and urgent issues facing our state,
18 as we all know here, is the loss of our coast.
19 Louisiana's land loss crisis requires a
20 comprehensive suite of restoration projects
21 including barrier islands, marsh creation,
22 hydrologic restoration, ridge restoration,
23 shoreline protection, and oyster reef
24 restoration.

25 I ask the State to focus funding on large

1 scale restoration projects first so there's a
2 greater impact over time and to support
3 investments made in our other restoration and
4 risk reduction projects. I support the
5 continued restoration and maintenance of
6 barrier islands and headland. This is an
7 important component of our coastal restoration
8 and should be prioritized and funded. In
9 addition to the revenue coming to the state
10 over the next fifteen years from the BP
11 settlement, the people of Louisiana and its
12 leaders must develop additional and reliable
13 revenue streams to fund the entire Master Plan.

14 To secure the stable future for coastal
15 Louisiana I support the use of the land
16 building power of the Mississippi and the
17 Atchafalaya Rivers to the greatest extent
18 possible. And finally, I urge the State to
19 take advantage of the incredible economic and
20 job creation opportunities that would be
21 available with the advancement of the Master
22 Plan. Recent analysis has shown the water
23 management sector is the fastest growing job
24 sector in Louisiana's coastal zone with an
25 average salary of almost \$70,000.00. Over the

1 next ten years nearly 60,000 jobs could be
2 supported by investments in restoration, jobs
3 that are sorely needed.

4 So I thank you for the past work in the
5 Terrebonne and the Barataria Basins and I thank
6 you for the expanded outreach for the 2017
7 Master Plan.

8 MR. SPEYRER:

9 Could you state your name and organization
10 real fast?

11 MS. CARLOS:

12 Suzanne Carlos, and I'm a resident of
13 Houma, Terrebonne Parish.

14 MR. SPEYRER:

15 Thank you, Suzanne.

16 MS. CARLOS:

17 Thank you.

18 MR. SPEYRER:

19 Herdis Neil. And then up next will be
20 Warren Coco.

21 MR. NEIL:

22 Thank you, guys, for giving us this
23 opportunity to speak in regard to our coastal
24 restoration problems. I haven't changed my, I
25 haven't changed my stand on first line of

1 defense. I heard it so far three times
2 tonight, the meeting I attended maybe twelve,
3 thirteen years ago, eighty to ninety percent of
4 the public spoke about repairing our barrier
5 islands, restoring our barrier islands. If you
6 look at the maps that we've been looking at
7 today you can see where the pass is, one island
8 is completely gone, eight miles wide.

9 You're going to spend \$112, \$113 million
10 on the barrier island and I'm opposed to it.
11 Not that the barrier islands shouldn't be
12 maintained, I see no sense in it. It's like -
13 I'm a cattle producer, okay? It's like, I'm
14 going to put this fence right here, brand new,
15 put some steel posts, nothing that an elephant
16 can't go through it, but all the other three
17 sides are wide open. We're going to spend
18 money, we spent money on Raccoon Island, we
19 spent money on Wine Island, I even did one of
20 the plantings there. I'm a wetland plant
21 producer and I'm a cattleman. And the money
22 that we spent - I mean, I make a lot of money
23 planting grass. I wish I would never have to
24 plant another grass in my life, that means we
25 solved our problem. And until we solve the

1 salt water intrusion we're not going to solve
2 our problem.

3 We could recreate marsh in the Lake Barre
4 rim, Terrebonne Bay rim - and I spoke about
5 this the last time it was first mentioned to
6 U.S. Marine Fishery, Wildlife and Fisheries, or
7 one of the Fisheries was going to be the owner
8 of this thing. We were going to create, at
9 that time it was 435 acres, based on money I
10 guess we can't - we can only do so much. But
11 we don't solve the problem. We could build
12 these marshes with the plants like I'm doing
13 every year, year in year out, and I do ninety
14 percent of all the districts in the state of
15 Louisiana with plants. Ten years later that's
16 all gone because we haven't solved the problem
17 that made the plants disappear to start with.

18 And I made the analogy earlier in the day.
19 It's like changing the carpet in the house but
20 we don't have a roof and it rains every week.
21 We're doing the same things with our coastal
22 protection projects. We're creating more,
23 newer, and advanced technology to figure out
24 where we're losing the most land but we're not
25 solving the problem of why we're losing the

1 most land. We're losing the most land in the
2 Barataria Bay because Wine Island is gone,
3 eight miles wide. You could put all the money
4 you want on the Whiskey Island, Wine Island,
5 Timbalier Island - I mean, excuse me, not Wine
6 Island - all these other islands with an eight
7 mile gap in between. It's like, kind of like
8 we did with the (inaudible), it really has
9 nothing to connect to it that say that we
10 actually have started protecting Terrebonne
11 Parish. I don't think our levees are completed
12 and we spent a lot of money putting the gate
13 in. That's like myself in the cattle business,
14 it's like, go put a brand new gate, a real nice
15 gate, but I have no fence. And that's how I
16 see what we've been doing with what the levee
17 did.

18 I don't mean to be critical of the people
19 in charge. We can only spend so much money but
20 if we save enough money on these island
21 projects, put that money to the barrier island
22 restoration fund that Mr. Gordy Dove created
23 many years ago. And when we got enough money
24 let's go rebuild Wine Island. We put rocks
25 around these other islands and still what's

1 happening to those islands now with rocks? I
2 don't know what the cost is going to be. I
3 know it's going to cost us a lot to grab sand.
4 But we could do some maintenance projects on
5 these barrier islands, creating new marsh which
6 is what the plan calls for, and I might even
7 get the job to go plant the grass. I don't
8 really want it, I would rather we save that
9 money and rebuild, rebuild Wine Island and
10 narrow the passes.

11 So many engineers in Lafayette tell me,
12 "Herdis, we got so much water here, if we close
13 the passes how are we going to get the water
14 out?" Well, guess what. If you don't open the
15 water in your faucet you ain't going to get
16 none in your bathtub. You know? If we close
17 these passes, narrow these passes with rock,
18 both ends, east and west of all the passes
19 across south Louisiana; and the reason the
20 island is built there is that's a formation
21 1,500 feet down of rock and shale. I've been
22 in the oil field for twenty-eight years, we
23 need to do some geological work to find out
24 where across the state of Louisiana we can
25 actually build the land that can sustain the

1 weight of the top of the levee we need to
2 protect Louisiana.

3 All right. That's all I have to say. And
4 our biggest enemy has been the Corps of
5 Engineers since they dammed off the river and
6 did not do a comprehensive barrier restoration
7 or maintenance project. This is on the federal
8 government, now we're taxing ourselves to
9 repair it.

10 MR. SPEYRER:

11 Thank you, Mr. Herdis. Warren Coco
12 followed by Steven Rockweiler.

13 MR. COCO:

14 My name is Warren Coco, I'm the founder
15 and owner of Godell Manufacturers. I'm
16 sixty-two years old and have been an avid water
17 fowl hunter for almost fifty years. All my
18 days of duck hunting started up towards
19 Manchac, then moved on to Pass A Loutre, then
20 went on to Hackberry, Louisiana and to the
21 Maurepas Swamp. And that played out through
22 the (inaudible) vegetation, I was fortunate
23 enough to buy about 1,600 acres of marsh in
24 Cameron Parish, southwest of Hackberry,
25 Louisiana.

1 I've also been blessed with the
2 opportunity to purchase interest in a 2,200
3 acre cotton and soy bean farm located on the
4 Red and Black Rivers in Catahoula Parish. I
5 manage both of these properties for water fowl.

6 I've been hunting and fishing on the coast
7 of Louisiana for forty-four years and I've seen
8 firsthand the loss from the coastal erosion.
9 One of my best acquisition spots is now 300
10 yards in the Gulf of Mexico. In my travels
11 across the coast I got to meet a lot of
12 old-timers and heard the stories of hunting and
13 fishing years ago. One comment made after
14 Hurricane Betsy to me by the manager of the
15 Pass A Loutre Wildlife, Pass A Loutre WMA, is
16 that the only way we are going to save this
17 land is to dynamite the passes. This is now
18 being done and they are called diversions.

19 I can remember when Christmas trees was
20 being collected and placed between fences to
21 try to build settlements. This process has
22 pretty much been abandoned now that terraces
23 were being constructed. Diversion, terraces,
24 and pumping (inaudible) is the only way we are
25 going to save what we have left. Saving the

1 coast of Louisiana is going to be a very
2 expensive process, I know this firsthand. I've
3 done wetlands restoration process for my
4 property in Hackberry to restore the high
5 (inaudible) as it used to be before the slip
6 channels were dug on the Sabine and Calcasieu.
7 I purchased a marsh bug yesterday to do this
8 project. I built two and a half miles of
9 terrace and levees, I am in the process of
10 building a protection levee two miles long
11 (inaudible) they planted grass on all of it.

12 I have applied - I have not applied for
13 any federal or state funding for this project.
14 I paid the entire bill out of my pocket. Thus
15 when they want to donate structures on my
16 property or when conservation needs to go on my
17 property in Cameron with Ducks Unlimited and
18 the (inaudible) Trust. Ducks Unlimited
19 received for \$480,000.00 (inaudible) for
20 projects. Ducks Unlimited has now applied for
21 (inaudible) for the work I'm currently doing
22 for \$594,000.00 which will be spent on wetland
23 projects. I am proud to be a part of the coast
24 and also to generate funds to do more.

25 One thing that really upsets me is the

1 people who cry about money being spent on the
2 rich man's property. They need to understand
3 most of the wetlands in the state are private
4 ownership and the landowner's pay taxes on it.
5 I'm going to put a few (inaudible) and retire
6 from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and
7 work for Ducks Unlimited on a landowner project
8 who is now retired. He said, "Show the poor
9 man with some property with a project and we'll
10 be happy to do one on his property."

11 When I was out this morning I seen
12 different people objecting to these diversions
13 because the fresh water would change the their
14 fishing. These are probably the same people
15 that are fishing where their grandfathers once
16 trapped twenty-five years ago. I made a
17 statement that I could fix the coast of
18 Louisiana, give me the keys to the big monster,
19 the Army Corps of Engineers. I'll make the
20 Mississippi River flow west of Texas but you
21 have to tell all the government interests to go
22 you know where.

23 The process now proposed in the Master
24 Plan is going to negatively affect some people.
25 You can never make anyone happy, they need to

1 look at the whole big picture the greater good
2 of the wetlands. I totally support the Master
3 Plan as proposed with all its projects, none of
4 these projects will directly affect my property
5 but over the long-term it will protect my
6 property and the properties around me. I feel
7 every sportsman needs to get behind this Master
8 Plan and also support the organizations such as
9 Ducks Unlimited, (inaudible) Paradise, and
10 other organizations that are dedicated to
11 preserving our wetlands. Thank you for giving
12 me the opportunity to express my thoughts on
13 this plan.

14 MR. SPEYRER:

15 Thank you, Warren. Next to speak is
16 Steven Rockweiler followed by Reggie Dupre.
17 I'm going to say it again, we don't want to be
18 in the business of shutting the door on
19 anybody, we really want to hear from you today.
20 But we also want to be respectful of everybody
21 that, that's here as well. So keep an eye to
22 my left, your right, and we'll keep you posted
23 with where we are with our time limit.

24 MR. ROCKWEILER:

25 I'll try to be three minutes. Some very

1 good information from these two gentlemen here
2 on the passes and the changing the prism of the
3 tidal flow problem. I've been fishing since I
4 was a kid in both Barataria and Terrebonne
5 systems, and it's very true. My name is Steve
6 Rockweiler and I, I live in Luling, Louisiana
7 and I've hunted, fished, and crabbed in the
8 northern regions of that Barataria Bay system
9 all my life. I now, with a group called
10 Louisiana Sportsman's Coalition, we're a group
11 of 7,000 members. And we have just partnered
12 maybe two weeks ago, with a Louisiana fishing
13 group who has a Louisiana fishing blog on
14 Facebook, and they have 47,000 members. And
15 we're fixing to partner up with two other large
16 sportsman's groups.

17 We are very concerned about our ability to
18 access the Sportsman's Paradise, not only for
19 ourselves but for our children, our
20 grandchildren, and after them. Eighty percent
21 of our coastal marshes are now privately owned.
22 There are small land owners in there but most
23 of them are major oil companies and land
24 companies. We have an issue in this state that
25 the other forty-nine states don't have, and

1 that is water access. The public trust states
2 that no matter who buys, sells, or owns these
3 marshlands, that the public trust is always
4 kept. In other words the public has the right
5 to access the waterways, I'm not talking about
6 the land.

7 We are against - we're not against
8 private ownership of coastal areas or their
9 rights. But we also feel we have rights. When
10 you brought up heritage, we're losing that
11 heritage because we're being locked out of the
12 marsh and it's gotten bad in the last two
13 years. People are calling us, shrimpers and
14 crabbers are telling us they're being asked to
15 give ten, fifteen thousand to go shrimping and
16 crabbing in bays that they did for generations.

17 Now, I'm old enough to have witnesses a
18 lot of what's going on. I graduated in 1971, I
19 went on a drilling rig for a year and we went
20 in canals, came out of canals, went in with the
21 drilling rig. And I saw the process of a lot
22 of our problems. We, we just can't see
23 spending \$50 billion of taxpayer funds on
24 eighty percent - or most of the projects on
25 private properties when we are being told we

1 can't access it, the waterways.

2 We, we just, we have a lot of different
3 groups coming to us now that are having
4 trouble. And two of the parishes where they're
5 having a lot of trouble is Lafourche and
6 Terrebonne. They've been arrested, they've
7 been threatened, even with weapons. We had two
8 gentlemen the spoke with legislators recently
9 who came from out of state, one of them from
10 Missouri, that went through a big outfitter's
11 group that's trying to funnel people into here
12 for hunting and fishing trips, and they're
13 being - one of them was threatened and he
14 wrote a letter to the legislator.

15 So we've just got to look at this and try
16 to come up with something with the big
17 stakeholders because they're creating a lot of
18 issues with a lot of our members and, like I
19 said, as we grow then we're going to have to
20 look at other avenues. Thank you.

21 MR. SPEYRER:

22 Thank you. Senator Reggie Dupre followed
23 by Mark Black. Senator Dupre.

24 SENATOR DUPRE:

25 Thank you. Reggie Dupre, Executive

1 Director of Terrebonne Levee and Conservation
2 District. Before beginning, Parish President
3 Dove was so nervous he forgot to mention his
4 council members that were here, Mr. Al Marmande
5 and Steve Trosclair. And I want to introduce
6 my commissioners. Of the nine commissioners I
7 have three of them here, Board President Tony
8 Alford, Jack Moore, and Danny Walker's all
9 here. So three of my nine commissioners are
10 here.

11 I'm very proud of what our team here
12 tonight, for multiple reasons, very proud of
13 the work I've seen as the, you know, this is
14 the third Master Plan. The lead author of the
15 bill that started CPRA back in the wake of
16 Hurricane Katrina, we've seen great things in
17 the State of Louisiana. I want to thank all of
18 you at CPRA for your hard work and dedication
19 in moving the state forward.

20 I'm very - I'm also proud of the people
21 of south central Louisiana to have this kind of
22 crowd here tonight. Twenty-five years ago you
23 could have had this meeting in a broom closet
24 and you wouldn't have had to move the broom and
25 the mop out of the way. There wasn't that much

1 interest in these issues many years ago. But
2 it has now grown as a matter of survival for
3 us.

4 I'm very, very pleased that the state has
5 been our partner on building, without federal
6 appropriations, the federal
7 Morganza-to-the-Gulf Hurricane Protection
8 System. Today, as Parish President Dove said,
9 we move forward on the next big flood gate
10 project together with the state and the parish
11 helping to put up some CDBG dollars. That's
12 going to mean close to \$400 million of
13 improvements, close to \$400 million of
14 improvements along, along this levee alignment
15 that's going to be done with zero federal
16 appropriations.

17 Herdis, I have to respectfully disagree
18 with one of the things you said. We did not
19 build above the Dell floodgate and not connect
20 levees. As of the summer, as of the 2017
21 hurricane season, thirty-five miles of levee
22 and flood gates will be connected between Bayou
23 Point au Chene and Bayou Dularge. We are now
24 moving further east in Lafourche Parish and
25 further west with the beginning of the

1 (inaudible) Canal floodgate. So I'm hoping by
2 the time I retire that we will have at least
3 about sixty miles of this system that will be
4 to some level of protection.

5 There's only, the only little bit of
6 sadness I have on this, on this Master Plan is
7 there needs to be multiple lines of defense as
8 Senator Chabert, Parish President Dove, Jerome
9 Zeringue stated, Representative Jerome
10 Zeringue. I'm a native of Pont Chene. So it's
11 a little bit ironic that the creator of CPRA's
12 home area, Pont Chene, Montague area, is going
13 to be sacrificed. It will be sacrificed
14 because of not having an extra line of defense
15 whether it be the rim around Lake Barre and
16 Lake Felicity area or the twin pipelines right
17 there. There has to be another line of defense
18 between the barrier islands and the Morganza
19 line. Because, like Jerome said, if not we
20 better look like building a huge flood wall in
21 that area. Thank you very much.

22 MR. SPEYRER:

23 Thank you, Representative. Mark Black
24 followed by Ms. Jane Arnett.

25 MR. BLACK:

1 Thank you, Nick, Johnny, Mr. Chairman,
2 Mike, Bren. First, I want to recognize the
3 people who have come down every year, different
4 students each time, but nevertheless the
5 University of Buffalo, to help us with a very
6 small, very inexpensive little coastal
7 restoration project we've been working on for a
8 number of years and it has had some effect.
9 Those students are here tonight, they're from
10 the University of Buffalo, and I would like
11 them to stand. Would y'all stand, please? A
12 great group of kids, and I think this is very
13 educational for them to learn about our
14 problems here in Louisiana. They don't have
15 the same problems in, in New York where they're
16 from, but nevertheless they are very
17 interested.

18 I want to echo Senator Dupre's comments.
19 I appreciate the work that you put in to the,
20 to the Master Plan, there's no doubt about
21 that. I was part of the framework development
22 team sort of near the end. I know there's a
23 lot of effort that went into it and we've
24 mentioned this numerous times. That first line
25 of defense for eastern Terrebonne Parish is

1 critical if we do not have that lake rim, land
2 bridge, whatever you want to call it, those
3 restored barrier islands, Reggie is going to
4 have to armor the hell out of ridge J2 because
5 in a very short period of time - it will be
6 twenty-five miles of open water between what's
7 left of Timbalier and that levee. So please,
8 let's try to figure out what we can do in
9 eastern Terrebonne Parish. That is the most
10 critical area in the parish right now. It's in
11 danger of being lost. Thank you very much.

12 MR. SPEYRER:

13 Thank you, Mark. Miss Jane. Simone Maloz
14 you're next.

15 MS. ARNETT:

16 Jane Arnett. I'm the Executive Director
17 of South Central Industrial Association. We
18 are a group of 250 businesses located in the
19 tri-parish area of Terrebonne, Lafourche, and
20 St. Mary Parishes. We represent the 250
21 companies that are engaged in the Gulf of
22 Mexico and all around the world. Our primary
23 focus is the oil, gas, and marine industries of
24 this area.

25 From a coastal protection aspect of this

1 plan, we support Terrebonne, Lafourche, and St.
2 Mary's efforts. With the founder of the CPRA
3 in our back yard, Reggie; and the ruler of the
4 coastal issues, Windell Curole; the experience
5 of Jerome Zeringue, we believe they got it and
6 we support their efforts tremendously.

7 So I'm going to focus in quickly on
8 another aspect that the SCIA is particularly
9 interested in. Over the next ten years nearly
10 60,000 jobs will be supported by investment
11 through restoration. One of the things that we
12 encourage is that you use local people to do
13 these jobs, it is critical. We have major
14 community colleges all around the coast that
15 are ready and willing to train our workforce.
16 SCIA is committed to workforce and hopefully we
17 will look at our local people in supplying
18 these jobs. And we're talking about these
19 coastal jobs with a good salary of about
20 \$70,000.00 per job, and we encourage that.
21 SCIA provides, and it takes pride in our
22 efforts with workforce development, in
23 enhancing the economic benefit for our area.

24 MR. SPEYRER:

25 Thank you, Jane. Simone, then Ted

1 Falgout.

2 MS. MALOZ:

3 Thank you. Good evening. Y'all did
4 forget my birthday so thank you very much. So
5 I'm going to focus on a couple of things that
6 haven't been covered tonight. We will submit
7 detailed written comments, and we do agree with
8 many, many of the that was, or that was already
9 said here tonight by the speakers before us,
10 and I'm sure after us. But we want to focus on
11 a couple of things.

12 You know, we want to thank you for the
13 work that's already been done here. Certainly
14 Caminada is a source of pride for us. As an
15 NGO we love to take people to a project and
16 they can see it in front of them. And, of
17 course, it has valuable protection to Port
18 Fourchon and the people of Lafourche. Bayou
19 Lafourche also provides drinking water to
20 hundreds of thousands of residents. Again, we
21 want to thank you for the projects already on
22 the ground.

23 We were not involved, as involved, in the
24 previous Master Plans and so I want to thank
25 you again today. I know that it is often a

1 thankless job. I appreciate the tough
2 decisions that you have to make with the
3 limited time, money, resources. And I have a
4 new appreciation for the process and the
5 thousands of hours, and e-mails, and phone
6 calls that have been put into this process.
7 And it's, it's kind of funny it comes down to
8 meetings like this. And Bren, and you guys
9 have worked on this for years, and years, and
10 years. And so I want to recognize that, that
11 I've seen you do that, and there's many nights
12 that you've stayed awake trying to solve our
13 problems. So we appreciate that.

14 So in that spirit I also want to thank you
15 for opening up the play book on outreach. We
16 were proud to partner with you guys on the data
17 viewer. It's amazing that people can put in
18 their address and be able to see the
19 challenges, but also the opportunities. And
20 opening up that play book to the data viewer
21 also led us to those community conversations.
22 So I don't know who thought about that, feeding
23 them supper, and idea. But that sure was a
24 great idea.

25 We also could not do it alone. We have

1 tremendous support from people like the Greater
2 New Orleans Foundation, and right here locally,
3 the Bayou Community Foundation. They have
4 supported us to help you guys expand that
5 outreach. And we look forward to iterations of
6 that to come with also the support of, Fourchon
7 Oilman's Association. So we want to thank you
8 for opening up the play book, and being
9 receptive, and for engaging those folks. We do
10 think that that has led to a deeper engagement
11 and a better understanding even here tonight.

12 So we would like to comment lots of things
13 on lots of projects, barrier islands, increase
14 Atchafalaya. Maybe that should be in the
15 central and not southwest, don't give them
16 credit for that, that needs to be a central and
17 southeast coast. But we'll detail those
18 comments, we wanted to hit on those areas
19 tonight. So thank you.

20 MR. SPEYRER:

21 Thank you, Simone. Ted Falgout, Mac Wade
22 will be next.

23 MR. FALGOUT:

24 Chairman Bradberry, Ted Falgout. I've
25 been around as long as Donald Lirette said.

1 I've been involved in this initiative and I'm
2 very happy, you know, planning is a very
3 important part of this process. And you all
4 have put a lot of work into it. I'm very proud
5 to be a, a founding member of Restore or
6 Retreat and what Simone just said, I ditto
7 that.

8 The only thing I want to add, you know,
9 Restore or Retreat was formed with the intent
10 to support very large-scale coastal
11 restoration. And I cannot overemphasize the
12 importance of fresh water diversion, well,
13 sediment diversions I should say, so fresh
14 water is going to be a part of it, to this
15 system. And without that 800 pound gorilla as
16 our tool in restoration I think, you know, we
17 can support the Baratavia islands, we can
18 support the interim line of defense. But
19 unless you have a sustaining river diversion
20 system that will year in and year out come in
21 and rebuild and sustain automatically, without
22 investing additional dollars other than the
23 construction, we're just not going to be able
24 to achieve the level of success that we would
25 all want. Thank you.

1 MR. SPEYRER:

2 Thank you, Ted. Mac's coming up. Jay
3 Walker, you'll be next.

4 MR. WADE:

5 Mr. Chairman, members of the CPRA, thank
6 you very much for giving me this chance to be
7 here tonight. I'm Mac Wade, Executive Director
8 for the Port of Morgan City. On behalf of the
9 Port of Morgan City I have the following
10 comments regarding CPRA's 2017 draft coastal
11 Master Plan. We are in support of the marsh
12 creation of Point au Fer remaining in the 2017
13 coastal Master Plan. Point au Fer serves as
14 the first line of defense for Morgan City, East
15 St. Mary, and western Terrebonne during a
16 hurricane. We also support a long-distance
17 settlement pipeline which would be
18 strategically placed in the Atchafalaya River
19 to send the sediment to East Terrebonne marsh
20 creation. We propose using settlement from the
21 Atchafalaya River for either of these, or for
22 both of these projects which would help remove
23 constraints and allow the river to flow out to
24 the Gulf of Mexico, providing flood reduction
25 of Morgan city and East St. Mary.

1 While the increase in flow to Terrebonne
2 is intended to create the marsh in eastern
3 Terrebonne, the Port of Morgan City has
4 concerns of its possible affects on Bayou
5 Chene, the Atchafalaya River to the Gulf.
6 Adequate modeling has not been done yet
7 regarding velocity or additional settlement
8 accumulations. We request that through valued
9 engineering you investigate decreasing waters
10 from Lake Maurette through Lake Kleward and
11 Bayou Boeuf, and reducing the flow from the,
12 off the Atchafalaya River to the proposed
13 areas. We ask that you look into the
14 possibility that this might accomplish your
15 goals with less impact on industry.

16 Finally, the Port of Morgan City is in
17 support of the St. Mary Levee District, Bayou
18 Chene flood protection and diversion project,
19 and encourage you to include the projects in
20 the final 2017 Master Plan. This project
21 enhances the natural flow of water from Lake
22 Maurette to eastern Terrebonne. We also
23 support the advancement and full implementation
24 of the St. Mary backwater flooding from Morgan
25 City, St. Mary flood protection, and Bayou

1 Teche flood protection areas as requested by
2 the St. Mary Levee District.

3 In closing I would like to note that the
4 projects we are supporting are regional in
5 nature. They would each provide benefits to
6 Terrebonne, St. Mary Parish, and some of the -
7 in some instances Assumption, St. Martin,
8 Iberville, Lafourche Parishes would all benefit
9 as well. And just one other little quick note.
10 Mr. Bradberry, you told me many - I come
11 before y'all all the time, many, many meetings.
12 You said you need to find something to
13 piggy-back on, a project in the area. Well, it
14 looks like the Atchafalaya has finally found a
15 friend. It looks like we can get some traction
16 on trying to maybe get a long-distance
17 settlement pipeline.

18 So thank y'all again very much for all
19 y'all's assistance and help.

20 MR. SPEYRER:

21 Thank you, Mac. Jay is coming up. Chett
22 Chiasson, you'll be next. And once again,
23 thanks to all our speakers for, for complying
24 with our small time limit here. We appreciate
25 it.

1 MR. WALKER:

2 Good evening, Mr. Bradberry, other members
3 of CPRA. Thank y'all for coming to Houma in
4 Terrebonne Parish where we are experiencing
5 impact, and land loss, and the risk of tidal
6 flooding more than most in our state. My name
7 is Jay Walker and I'm the chairman of the
8 Morganza Action Coalition. It's a grassroots
9 advocacy group formed in 2006 to promote the
10 Morganza-to-the-Gulf Hurricane Protection
11 System as critical protection for Terrebonne
12 and Lafourche Parishes. This year we have also
13 expanded our work to support the levee projects
14 of the north Lafourche Levee District and south
15 Lafourche Levee Districts in addition to the
16 work of the Terrebonne Levee and Conservation
17 District on the Morganza project.

18 We are pleased to see the Morganza system
19 once again proposed for the inclusion in the
20 2017 Master Plan. MAC urges the CPRA, Governor
21 Edwards, and the Louisiana legislature to
22 continue to make the completion of this system,
23 particularly the H&C Lock Complex a high
24 priority for funding in our state's integrated
25 coastal protection and restoration plan. The

1 Morganza levee, lock, and flood gate system
2 consists of approximately ninety-eight miles of
3 earthen levee, twenty-two flood gates on
4 navigable waterways, twenty-three environmental
5 water control structures, a lock complex in the
6 Houma, and adjoining flood gates and dam
7 enclosures. After nearly thirty years of
8 studies on the marshland system it was
9 federally authorized by congress in 2014.

10 Morganza is designed to protect more than
11 150,000 residents of Lafourche Parishes.
12 Morganza is also essential to the
13 sustainability, economic viability, and growth
14 of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes as well as
15 our ability to continue to fuel and feed this
16 entire nation. In fact, the entire Morganza
17 system and Lafourche levee tie-ins will go to
18 manage the gifts and protect the homes and
19 businesses of thousands of workers who provide
20 vital services to the Gulf of Mexico, energy
21 port of Port Fourchon, and not to mention miles
22 of pipelines and other critical infrastructure.
23 These reasons are why the Terrebonne, the
24 residents of Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes
25 have voted to tax themselves to fund

1 construction in the Morganza and other local
2 levees despite the federal government's
3 unwillingness to fund such a critical project
4 for our nation's energy and economic security.
5 The State of Louisiana has recognized the
6 importance of the Morganza as well as the Gulf
7 and thanks to the State appropriations and tax
8 revenue that they, like Reggie said, almost
9 \$400 million in local and state money has been
10 committed to or spent on the Morganza system.
11 And it's a federally approved system that
12 receives no federal funding.

13 MAC continues to aggressively advocate for
14 state and federal dollars to fund the
15 completion of the lock complex as soon as
16 possible as well as the remaining levee
17 segments and flood gates in the Morganza
18 system. This is critical to the survival of
19 our region. Also I must mention that it should
20 not be taken lightly that the restoration
21 efforts completed on the flood side of the
22 Morganza-to-the-Gulf project including the
23 barrier island, marsh creation, restoration,
24 ridge recreation, are all vital to long-term
25 survivability of the Morganza project and

1 reduces project maintenance costs that would be
2 viable for other restoration efforts.

3 Once again, thanks for coming here to
4 Terrebonne Parish and for recognizing the value
5 of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf plan. Our bayou
6 region community does not only need the
7 protection of the Morganza, we deserve it.
8 Thank y'all.

9 MR. SPEYRER:

10 Thank you, Jay. Chett. Randy Moertelle,
11 you're next.

12 MR. CHIASSON:

13 Good evening. Can I hold it? My name is
14 Chett Chiasson, I'm the Executive Director for
15 the Greater Lafourche Port Commission which, if
16 you don't know, is in charge of Port Fourchon
17 and the South Lafourche airport up in Galliano.
18 My port is the only elected port commission in
19 the state. Just a little caveat, just so you
20 know.

21 We really need to get the restoration done
22 now. We must act to secure a strong, safe, and
23 productive future for the people, the wildlife,
24 and the histories of coastal Louisiana. I'm
25 encouraged to see that the draft Master Plan

1 does include implementation periods that
2 prioritize how projects should be advanced over
3 time. And I'm supportive of the prioritization
4 of projects that are allocated funds regardless
5 of implementation periods. I also support the
6 Master Plan process. Now more than ever eyes
7 are on this ambitious restoration effort and
8 this undoubtedly includes any potential future
9 investors in the industry of coastal Louisiana.

10 The red, future without action map, which
11 is really a misnomer, but also causes my face
12 to get red because of my blood pressure rise,
13 conveys an unsustainable business environment
14 for many areas of shoreline coast including
15 Port Fourchon. However, since about the year
16 2000 Port Fourchon alone has created nearly a
17 thousand acres in mitigation activities, a
18 thousand acres of marsh. While we acknowledge
19 these independent efforts are hard to capture,
20 we must acknowledge the synergistic and
21 consistent efforts to improve the health of our
22 coastline. You have to grasp those projects.
23 There's numerous projects going on along the
24 coastline that we know, like I said, it's
25 difficult to grasp and capture. But there are,

1 there are projects going on by local entities,
2 state entities, that are not CPRA, and we need
3 to find a way to capture that and not paint
4 such a bleak picture, although it is. We don't
5 deny that. But there is, there are projects
6 going on that are not being recognized, and we
7 need to recognize those.

8 We need to put our existing funding
9 resources to work wisely and quickly and secure
10 additional resources to maintain as much as
11 Louisiana we all know and love. In addition to
12 the steady revenue stream coming to the state
13 for the next fifteen years the people of
14 Louisiana and its leaders much develop
15 additional and dependable revenue streams and
16 cost-saving opportunities such as bonding
17 projects to fund the Master Plan in its
18 entirety. The Greater Lafourche Commission has
19 experience in this area and we wish to offer us
20 as a resource for the state. Thank you.

21 MR. SPEYRER:

22 Thank you, Chett. Randy. Next up will be
23 Blaise LeCompte.

24 MR. MOERTELLE:

25 Okay. You can start the clock. My name

1 is Randy Moertelle. I would like to commend
2 all the planner, modelers, stakeholders that
3 work tirelessly developing this strategy plan.
4 My name is Randy Moertelle. I am the land
5 manager for 30,000 acres of marsh in western
6 Terrebonne Parish, not eastern, western called
7 Point au Fer Island. This island is south of
8 Morgan City. Okay? And I know Senator Chabert
9 got up and said, "It's doing great. The other
10 side is not doing well." That's not true. If
11 you talk to any of my lessees, duck hunters,
12 anybody on Point au Fer Island, it's falling
13 apart rapidly. Okay?

14 You do have a project in there, it is
15 13,000 acres of marsh creation. I am speaking
16 in support of that project, this one specific
17 project. It's ID Number 03.MC.09. Okay? And
18 it is a barrier island, it is a good barrier
19 island. It doesn't protect Houma, it protects
20 Morgan City. However, it's in Terrebonne
21 Parish, not St. Mary Parish.

22 So remember, we've had many, many people
23 talk about - President Dove talked about
24 multiple lines of defense, Senator Chabert
25 talked about science, Johnny Bradberry talked

1 about best science, Bren talked about improved
2 science and technical analysis, Z talked about
3 science, and Reggie Dupre talked about multiple
4 lines of defense. Well, a multiple line of
5 defense works, the closer it is to the Gulf,
6 that's the first speed bump and then as it
7 gets, it keeps knocking the, the storm surge
8 down. And Point au Fer Island is a very
9 important storm surge breaker. Okay?

10 And just to, just to give you an idea. In
11 the past forty-three years we've had three
12 hurricanes go directly over Point au Fer
13 Island. Hurricane Carmen in 1974 had a 150
14 mile an hour wind and it dropped to 120 after
15 passing directly over the island, it protected
16 Abbeville. Hurricane Babe in 1977 was a 75
17 mile per hour hurricane that went straight over
18 the island. Hurricane Andrew, and a lot of us
19 remember Hurricane Andrew very well, it went,
20 it went 140 miles per hour and dropped to 115
21 after passing over Point au Fer Island. It is
22 a very, very, very important island. And that
23 marsh creation, we want to keep it in there. I
24 am talking in support of it, I love it, that
25 it's there.

1 Now, a question that I had asked. I am
2 also a member of the landowner focus group.
3 And a question I had asked repeatedly in the
4 2012 plan, but it got thrown out. And I'm
5 going, "Why was it in the draft plan and then
6 it was thrown out?" I was not the manager of
7 Point au Fer Island at the time. I am now and
8 I'm going, "Okay. They said, Well, it scored
9 real high in the science but it got thrown out
10 politically.'" And I'm going, "Okay. Well,
11 then let's talk about the science this time.
12 We don't want it to get thrown out politically,
13 we want to keep it in because of the science."
14 On page ES11 of the plan it says, "At the
15 forefront of science and innovation,"
16 highlighted in brown. This is highlighted in
17 brown in y'all's plan. "The unprecedented
18 investment in coastal restoration in the last
19 ten years has put Louisiana in the forefront of
20 using science and innovation to a plan, a
21 sustainable future for our coastal communities,
22 and our valuable ecosystem. Our Master Plan
23 approach with its long-term view considerations
24 of climate change and integration of natural
25 system and community resilience now leads the

1 nation in large-scale ecosystem restoration
2 thinking. The modeling approach, designed
3 specifically to address the needs of the
4 planning process and providing quantitative
5 comparisons of options for actions, is used
6 across the world as a model for science-based
7 coastal decision making." Okay. Let's keep
8 that in mind.

9 Before Kareem left I said, "How well did
10 Point au Fer turn out in the model?" And it
11 turned out, number five. It was the number
12 five highest ranking marsh creation in the
13 state. Thank you.

14 MR. SPEYRER:

15 Thank you, Randy. Blaise. Marguerite
16 Knight Erwin, you're next.

17 MR. LECOMPTE:

18 Thanks for the opportunity to make
19 comments tonight. My name is Blaise LeCompte.
20 I'm from Chauvin, and part of a large family in
21 that area. And, you know, I was speaking
22 tonight about Mr. Donald and Herdis and, you
23 know, I go back - forty years ago, I could
24 still hear Norby's dad and my Uncle Jacob
25 talking about, we need to start doing things,

1 right? We've got to stop planning and studying
2 and start doing things. And I really feel
3 confident that we're starting to do some things
4 now.

5 I've got three items I'd like to talk
6 about real quick. One of them is outreach.
7 I'm a member and a park volunteer with Bayou
8 Grace that's sponsoring the students that came
9 in this week and I want us to promote, using
10 some of our local non-profits, to do some of
11 this outreach. We've got a lot of non-profits
12 around here and I think they have a good source
13 of contacts in the communities. Use them for
14 outreach.

15 The second one I was actually going to
16 talk about, about some of this tidal action
17 that we're seeing. It's a lot more active now
18 than it has been for a long time. And I was
19 actually going to talk about our camp out at
20 the north rim of Lake Barre, right at the
21 Schlitz camp everybody knows, right? And I can
22 remember sitting out there forty years ago and
23 there was a pipeline canal that was a dead end,
24 and it had a well head in it, and no water
25 flowed through there. That particular one now,

1 that well head is gone. But that, that dead
2 end is opened up now. All that marsh is just
3 flowing right into the bayou - Lake Barre.

4 You know, I was going to start talking
5 about that maybe we ought to block some of
6 these pipelines off again. But you know what?
7 This ring lip will do it, too, that we talked
8 about around Lake Barre. Right? It will do
9 the same thing that has blocking that
10 particular one. But that water action is just
11 tremendous coming through those areas now.

12 And then the last thing, again, is I would
13 like to also encourage us to use local workers
14 and local companies. I think that's very
15 important, I want to, you know, emphasize that.
16 Let's continue to use local workers. And
17 because we can put that in our contracts, that
18 we want to have preference to local companies,
19 you know, for a slight period. Okay? That's
20 it. Thank you.

21 MR. SPEYRER:

22 Thank you, Blaise. Marguerite. Jeff
23 Bordelon, you'll be next.

24 MS. KNIGHT ERWIN:

25 Good evening. I'm Marguerite Knight Erwin

1 and I am chairman of the Bayou Lafourche Area
2 Convention and Visitor's Bureau. And our coast
3 is one of the most unique and valuable
4 resources we have here in Louisiana. It's home
5 to millions of people and a natural habitat for
6 birds, fish, other wildlife. Our coast is
7 worth restoring and, above all else, saving.

8 Most everyone is familiar with Louisiana's
9 vast commercial fishing. But in Lafourche
10 Parish our number one tourist attraction is
11 recreational fishing. Tourists come from all
12 over the world to fish our waters, view our
13 wildlife, bird watch, see our swamps, and enjoy
14 our culinary treasures. We can't stand by and
15 continue to watch what we love float away.

16 So on behalf of Louisiana's Cajun Bayou,
17 or better known as Lafourche Parish Tourist
18 Commission, we are in support of the Master
19 Plan and those projects that protect fisheries,
20 wildlife, and our ecosystem all along the coast
21 while providing economic development as long as
22 they are based on sound science. On an
23 additional note, we want to thank you for the
24 recent work on Bayou Lafourche and the Caminada
25 project. We are grateful to see the inclusion

1 of the extensive marsh coalition - marsh
2 creation at Golden Meadow.

3 So on behalf of our tourist commission in
4 Lafourche Parish, thank you.

5 MR. SPEYRER:

6 Thank you, Marguerite. Jeff Bordelon.
7 Tim Matte, you're next, Tim.

8 MR. BORDELON:

9 Good evening. My name is Jeff Bordelon
10 and I work for EMR Southern Recycling in
11 Amelia. The 2017 Master Plan in its current
12 state will negatively impact Southern
13 Recycling, specifically our ability to bring in
14 larger ships for dismantling. And with this
15 increased sediment proposed with the Bayou
16 Boeuf locks will make it that much more
17 difficult. The Master Plan stands to
18 jeopardize the future viability of our facility
19 and the jobs of more than a hundred people that
20 support it. Southern Recycling believes that
21 any version of the Master Plan that causes
22 sediment must also include secure funds for the
23 dredging necessary to maintain the eighteen
24 feet of water depth to continue operating our
25 facility. We appreciate the opportunity to

1 meet with CPRA officials after this meeting to
2 work together on developing a Master Plan which
3 serves the interest of all the people and the
4 industries of southern Louisiana. Thank you.

5 MR. SPEYRER:

6 Thank you, Jeff. Tim. Eddie Callais,
7 you're next.

8 MR. MATTE:

9 Thank you. My name is Tim Matte, and I'm
10 the Executive Director of St. Mary Levee
11 District and I congratulate CPRA on the, on
12 this comprehensive plan and I think we look
13 forward to continuing to work with you on its
14 implementation. We are, we do have a few
15 comments, though, on specific projects.

16 First off, we would encourage the CPRA
17 Board to include the Bayou Chene protection and
18 diversion project in the 2017 plan. This is a
19 project that was included in the 2012 plan, and
20 I think it was included in the 2012 plan
21 primarily as a result of its successful
22 implementation on a temporary basis after the
23 2011 flood. It proved itself as effective,
24 consequently it was able to get in the plan.
25 And so we are disappointed that it is not

1 included in the plan this time despite the fact
2 that, once again, in 2016 we had to implement
3 the temporary structure. It's a project that,
4 that serves the entire region. It's, it's one
5 of vast importance to all of us and so we,
6 again, encourage you to include that in the
7 plan.

8 The second project we would like to
9 mention is the Morgan City back levee project.
10 This is a project that we have been
11 cooperatively working with CPRA in
12 implementing, and as such have implemented
13 significant portions of that project using both
14 State and local tax dollars. And so we're,
15 we're getting close on this particular project
16 to actually having the loop closed. And the
17 objective of which is to achieve a hundred year
18 protection. And it's fairly unique along the
19 coast of Louisiana. So with a small, tiny
20 investment by CPRA in this project, I we think
21 we can goal of a hundred year flood protection
22 for the Morgan City and surrounding St. Mary
23 Parish area. Our concern is that it is
24 included in the plan as a thirty to fifty year
25 implementation period and we would like to see

1 that moved forward where we can actually get
2 something done much quicker than that. You
3 know, as you know it's a working coast. And
4 that's the important factor that we're, we're
5 trying to address. We need to provide a place
6 where folks can, can both live and work on the
7 coast of Louisiana.

8 We also are interested in seeing a project
9 called the Bayou Teche flood protection
10 project. We think it's probably reflective of
11 some of the protection that's called for in
12 the, in the Iberia, St. Mary project that's
13 mentioned. However, this would be the interim
14 step that provides protection for the Franklin
15 area where they have had some repetitive flood
16 losses. And it would only be at a nominal
17 cost, a \$10 million cost.

18 The St. Mary Levee District also supports
19 the efforts and comments made by the Morgan
20 City Harbor and Terminal District, the Port of
21 Morgan City regarding projects of their
22 interest. Specifically we are very interested
23 in and very supportive of the Point au Fer
24 restoration project and want to see that also
25 moved forward.

1 And lastly, we would, we would like CPRA
2 to consider the opportunities that might be
3 provided by coordinating the increase of the
4 Atchafalaya flow to Terrebonne project with the
5 Bayou Chene project. We believe this
6 coordination would allow for a more effective
7 river diversion project that would provide for
8 fewer local negative impacts. We thank you for
9 your, for your attention and appreciate the
10 opportunity to make these comments tonight.

11 MR. SPEYRER:

12 Thank you, Jim. Eddie Callais. Jack
13 Moore, you're next.

14 MR. CALLAIS:

15 Good evening. And thanks again for this
16 opportunity of allowing the public to comment.
17 My name is Eddie Callais and I'm here tonight
18 representing the Lafourche Chamber of Commerce.
19 Our organization is comprised of over 400
20 businesses throughout Lafourche Parish.

21 First of all I would like to thank CPRA
22 for a couple of recent projects that have come
23 to completion. The Caminada Headlands Project
24 and the freshwater project in Bayou Lafourche.
25 As Chett and Simone had mentioned along the

1 Caminada headlands, it is critical to the
2 protection it provides for Port Fourchon as
3 well as the south Lafourche area. Port
4 Fourchon is an economic engine that is critical
5 to businesses and residents of Lafourche
6 Parish. As well as we know, not only Lafourche
7 Parish, but our state and our nation.

8 Beyond that we are also in support of the
9 marsh restoration project in Golden Meadow.
10 And as Marguerite mentioned, we are also in
11 support of the marine habitat project. We, as
12 well, believe that the - our fisheries, and
13 heritage, and recreational fishing are
14 important to the residents and businesses of
15 Lafourche Parish. So we also support that.

16 And in closing tonight, we will provide
17 additional written comments. But in closing, I
18 also want to echo the sentiment of other
19 speakers on using local resources, local
20 employers to be able to put some of these
21 projects to, to work. I know I heard earlier
22 that the governor is in favor of trying to keep
23 money in Louisiana and I want to echo that
24 sentiment as well. Thanks again for your time
25 this evening.

1 MR. SPEYRER:

2 Thank you, Eddie. Jack Moore. Is Jack
3 still here? Alex Kolker. Donald Bogan, you're
4 next.

5 MR. KOLKER:

6 Alex Kolker with the Louisiana
7 Universities Marine Consortium in Cocodrie,
8 Louisiana. So I wanted to thank you, and CPRA,
9 and the folks that put this together and for
10 coming up with a restoration plan that was
11 science-based and that took into account all of
12 the complexities of our coast, and the changing
13 nature of the, the physical environment here on
14 Earth. And so I wanted to thank you for, for
15 really having come up with a science-based, and
16 what is frankly a well done plan.

17 I know, as someone that studies the coast
18 and works on the coast, that this is also a
19 very complicated coast to understand. And so
20 the second half of my comment is to, is to all
21 of you. We are an institution that is based on
22 marine science and marine education and we're
23 based here in south Louisiana. And, of course,
24 we love Terrebonne Parish. And that is that if
25 you all have questions about coastal issues

1 here in Louisiana, and this - that you come to
2 us. And if there is anything that you have
3 that you have a question about how the science
4 works, we are a resource for you here to turn
5 to. So, please. Thank you and thank you.

6 MR. SPEYRER:

7 Thank you, Alex. Donald, and then, maybe
8 H. J. Rhodes, or L. J. Rhodes will be next.

9 MR. BOGAN:

10 Thank you. Donald Bogan with Bayou
11 Interfaith Community Organizing. First of all,
12 I would like to thank CPRA. I think this is my
13 second or third rodeo. It not always has been
14 a pleasant process, but I know by listening to
15 each other that we have grew.

16 It's been a long evening so I'm going to
17 restrict my time. I just want to highlight
18 some things that I haven't heard tonight that's
19 surrounding non-structure. And so we've been
20 working with some regional partners of the
21 national park and we are going to submit our
22 comments formally. One of the things we want
23 to recommend to CPRA as far as for every eighty
24 cents that is spent on structure projects, that
25 twenty cents is spent on non-structure. And

1 that would be keeping in the original theory
2 that the non-structure portion of the State
3 Master Plan would be around the twenty percent
4 area.

5 Another thing I want to talk about
6 concerning non-structure. We've seen the map,
7 we've seen the data, and we know that some
8 people is going to be left out. Unfortunately,
9 talking to my colleagues, we feel that the
10 people that are more at risk are the low-income
11 people. And so the way that we analyze the
12 current draft plan is that we think that the
13 low-income people would be left out. But the
14 way that the state is valuing communities to be
15 able to get those non-structure dollars, we
16 thing that that process should be changed, that
17 it should not be based on population growth, it
18 should be based on the most vulnerable people,
19 the people that are most affected by coastal
20 erosion, and coastal land loss, and sea level
21 rise.

22 And so we are going to submit our formal
23 comments on how we think that they can
24 accommodate us with a twenty percent area and
25 how to pay for that. I thank you for the

1 comments and I stress the importance of people
2 that are more at risk.

3 MR. SPEYRER:

4 Thank you, Donald. Mr. Rhodes. And then
5 Johanna, you'll be next.

6 MR. RHODES:

7 Thank you. I have a simple thing. All I
8 have to say is I, in this part of the country I
9 worked in, in the oil field. And we completed
10 wells all over the country, you know. The Gulf
11 of Mexico, not like some people did but we -
12 you get an education. And I think, you know,
13 we were saying, "Why does this all happen now?
14 Why do people do these things?" These things
15 are happening because it's worth it. You know?
16 If you could see the things I've seen when
17 you're in the service of these companies. You
18 have a lot of time, a lot of time waiting on
19 the rigs and some God forsaken places. And,
20 you know, you see the wildlife. You know? And
21 I'm not a, I'm not a deep guy in that way, but
22 at any rate, to see what all this is all about.
23 And so I say it's worth saving.

24 And I've seen some of the mistakes now.
25 I've been around a long time and I even

1 remember when they said Pearl Harbor was
2 bombed. But at any rate, you know, we made
3 some mistakes. And in Louisiana we have,
4 sometimes we have, we just do that, we shoot
5 ourselves in the foot. And in 1945 there was a
6 parish president located on the Mississippi
7 River and he wanted - and we were talking
8 about when we were first going offshore, how it
9 was a complicated operation. And what it meant
10 was, in simple language, money. And so it was
11 a big argument between - I don't know where in
12 the hell our congressional delegation was, but
13 they didn't raise heat. He gets in a big
14 argument with Harry Truman. And this is 1945,
15 now. And he says that Harry Truman offered him
16 thirty-seven and a half percent for all his
17 production and his oil. Well, he owns
18 (inaudible) and finally Harry Truman - Truman,
19 he told him where to go.

20 And he, he was a man that you couldn't,
21 couldn't reason with if you know him. In fact,
22 his daughter one time said, "Mother, why don't
23 you stop Father - tell him to quit saying
24 horse manure." And she said, "Darling, it took
25 me twenty-five years to get him to say manure."

1 And so, at any rate, if you look at it
2 wisely, thirty-seven and a half percent is
3 almost fifty percent. And in the twenty-five
4 years that followed - this is an actual fact,
5 you can trust it. In the twenty-five years
6 that followed, \$27.5 billion, billion dollars,
7 would have come to this state. And just
8 imagine if you had funding like that, trying to
9 do what we're doing now.

10 And we are fifty years later. I, I've
11 seen this place - we fly a lot, little planes.
12 We were the first people to ride helicopters
13 offshore. I've seen all the, you know, things
14 you wouldn't imagine. It's really nice to see.
15 I watched a little bird one night with her
16 little ones one night running around, and she
17 was giving them crawfish. And then
18 environmentalist say, "Why you got all this
19 noise up here?"

20 This rig was a big, beautiful rig. It lit
21 up like a city. And that little bird came out
22 and fed her kids. So they were wrong
23 sometimes. But all I'm saying is, we're doing
24 this because it's worth it. And we've got to
25 stop, you know, making mistakes and shooting

1 ourselves in the foot. Thank you.

2 MR. SPEYRER:

3 Can you state your name, Mr. Rhodes, for
4 me?

5 MR. RHODES:

6 W. J. Rhodes.

7 MR. SPEYRER:

8 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Rhodes. Johanna
9 deGraffenreid. Charlie Bush, you're next.

10 MS. DEGRAFFENREID:

11 Hi. My name is Johanna deGraffenreid and
12 I work with Gulf Restoration Network. We're a
13 New Orleans based water and wetlands
14 organization and we serve communities around
15 the Gulf. I want to really highlight some of
16 the things that we heard earlier this evening
17 and support the non-structural elements of the
18 coastal Master Plan. I just want to thank you
19 all for the opportunity to speak here today and
20 for the opportunity to provide true public
21 input in this forum.

22 I would say that first, we really do
23 appreciate the community and economic
24 development approach throughout the plan. We
25 support what's been said earlier tonight about

1 the fact that this plan needs to be
2 people-centered and then low and moderate
3 income individuals. We would also say that
4 through a creation of some small business
5 development programs and policies, as well as
6 employment opportunities that pay living wages,
7 we insure that the coastal Master Plan is used
8 as a vehicle to employ our coastal community.

9 We would also ask that local small
10 businesses especially benefit from contracting
11 opportunities and that those be provided with
12 preference in the coastal Master Plan. I also
13 want to say that in terms of the non-structural
14 aspects of the coastal Master Plan, that we
15 would encourage a prioritization team of
16 funding, that it is based on risk, not based on
17 cost-benefit analysis, as is currently listed
18 in the coastal Master Plan. That those were
19 low-income individuals and that those who are
20 most at risk of flooding be prioritized for
21 both elevation and for voluntary buyout.

22 We also ask that there be a more
23 comprehensive plan around volunteering for
24 buyouts, and that that be something that's
25 elaborated on in the subsequent Annual Plans as

1 you all continue to develop them. Thank you so
2 much for your time.

3 MR. SPEYRER:

4 Thank you. Charlie, come on up. Janet
5 Rhoders, you're next.

6 MR. BUSH:

7 Gentlemen, thank you very much. My name
8 is Charlie Bush and I'm involved with the TAG
9 Louisiana program and the Department of
10 Wildlife and Fisheries. I, I fish the
11 Terrebonne and Barataria estuary two or three
12 times a week. And my main purpose or goal is
13 to tag fish for research so that we can have a
14 healthy estuary.

15 I was on the water today, and I want to
16 share with you just one quick note that -
17 believe it or not, before our very eyes we see
18 our coastline disappearing. I mean, last week
19 the land that was there had disappeared in one
20 week. I had an area that was actually four
21 feet wide is now twenty feet wide in a week's
22 time, with one front coming through. And I, I
23 can't reiterate the importance of a fresh water
24 estuary. We need to maintain that fresh water
25 estuary, without that we lose our fisheries.

1 A gentleman stated before that the
2 diversions help so much, and they do. I thank
3 you so much for the opportunity to be here.
4 And I want just to remind one thing, that we
5 all - that this program, the 2017 Master Plan
6 gives us hope, gives us hope for our future.
7 You know, in my seventy-one years I saw
8 tremendous destruction in Louisiana. This
9 program finally gives us some hope. And I want
10 to remind you gentlemen, you have a moral
11 responsibility - there's an awful lot of money
12 involved. You have a moral responsibility for
13 your children and our grandchildren. Please
14 use it wisely. Thank you very much.

15 MR. SPEYRER:

16 Thank you, Mr. Charlie. Janet. Mr.
17 Ernest Babin, Jr., you'll be next.

18 MS. RHODERS:

19 Good afternoon. My name is Janet Rhoders.
20 I advocate for the community of Leeville in
21 Lafourche Parish. I'm a non-profit in
22 Leeville. I want to thank CPRA and all of your
23 efforts. I wanted to personally thank Bren
24 because I have no expertise in this, in coastal
25 restoration but he's been very patient with me,

1 and very thorough with me, and spent a lot of
2 time that he probably really didn't have to
3 explain different aspects of the plan to me.
4 So I thank you for that, Bren.

5 While you know this plan is based upon
6 science, we have to realize that we need some
7 common sense as well. And as a previous
8 gentleman emphasized, where he's from - I've
9 been fishing in Leeville since 1991. The vast
10 areas that are washing away are as a result of
11 weirs, and canals, and dead end canals that are
12 failing. I have brought this issue up before,
13 why aren't these canals and weirs being
14 maintained? And I've been told there's,
15 there's no enforcement, there's not personnel.
16 But it seems to me they could create an agency
17 that could go out and fine these gas and oil
18 companies that, that are not maintaining the
19 terms of their permit. And just by the fines
20 alone that could be imposed alone could fund
21 this particular agency.

22 We could spend all the millions of dollars
23 that we want, or billions, but if we don't
24 correct the problems that are causing this,
25 then we're throwing money away. And, yes, the

1 Caminada headlands is a token program for CPRA,
2 but I really am concerned about, with one major
3 storm, hundreds and millions of dollars of sand
4 is going to wash away. I know that rocks are a
5 bad word at CPRA, but sometimes I think that we
6 might need to come up with some kind of
7 reinforcement when we have sand involved.
8 Again, that's not my area of expertise.

9 But I have been really encouraged by the
10 draft plan, that it does show some projects in
11 Leeville. And one thing I would like to add,
12 that the southwest and the southeast canals at
13 the intersection of Bayou Lafourche are about
14 to fail. And when that occurs, with that
15 thirty foot depth and that strong current
16 there, we're going to have catastrophic land
17 loss in Leeville that I don't believe that can
18 be restored. And I think Windell Curole can
19 attest to that as well. So I would really like
20 for you to put some immediate emphasis on that
21 area. Thank you.

22 MR. SPEYRER:

23 Thank you, Janet. Ernest. Lucretia
24 McBride, you're next.

25 MR. BABIN:

1 Ernest Babin. I currently serve on the
2 Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management
3 Committee. And I wasn't going to get up and
4 speak but Mr. Zeringue, Representative Zeringue
5 woke me up by saying that it needs to be said
6 that the eastern part of Terrebonne Parish is,
7 is just going to be washed away soon. Between
8 Lake Barre and (inaudible) there's about a
9 thirty yard strip of land before Lake Barre and
10 (inaudible) also. The, the
11 Morganza-to-the-Gulf levee that is going to up
12 to (inaudible), if nothing is done with that
13 triangle in there, that is just like building
14 the Great Wall of China that they did in New
15 Orleans East. Take that levee because it's
16 going to be a straight shot to the Gulf.

17 And I live on Bayou Terrebonne, just two
18 miles from the intercoastal. And when the
19 levee broke in Montague for two hurricanes,
20 that's when the water came from the south
21 trying to get out the intercoastal to Houma.
22 So if we have something catastrophic in that
23 area, the water is going into Terrebonne
24 general, downtown Houma. It's going to get
25 there, because I've seen it get there with just

1 those storms that missed us. This was days
2 after the hurricane that the water came up.

3 Now, we've got a bunch of small agencies
4 that get grants for projects and stuff. I see
5 it, being on the Coastal Zone Board, they do
6 their little project, throw money at it. And
7 things in Terrebonne, eastern Terrebonne, they
8 get thrown to the side because it's going to
9 take some money to fix that. And they keep
10 saying, "No. It's out of the budget, it's out
11 of the funding." Well, they will have to pool
12 the money, get the money, do something on that
13 northern rim of Terrebonne Bay there because
14 that's going to be the Achilles heel there to
15 Terrebonne Parish. And, and like she just
16 said, toward Bayou Lafourche area, that's the
17 same area she was talking about.

18 So thank y'all for listening to us. And
19 thank you, Jerome, for hanging around and
20 listening to everybody.

21 MR. SPEYRER:

22 Thank you, Ernest. Lucretia McBride.
23 Peggy Case, you'll be next.

24 MS. MCBRIDE:

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman and assembled

1 committee members. I want to tell you that my
2 name is Lucretia McBride and I live here in
3 Terrebonne Parish, I reside in Houma. I've
4 been here for about forty years. I represent
5 our group, Coastal Louisiana Advocates for
6 Cemetery Preservation. It's something we don't
7 generally first think about when we think about
8 coastal erosion, or water surge, or a heavy
9 storm, or a hurricane. Our group inherited our
10 first case in 1980 when I worked for the
11 sheriff's office and the old sheriff brought a
12 box of bones down and said, "Do what, whatever
13 you do, whatever we pay you to do here. Find
14 out where these bones came from." It turns out
15 those bones had washed out of an abandoned
16 cemetery in 1930 and landed on (inaudible)
17 Island. In our investigation to find out how
18 that happened, I became aware of coastal
19 erosion, and land loss, and barrier impact, and
20 many, many environmental things.

21 So I'm here to encourage you to continue
22 what you do. The more that you are highly
23 successful, the more success my group has.
24 Abandoned cemeteries exist all over southern
25 Louisiana along the coast. Some are actually

1 off the coast under the water. When burial
2 wash out they generally float back. Now, comes
3 financial consideration for the coroner's
4 office to take those skeletons or human remains
5 in and figure out why they're floating in the
6 water.

7 Coastal erosion impacts our community in a
8 way that most people don't think about unless
9 it happens to them. So we just want to remind
10 you that there are groups out along the coast
11 of Louisiana that appreciate the hard work that
12 you do. And we want you to know, make no bones
13 about it, that when we have to respond because
14 there are bones, when we call for help
15 generally people don't show up. You know, we
16 have a list this long of who to call about
17 that. So we formed a coalition, many of our
18 advocates are law enforcement officers who have
19 experience in disaster recovery. We don't ask
20 for money, we don't solicit money, we just
21 volunteer our time. But, again, I'm here one
22 behalf of our group to tell you personally that
23 we appreciate your work.

24 For somebody that does not normally come
25 to these meetings and, you know, we're

1 appreciative of all the people here and what
2 they have shared. We listen and we care.
3 Thank you very much.

4 MR. SPEYRER:

5 Thank you. Peggy Case, you're next. And
6 with all due respect to the great orators that
7 are all these elected officials down here in
8 Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes, I think
9 Lucretia had the quote of the night. So thank
10 you for that.

11 MS. CASE:

12 I'm Peggy Case. I'm the director of a
13 non-profit in Terrebonne Parish called Track.
14 We're essentially a disaster recovery
15 organization. We've worked in the field with
16 holistic recovery, disaster recovery,
17 mitigation, disaster education, recovery
18 education, for the past twenty-five years in
19 Terrebonne, Lafourche, and sometimes St. Mary.

20 I guess my main concern that I want to
21 discuss is the non-structural aspect of it.
22 I'm all about people and I'm all about
23 sustainable housing. And I notice that there
24 is really - so far there is not really any
25 funding, any substantial funding allocated. I

1 know there is over six million, billion dollars
2 that will be allocated to non-structural
3 projects, but as of this date through 2020,
4 according to the budget, there's only 1.2
5 million that would be allocated. And I just
6 want to make a note of that. Im sure it's
7 funding restrictions and also you want to build
8 up the shores before you start. I want to
9 bring that up. If possible, if you could start
10 looking at possibly considering some projects,
11 that would be fantastic.

12 Also, the, there is - I don't see in the
13 plan that there is any alternative to
14 elevation, other than elevating, I guess,
15 existing structures, and up to fourteen feet.
16 And, you know, there's some viable alternatives
17 to that if we - if we're looking at the
18 approach of the working coast, and the housing,
19 and the culture, and preserving that, and how
20 we can holistically do that. And the, some of
21 the viable alternatives would be to construct
22 housing that is designed to be, you know, high
23 up there, and even above fourteen feet.

24 I agree with you that some of the
25 structures that exist today obviously were

1 never planned to be elevated. And elevation
2 projects don't include retrofitting of the roof
3 lines that might, you know - retrofitting the
4 roof lines, the rafters, and what have you. So
5 I would like you to consider that as an
6 alternative to - to design the houses and
7 therefore, you know - we talked about certain
8 areas that you could actually - okay. When
9 you're doing this project, in your plan you
10 talk about, you know, communities, and the
11 community thought, and the community solution.
12 Community being maybe a neighborhood, you know,
13 two miles, or whatever. You may want to
14 consider a community the idea of, like,
15 redesigning and rebuilding housing communities
16 up in the air. You know, it's a good thought
17 and I would hope that you would consider that
18 in the future. And that's about it.

19 And, and, but I do want to, you know -
20 sorry. One more thing I just have to say. In
21 your community outreach aspect, I agree one
22 gentleman said that there are local NGOs in the
23 community that have gained the trust of the
24 community over these years. And I think it
25 would - I think as a whole they would, you

1 know, all feel a part of the process if, if
2 there was some, if there was a local
3 organization there to maybe vet calls of
4 whatever size, shape, form, to advocate
5 whatever, in whichever way possible. So please
6 do give that consideration in the future plans.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. SPEYRER:

9 Thank you, Peggy. Kim Reyher, are you
10 still here? Kim? And then Vic Lafont. That
11 will be the last one, so if you have any more,
12 turn them back in. Get them to the aisles,
13 we'll get them picked up.

14 MS. REYHER:

15 Good evening. I'm Kim Reyher, I represent
16 the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. I
17 just want to make three comments in this
18 context. The first is to comment the decision
19 to deal with the harsh realities of sea level
20 rise predictions, to base the plan on current
21 science and really to help us grapple with what
22 we face in the effects of climate change.

23 The second is to support the
24 prioritization of the projects that are about
25 natural systems, particularly the sediment

1 diversions, and doing what we can to address
2 the underlying problems that cause the coastal
3 crisis we're facing. Excuse me. We think that
4 restoring the natural systems is really the
5 best investment we can make. And we're
6 pleased, especially to see the significant
7 impact these sediment diversions to use to
8 rebuild land.

9 The third is to really applaud the
10 outreach effort that's been part of this
11 process. I think the crowd that we saw here a
12 couple of hours ago, that is spreading out now.
13 But it is testament to the effort that you made
14 to really make sure we have public dialogue. I
15 think it's so important that we all understand
16 what is going on, what risks we face, to what
17 extent we have lines of defense, or do not, or
18 are trying to create or recreate them. And to
19 demonstrate to you all and those that you work
20 with, the levels of support and concern that's
21 in the community.

22 And I want to take the opportunity to
23 highlight a couple other opportunities for
24 dialogue coming up in Abbeville. So if you
25 would like to turn out your neighbors or your

1 colleagues for exactly this sort of dialogue,
2 please join those and there are details at
3 crcl.org.

4 Lastly, I want to urge that even as we all
5 consider the long-term picture, the five, fifty
6 year picture, is that we continue to focus on
7 the near-term actions and really apply what
8 we've heard from CPRA about breaking ground on
9 the diversion by 2020. We've heard loud and
10 clear that date, and the efforts that are going
11 towards making that a reality have been
12 impressive. We urge that to be continued and
13 we pledge our support for that.

14 CRCL did say it's a group that's been
15 involved a long time. Many of our board
16 members are here. We work in partnership with
17 many groups represented in the audience. And
18 we want to do everything we can to help you in
19 your efforts to, to drive action. So that on
20 one hand we're playing for the long-term, but
21 on the other we're doing everything we can in
22 the immediate.

23 So thank you very much for all your
24 efforts and congratulation on getting to this
25 stage.

1 MR. SPEYRER:

2 Thank you, Kim. Vic.

3 MR. LAFONT:

4 Yes, sir. Real quick. Vic Lafont with
5 the South Louisiana Economic Council. I'm one
6 of eight regions across the state that works
7 with research and development. And I apologize
8 for being so late. I was at the Parish Council
9 meeting. If it hasn't been said I want to make
10 sure that it was said for the record.

11 But first I want to thank y'all for what
12 y'all have done in working with entities not
13 only in this area, but in Lafourche and
14 Caminada area. Working with our levee systems
15 is so critical, so critical for us. Thank you
16 for that.

17 Second, for allowing us a place at the
18 table. Historically we are not often given
19 that place and say so on things that so affects
20 us. But you're doing that and we really
21 appreciate it and need it.

22 The third thing, for providing the
23 economic opportunity that this brings our area.
24 It's not a big secret, our area has been hit
25 real bad with the oil and gas downturn, okay?

1 But this is, we're hoping this will diversify
2 our economy a little bit, may be cause for some
3 of our people to participate in some of that
4 restoration work.

5 So thank y'all for what y'all do and thank
6 you for bringing this opportunity to us. And
7 please know that we're partnering with a lot of
8 other NGOs like Restore and Retreat to help
9 make this work. So thank you.

10 MR. SPEYRER:

11 Thank you, Vic. Did we by any chance miss
12 anyone that would like to speak tonight? State
13 your name, please, sir.

14 MR. THERIOT:

15 My name is Cyrus Theriot, and I represent
16 my family members who own about 17,000 acres of
17 property between Bayou Dularge and the Houma
18 navigational canal, by the locks. And we've
19 been managing that property since the 1920's.
20 And over the years the devastation from canals,
21 subsidence, and settling has put a tremendous
22 amount of damages on our property. While I
23 manage 17,000 acres I now have 14,000 or 15,000
24 acres.

25 I submitted a land bridge project to try

1 to save some of the marshes in Terrebonne
2 Parish. And it would extend from the lower
3 Dularge levee all the way to Grand Caillou
4 Bayou. And we could use the soil from the
5 Bayou Grand Caillou as a, as a subsidence for
6 the (inaudible). But I'm trying to - the salt
7 water intrusion from the bayou is so great on
8 the eastern side of the inlet that it's killing
9 all the vegetation in the upper sections.

10 And I manage 17,000, all my neighbors -
11 you're looking at moving like 50,000 acres of
12 property. That marsh is very crucial for
13 estuary growth; trout, redfish, bass, shrimp.
14 You name it, it's in that, those marshes. When
15 it disappears and goes to water then all your
16 seafood disappears and your economy backs up.

17 So anyway, it's very important. That's
18 why I submitted that plan. I think it would
19 work. It would help that area and keep it
20 alive a few more years. I thank you and want
21 you to look at that. Thank you.

22 MR. SPEYRER:

23 Thank you, Mr. Cyrus. With that we're
24 going to go ahead and conclude the public
25 comment portion of the Master Plan

1 presentation. We certainly appreciate
2 everybody's patience as we, as we worked
3 through that process. As a quick reminder, now
4 that the Master Plan is done, what we're going
5 to do is transition and give a brief
6 presentation on the fiscal year 2018 Annual
7 Plan followed by official public comment on
8 that document. So if anybody wants to get up
9 and leave, now is your chance to do that. But
10 Michael Ellis will come up and give a
11 presentation on the Annual Plan.

12 As you're walking out the door I am going
13 to make one quick reminder. You have until
14 March twenty-sixth to submit public comments.
15 So if you didn't get a chance to speak tonight
16 or didn't get a chance to say everything, you
17 can still go to our website, submit comments
18 online through e-mail, or hand-write them in
19 person. Thank you.

20 Okay. If everybody could please go ahead
21 and exit this room if you don't mind. We need
22 to give the next presentation. Everybody can
23 go ahead and exit the room. You can stay next
24 door or out in the hall but we want to go ahead
25 and get the next presentation started for those

1 that want to hear it. Folks, if you could
2 please go ahead and exit the room. Thank you.

3 MR. ELLIS:

4 I appreciate everyone staying and we don't
5 want to try to force you out of here. Well,
6 who has stayed, I really appreciate it. But
7 honestly, the comments that we heard tonight
8 were really good. We appreciate everyone
9 tonight.

10 What I'm going to do, I'm going to be very
11 brief. My name is Michael Ellis. I'm the
12 Executive Director for CPRA. We are the, the
13 organization that actually plans the Master
14 Plan, but we also implement the Master Plan.
15 And you heard a good bit about the Master Plan
16 tonight. What I want to talk about is, we also
17 do a draft Annual Plan. What I'm going to
18 present to y'all tonight is the FY 18 draft
19 Annual Plan.

20 I promise I am going to be brief, but I do
21 recommend that you go read the document, look
22 at the document. It is how we implement our
23 work, it's the projection for the next three
24 years.

25 That being said, why do we do it? We are

1 also mandated to develop an Annual Plan. Part
2 of the Annual Plan really comprises three
3 things. It is a three-year budget outlook, a
4 forecast of what we expect to receive in
5 revenues and in expenditures for three years.
6 And it also provides implementation schedule,
7 it's how we schedule the work over the next
8 three years. And also we provide a snapshot
9 of, of what we've done in the past year.

10 Really, basically we follow the Master
11 Plan schedule where we have four public
12 hearings we spoke about. Important dates to
13 look up and see up here is the public comment
14 period does close on the twenty-sixth. So I
15 know when you get done with the Master Plan you
16 look at the Annual Plan, and we also accept
17 public comments on that. And we will, as well,
18 this evening after this presentation.

19 The year in review. We've heard a little
20 bit about the projects, the Bayou Lafourche
21 projects and the Caminada projects but we're
22 really proud of what we've accomplished in
23 2017. I'm not going to go over every project
24 up here but these are some - some of the
25 notable projects. What we've accomplished in

1 2017 represented eleven projects representing
2 about \$330 million worth of work benefitting
3 over 3,500 acres. So a tremendous amount of
4 work was in 17. Ongoing for projects that are
5 going into 18, twenty-nine projects in
6 construction for a total value of over \$5.5
7 billion and will benefit 300 miles of levees
8 and over 20,000 acres of wetlands. So a
9 tremendous amount of work is going on in 17
10 and will go on in 18 as well.

11 A little bit about the, about the plan and
12 what it covers. Of course, you know, it - we
13 developed the 17 Master Plan which was a very
14 important component of, you know, of the plan
15 as we move forward. So what we expect to see,
16 what you expect to see in the Annual Plan is as
17 the oil spill dollars became more certain over
18 the last year, we're actually - you'll see a
19 lot more emphasis on starting engineering
20 designs. I think that we spoke a little bit
21 about some of the marsh creation projects
22 around, particularly around this area, but we
23 have, if you count the five projects and
24 restore projects that we have out for
25 engineering design right now, it represents

1 around \$600 million worth of work in marsh
2 creation. So those projects are starting
3 engineering design right now.

4 Also there's an emphasis on larger, more
5 complex projects. We've heard about the
6 diversions which we think are very important as
7 we look to, you know, reestablish some of the
8 natural processes into the system. So larger
9 projects, a ramp-up of engineering design, and
10 also you'll see a ramp-up of adaptive
11 management.

12 Adaptive management, the adaptive
13 management program, we will start to see it
14 roll out. Really, in essence what that is, is
15 a way to capture lessons learned, put it back
16 in the system, learn from it, improve our
17 design, improve our planning, improve our
18 construction. And so you'll see a ramp-up in
19 adaptive management in the coming year as well.

20 Also, the last bullet will be completing
21 older programs. Some of the programs, the CDBG
22 programs, you'll start to see wind down. But
23 you'll also, like I said before, you'll see the
24 oil spill dollars start to increase projects.

25 This is a very complex table. This is the

1 revenue expectations for the next three years.
2 I won't go over it in detail but this is really
3 how we do our business over the next - this is
4 FY, this is for FY 18. You can see that we,
5 we expect to spend, we expect revenues around
6 \$663 million. In total the three year period
7 around \$2.5 billion in revenue over the next
8 three years. So it's, it's a tremendous amount
9 of effort, a lot of work we're really excited
10 about, you know, the next couple of years.

11 And, of course, when you have revenues you
12 must match that with the expenditures. So this
13 is an expenditure table of - and I would be
14 happy to go over it in detail, but not tonight.
15 I don't think y'all want to hear that. I think
16 Z is the only person that wants to hear it.
17 This, I like to show this graph, this is also a
18 part of the Annual Plan. What it represents is
19 how we do our business, again, in a pie graph
20 scenario. What's important to me is, is
21 getting the money on the ground. This
22 represents of the, of the \$663 million in
23 revenues and expenditures for next, what we've
24 planned for next year, fifty-six percent of it
25 is going to construction actually on the

1 ground.

2 Another important point is, you can see
3 the eighteen percent, and that we anticipate in
4 - that is kind of what you'll see in the next
5 couple of years, that that's going to translate
6 into more money in construction. That
7 represents the large oil spill dollars that are
8 coming in as we plan - or as we are coming
9 into our program and we're starting to kick off
10 the design.

11 So the major funding sources. We have a
12 pretty complicated funding, funding stream
13 coming in to the state. One thing that I want
14 to point out, is we do not receive general
15 funds from the state of Louisiana. We do
16 receive state mineral revenues and, and one
17 important point to bring out there is,
18 previously we would receive, we would expect
19 around \$25 to \$30 million per year. This
20 operates our business, this is how we pay our
21 bills, we pay our salaries, we frontload some
22 of the funding programs and we have to get
23 reimbursed later. So it's a very important
24 component of how we do our business and we are
25 expecting to receive around \$14 million over

1 the next three years. This is mainly due to
2 oil prices being down.

3 GOMESA, the Gulf of Mexico Energy and
4 Security Act. We anticipate that kicking in in
5 the end of FY 18 or the beginning of federal
6 fiscal year 18. And we expect to, as a state,
7 receive around \$176, maximum of \$176 million
8 dollars in revenue per year, which \$140 would
9 come to the CPRA. So that's, that's going to
10 be a recurring revenue stream that we
11 anticipate receiving in perpetuity. Other
12 funding sources, I won't go over them in
13 detail, but that really - the (inaudible) will
14 represent the oil spill dollars. As you can
15 see, significant efforts are beginning to ramp
16 those programs up. And the last is something
17 we've been used to for many years, particularly
18 in this area, is very beneficial. We
19 anticipate around \$80 million a year for the
20 next three years as well.

21 This is a typical - this is one schedule
22 that you, a typical schedule that you will see
23 in the Annual Plan. It's really, it's part of
24 the implementation schedule, it's how we do our
25 business. But these, in their symbolity, if

1 you will, P is planning, D is design, C is
2 construction, and W is waiting on funding. So
3 this is how we plan our program, this is how we
4 plan our projects. So this is also something
5 you can look at in detail in the Annual Plan.

6 Well, Johnny said to make it fast so I
7 hope this is fast enough. We'll be happy to
8 take, take your comments. Thank you.

9 MR. SPEYRER:

10 We don't have any forms but if you do want
11 to make a public comment on the Annual Plan
12 just go on up, state your name, and then you
13 can make a comment.

14 MR. ZERINGUE:

15 Several people who left gave me their
16 three minutes, so y'all sit back and relax.
17 We're going to be here for a while. I want to
18 do a couple of things. Obviously with the
19 budget - and I know Mike and Bren are very
20 struggling with the fact that the way the
21 budget is, and the limited funding that we do
22 have, the potential for sweeps and reductions,
23 I can assure to as an appropriations member, I
24 do and work hard to ensure that you maintain
25 the funding and it's not continued to be swept

1 from the budget. I think, right now, we're to
2 the point where it is going to affect projects.
3 And to the point that in addition to the low,
4 reduction in terms of oil and gas revenue,
5 which is going to have a significant impact on
6 you guys as well. So we're going to address
7 that.

8 One question, though, I wanted to ask in
9 the Master Plan. For this fiscal year, how
10 much do we have for construction? I know we
11 have the capability of six hundred and
12 something million. What do we have in terms
13 of, to construction? And I know the budget is
14 limited and still iffy right now.

15 MR. SPEYRER:

16 And you also know that you can't ask
17 questions.

18 MR. ZERINGUE:

19 Yeah. So - I thought since nobody was
20 here I would give it a shot.

21 MR. SPEYRER:

22 We're going to stick to the format. Off
23 to the side.

24 MR. ZERINGUE:

25 All right. We'll go off to the side. But

1 I just, you know, I - Thank y'all. Have a
2 safe trip back.

3 MR. CALLAHAN:

4 My name is Barney Callahan. I'm with
5 Louisiana Wildlife Federation. And I just want
6 to follow suit and say that the federation also
7 appreciates all of your efforts in putting
8 these meetings on and gathering comments from
9 the public. One question about moving forward.
10 Has there been any contact, or is there
11 strategy to make contact with the new president
12 and his entourage?

13 MR. SPEYRER:

14 We couldn't answer the representative, we
15 certainly -

16 MR. CALLAHAN:

17 Because I never heard any of that
18 conversation at all tonight. And that all
19 hinges on what Washington says. I appreciate
20 your answers.

21 MR. SPEYRER:

22 Thank you. Are there any other public
23 comments on the draft fiscal year 18 Annual
24 Plan? With that we will go ahead and conclude
25 this meeting. We certainly appreciate y'all

1 sticking around through both presentations this
2 evening for as long as we've been. We
3 certainly appreciate your support. Thank you.
4 Have a great night. Drive safe.

5 (This public hearing concluded at 8:18 p.m.)

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	\$70,000.00 (2) 67:25;86:20	1977 (1) 101:16	300 (2) 74:9;141:7	31:13;32:2;34:16; 35:14;42:3,16,20; 53:2,6;60:1;88:18; 90:23;108:24; 112:20;115:15
#	\$8 (1) 51:10	1980 (1) 127:10	36,000 (1) 29:7	above (5) 45:18;82:19; 106:7;130:23;151:6
#2015008 (2) 151:1;152:2	\$8.3 (1) 52:7	1991 (1) 123:9	37:2551 (1) 151:16	above-entitled (1) 151:12
\$	\$80 (1) 145:19	2	4	accept (1) 140:16
\$1 (1) 64:19	0	2,200 (1) 74:2	400 (1) 111:19	access (4) 78:18;79:1,5;80:1
\$10 (1) 110:17	03MC09 (1) 100:17	20,000 (1) 141:8	435 (1) 70:9	accommodate (1) 115:24
\$112 (1) 69:9	07 (1) 8:3	2000 (1) 98:16	47,000 (1) 78:14	accomplish (2) 24:22;92:14
\$113 (1) 69:9	1	2006 (1) 94:9	5	accomplished (3) 20:5;140:22,25
\$118,000,000.00 (1) 12:13		2007 (1) 13:13	50,000 (1) 137:11	according (1) 130:4
\$14 (1) 144:25	1,200 (1) 52:10	2010 (1) 14:8	50/50 (3) 44:2,5;48:10	account (1) 113:11
\$140 (1) 145:8	1,500 (1) 72:21	2011 (1) 108:23	6	accumulations (1) 92:8
\$150 (5) 43:15,16;45:20; 51:13,16	1,600 (1) 73:23	2012 (12) 8:10;12:20;13:10, 13,15;32:9,12;60:22;	60,000 (2) 68:1;86:10	achieve (4) 12:5;44:21;90:24; 109:17
\$16.8 (1) 16:1	1.2 (1) 130:4	2014 (2) 33:3;95:9	7	Achilles (1) 126:14
\$175,000,000.00 (1) 11:24	115 (1) 101:20	2016 (1) 109:2	7,000 (1) 78:11	acknowledge (2) 98:18,20
\$176 (2) 145:7,7	120 (3) 45:15;51:21; 101:14	2017 (21) 4:22;12:20;13:14, 17;31:18;32:9,9; 33:9,10;54:24;68:6; 82:20;91:10,12; 92:20;94:20;107:11; 108:18;122:5; 140:23;141:1	75 (1) 101:16	acquisition (3) 37:10,11;74:9
\$2.5 (1) 143:7	13,000 (1) 100:15	2018 (2) 5:18;138:6	8	acquisitions (1) 47:14
\$25 (3) 44:4,6;144:19	14,000 (1) 136:23	2020 (2) 130:3;134:9	8:18 (1) 149:5	acre (1) 74:3
\$27.5 (1) 118:6	140 (1) 101:20	24/7/365 (1) 20:20	80,000,000 (1) 15:12	acres (14) 29:7;47:17;70:9; 73:23;98:17,18; 100:5,15;136:16,23, 24;137:11;141:3,8
\$30 (1) 144:19	15,000 (1) 136:23	250 (2) 85:18,20	800 (2) 52:8;90:15	across (17) 6:19;20:21;25:9; 26:15,19;29:6;31:1, 8;33:20;45:14,21; 53:12;72:19,24; 74:11;103:6;135:6
\$30,000,000.00 (1) 19:13	150 (1) 101:13	26,000 (2) 47:10,17	802 (3) 45:17;49:24;51:8	act (2) 97:22;145:4
\$330 (1) 141:2	150,000 (1) 95:11	28 (1) 150:7	9	action (19) 49:6,7,8,9;50:6,6, 12,13,17,18;51:3,4; 55:6;94:8;98:10; 104:16;105:10; 134:19;151:21
\$350,000,000.00 (1) 11:25	17 (3) 141:4,9,13	282 (1) 29:7	9.3 (1) 12:11	actions (2) 103:5;134:7
\$400 (3) 82:12,13;96:9	17,000 (3) 136:16,23;137:10	3	A	active (1) 104:17
\$480,000.00 (1) 75:19	18 (8) 30:5;139:18; 141:5,10;143:4; 145:5,6;148:23	3,500 (1) 141:3	abandoned (3) 74:22;127:15,24	activities (4)
\$5.5 (1) 141:6	1920's (1) 136:19	3:1 (1) 51:17	Abbeville (2) 101:16;133:24	
\$50 (3) 43:18;44:1;79:23	1930 (1) 127:16	30,000 (1) 100:5	ability (6) 33:25;37:23; 78:17;95:15;107:13; 151:10	
\$594,000.00 (1) 75:22	1932 (1) 26:20		able (17) 18:10;30:18;	
\$6 (1) 47:15	1945 (2) 117:5,14			
\$600 (1) 142:1	1971 (1) 79:18			
\$663 (2) 143:6,22	1974 (1) 101:13			
\$663,000,000.00 (1) 30:3				

22:21;24:7;35:8; 98:17	affect (9) 33:21,24;38:8; 39:1;40:23;55:19; 76:24;77:4;147:2	97:17	analogy (1) 70:18	approved (1) 96:11
acts (1) 25:2	affected (1) 115:19	aisles (1) 132:12	analysis (6) 32:11;44:15,25; 67:22;101:2;120:17	approximately (3) 11:24;15:12;95:2
actual (2) 34:7;118:4	affecting (1) 40:21	Al (1) 81:4	analyze (1) 115:11	April (2) 56:5,14
actually (17) 42:11;44:18,21; 48:25;53:3;71:10; 72:25;104:15,19; 109:16;110:1; 121:20;127:25; 131:8;139:13; 141:18;143:25	affects (4) 25:10;37:24;92:4; 135:19	Alex (3) 113:3,6;114:7	and/or (2) 150:14,19	arbitrary (1) 44:2
adapt (1) 52:12	afford (2) 65:5,8	Alford (1) 81:8	Andrew (2) 101:18,19	area (41) 9:17;13:3;14:20, 24:15;11:17;24; 19:16;25:13;37:5; 46:15;56:23;83:12, 12,16,21;85:10,19, 24;86:23;93:13; 99:19;103:21;106:1; 109:23;110:15; 112:3;115:4,24; 121:20;124:8,21; 125:23;126:16,17; 135:13,14,23,24; 137:19;141:22; 145:18
adapting (1) 53:24	afternoon (2) 4:4;122:19	alignment (1) 82:14	announcement (1) 16:3	areas (15) 10:16;44:5;46:5,6, 7,8;51:1;79:8;89:18; 92:13;93:1;98:14; 105:11;123:10;131:8
adaptive (4) 142:10,12,12,19	again (61) 9:8;10:23;11:1; 19:11;24:18;26:16; 27:5;28:3,4;29:10; 30:5,23;34:24;35:11; 36:16;38:10;40:6,13, 18;41:1;42:2;43:20; 45:1;46:2,25;47:1,7, 13,16;48:9,20;49:4, 10,15,17,25;50:5; 51:6,7;52:19;54:18, 20;55:15,17;60:9; 77:17;87:20,25; 93:18,22;94:19;97:3; 105:6,12;109:2,6; 111:15;112:24; 124:8;128:21;143:19	allocated (4) 98:4;129:25; 130:2,5	Annual (19) 5:19;29:25;51:10, 11;63:10;120:25; 138:6,11;139:17,19; 140:1,2,16;141:16; 143:18;145:23; 146:5,11;148:23	argument (2) 117:11,14
add (4) 48:19;51:14;90:8; 124:11	against (2) 79:7,7	allow (3) 40:25;91:23;111:6	anticipate (5) 27:2;144:3;145:4, 11,19	armor (1) 85:4
addition (4) 67:9;94:15;99:11; 147:3	agencies (1) 126:3	allowing (2) 111:16;135:17	apologize (1) 135:7	armoring (1) 62:25
additional (8) 44:3;67:12;90:22; 92:7;99:10,15; 106:23;112:17	agency (3) 20:17;123:16,21	allows (1) 32:4	appendix (2) 54:17;58:22	Army (1) 76:19
address (8) 7:25;8:1;55:18; 88:18;103:3;110:5; 133:1;147:6	aggressively (1) 96:13	alluded (1) 40:1	applaud (2) 21:12;133:9	Arnett (3) 83:24;85:15,16
addressed (1) 11:9	ago (14) 11:19;12:15; 17:11;55:25;69:3; 71:23;74:13;76:16; 78:12;81:22;82:1; 103:23;104:22; 133:12	almost (4) 67:25;73:17;96:8; 118:3	applied (3) 75:12,12,20	around (35) 4:16;5:10,23;8:24; 9:15;13:5;23:9,9; 29:24;31:20;42:22; 71:25;77:6;83:15; 85:22;86:14;89:25; 104:12;105:8;115:3; 116:25;118:16; 119:14;120:23; 126:19;141:22,22; 142:1;143:5,7; 144:19,25;145:7,19; 149:1
addresses (1) 47:20	agree (5) 20:5,19;87:7; 130:24;131:21	alone (4) 88:25;98:16; 123:20,20	apply (2) 8:18;134:7	arrested (1) 80:6
addressing (1) 61:9	agricultural (1) 40:22	along (16) 19:22;34:2;35:1; 37:25;38:1;42:2,5; 62:24;82:14,14; 98:23;106:20; 109:18;111:25; 127:25;128:10	applied (3) 75:12,12,20	Aside (1) 14:15
Adequate (1) 92:6	ahead (9) 4:11;15:24;57:10; 137:24;138:20,23, 24;139:2;148:24	alternatives (4) 36:13,15;130:16, 21	apologize (1) 135:7	aspect (6) 61:7,7;85:25;86:8; 129:21;131:21
adjoining (1) 95:6	ain't (3) 18:5;20:18;72:15	alternative (2) 130:13;131:6	appreciate (22) 6:10;17:8;22:14; 57:4;59:23;84:19; 88:1,13;93:24; 107:25;111:9; 119:23;128:11,23; 135:21;138:1;139:4, 6,8;148:19,25;149:3	aspects (3) 61:18;120:14; 123:3
adjust (3) 31:13;52:22;53:6	air (1) 131:16	alternatives (4) 36:13,15;130:16, 21	appreciates (1) 148:7	assembled (1) 126:25
admitted (1) 33:6	airport (1)	amazing (3) 21:2,2;88:17	appreciation (7) 9:9;10:24;24:19; 26:2,3;60:11;88:4	
ADs (1) 51:14		ambitious (1) 98:7	appreciative (2) 23:6;129:1	
advanced (2) 70:23;98:2		Amedee (1) 7:4	approach (8) 8:19;44:10,20; 53:23;102:23;103:2; 119:24;130:18	
advancement (2) 67:21;92:23		Amelia (1) 107:11	appropriate (1) 37:12	
advantage (1) 67:19		America (2) 20:22;27:21	appropriations (4) 82:6,16;96:7; 146:23	
advocacy (1) 94:9		amount (9) 28:21;43:9,16,18, 19;136:22;141:3,9; 143:8	approval (1) 21:18	
advocate (3) 96:13;122:20; 132:4		amounts (1) 43:24		
Advocates (2) 127:5;128:18				

<p>assessment (1) 38:10</p> <p>assistance (1) 93:19</p> <p>associated (10) 10:17;26:14; 27:20,25;28:6;34:25; 44:1;47:11,20;48:19</p> <p>Association (2) 85:17;89:7</p> <p>Assumption (1) 93:7</p> <p>assumptions (1) 9:7</p> <p>assure (2) 60:21;146:23</p> <p>Atchafalaya (15) 15:11,15,19;46:15; 61:8,23;62:9;67:17; 89:14;91:18,21;92:5, 12;93:14;111:4</p> <p>attach (1) 47:18</p> <p>attended (1) 69:2</p> <p>attention (4) 57:4;58:7,11; 111:9</p> <p>attest (1) 124:19</p> <p>attraction (1) 106:10</p> <p>au (11) 82:23;91:12,13; 100:7,12;101:8,12, 21;102:7;103:10; 110:23</p> <p>audience (4) 5:7;6:25;18:10; 134:17</p> <p>author (1) 81:14</p> <p>Authority (3) 6:13;20:13;26:9</p> <p>authorized (1) 95:9</p> <p>automatically (1) 90:21</p> <p>available (3) 28:19;55:17;67:21</p> <p>avenues (3) 58:13,24;80:20</p> <p>average (1) 67:25</p> <p>avid (1) 73:16</p> <p>awake (1) 88:12</p> <p>aware (6) 21:3;25:6;26:17; 28:9;31:7;127:18</p> <p>away (6) 65:19;106:15;</p>	<p>123:10,25;124:4; 125:7</p> <p>awful (1) 122:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <hr/> <p>Babe (1) 101:16</p> <p>Babin (3) 122:17;124:25; 125:1</p> <p>back (31) 5:10,20;6:15;8:3; 9:22;13:9,12,20; 14:4;26:19;32:13; 36:17;42:5;50:17; 58:25;59:8;63:20; 64:3,8,10,17;65:10; 81:15;86:3;103:23; 109:9;128:2;132:12; 142:15;146:16;148:2</p> <p>backs (1) 137:16</p> <p>backwater (1) 92:24</p> <p>bad (4) 44:22;79:12; 124:5;135:25</p> <p>bang (1) 44:7</p> <p>Barataria (6) 68:5;71:2;78:4,8; 90:17;121:11</p> <p>bargain (1) 19:12</p> <p>barge (1) 48:21</p> <p>Barney (1) 148:4</p> <p>Barre (10) 15:11;62:20,24; 70:3;83:15;104:20; 105:3,8;125:8,9</p> <p>barrier (34) 12:7;13:16;14:9, 11;15:23;29:5,9; 46:20,20;64:14,23; 65:6,7,7,12;66:8,8,9, 21;67:6;69:4,5,10, 11;71:21;72:5;73:6; 83:18;85:3;89:13; 96:23;100:18,18; 127:19</p> <p>base (1) 132:20</p> <p>based (10) 70:9;106:22; 113:21,23;115:17, 18;119:13;120:16, 16;123:5</p> <p>basically (2) 14:19;140:10</p>	<p>Basin (2) 14:11;17:23</p> <p>Basins (1) 68:5</p> <p>basis (2) 17:15;108:22</p> <p>bass (1) 137:13</p> <p>bath tub (1) 72:16</p> <p>Baton (2) 17:11;19:12</p> <p>Bay (8) 12:19;13:5;62:16, 19;70:4;71:2;78:8; 126:13</p> <p>Bayou (32) 20:25;29:17,19; 46:16;82:22,23; 87:18;89:3;92:4,11, 17,25;97:5;104:7; 105:3;106:1,16,24; 107:15;108:17; 110:9;111:5,24; 114:10;124:13; 125:17;126:16; 136:17;137:4,5,7; 140:20</p> <p>bayous (1) 65:18</p> <p>bays (2) 14:17;79:16</p> <p>bean (1) 74:3</p> <p>beautiful (1) 118:20</p> <p>became (2) 127:18;141:17</p> <p>began (1) 32:12</p> <p>beginning (5) 63:22;81:2;82:25; 145:5,15</p> <p>behalf (4) 91:8;106:16; 107:3;128:22</p> <p>behind (4) 24:21;56:16; 65:24;77:7</p> <p>believes (1) 107:20</p> <p>bell (1) 11:5</p> <p>beneficial (1) 145:18</p> <p>benefit (8) 27:12,25;28:7; 45:9;86:23;93:8; 120:10;141:7</p> <p>benefits (8) 35:19,21;45:4,5; 48:17;52:1,20;93:5</p> <p>benefitting (2)</p>	<p>29:6;141:2</p> <p>Beryl (1) 7:4</p> <p>best (13) 8:18;23:19,20; 25:2;26:6;30:15; 35:15;44:13;45:2; 74:9;101:1;133:5; 151:10</p> <p>Betsy (1) 74:14</p> <p>better (17) 9:9;31:24;32:14, 16;34:13;36:8,9,10; 43:2;44:14,18;48:3; 52:3;53:21;83:20; 89:11;106:17</p> <p>betterment (1) 20:3</p> <p>Beyond (1) 112:8</p> <p>bids (1) 16:5</p> <p>big (9) 76:18;77:1;80:10, 16;82:9;117:11,13; 118:20;135:24</p> <p>biggest (1) 73:4</p> <p>bill (2) 75:14;81:15</p> <p>billion (21) 10:12;28:24; 43:15,16,18;44:1,4, 6;45:21;47:15;51:10, 13,17;52:7;64:19; 79:23;118:6,6;130:1; 141:7;143:7</p> <p>billions (1) 123:23</p> <p>bills (1) 144:21</p> <p>bird (3) 106:13;118:15,21</p> <p>birds (1) 106:6</p> <p>birthday (2) 60:8;87:4</p> <p>bit (20) 5:5;7:21;29:23; 31:16,21;34:3,9,10, 10;36:21;37:18; 50:3;56:4;83:5,11; 136:2;139:15; 140:20;141:11,20</p> <p>Black (4) 74:4;80:23;83:23, 25</p> <p>Blaise (4) 99:23;103:15,19; 105:22</p> <p>bleak (1) 99:4</p>	<p>blessed (1) 74:1</p> <p>blessing (1) 40:4</p> <p>blinds (1) 61:15</p> <p>block (1) 105:5</p> <p>blocking (1) 105:9</p> <p>blog (1) 78:13</p> <p>blood (1) 98:12</p> <p>blue (1) 50:14</p> <p>blues (2) 50:21,24</p> <p>Board (10) 7:9;13:8;15:16; 16:3;21:21;56:12; 81:7;108:17;126:5; 134:15</p> <p>Bob (1) 64:24</p> <p>bobbing (1) 21:10</p> <p>Boeuf (2) 92:11;107:16</p> <p>Bogan (3) 113:3;114:9,10</p> <p>boil (1) 40:13</p> <p>bombed (1) 117:2</p> <p>bonding (1) 99:16</p> <p>bones (5) 127:12,14,15; 128:12,14</p> <p>book (3) 88:15,20;89:8</p> <p>Bordelon (4) 105:23;107:6,8,9</p> <p>both (14) 6:6;20:2;35:7; 45:9;55:5;57:16; 72:18;74:5;78:4; 91:22;109:13;110:6; 120:21;149:1</p> <p>bottom (3) 17:9;38:6;45:25</p> <p>Boudreaux (1) 17:23</p> <p>box (1) 127:12</p> <p>BP (2) 34:12;67:10</p> <p>Bradberry (18) 4:17;6:12,14; 11:12;16:17,22; 22:16;25:1,24;34:20; 36:22;57:13;60:8,19;</p>
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89:24;93:10;94:2; 100:25 Bradbury (2) 12:18,22 brand (2) 69:14;71:14 bread (1) 42:24 break (1) 42:24 breakdown (1) 48:8 breaker (1) 101:9 breaking (1) 134:8 Bren (9) 21:15;57:9,13; 84:2;88:8;101:1; 122:23;123:4;146:19 Brent (4) 4:20;9:1;22:19; 24:24 bridge (3) 15:22;85:2;136:25 bridges (1) 13:4 brief (4) 60:16;138:5; 139:11,20 briefly (1) 53:8 bright (1) 21:16 brilliant (1) 64:10 bring (6) 8:21;23:21;46:17; 107:13;130:9;144:17 bringing (3) 24:13;62:12;136:6 brings (1) 135:23 broke (1) 125:19 broom (2) 81:23,24 brought (3) 79:10;123:12; 127:11 brown (3) 54:19;102:16,17 buddy (1) 28:14 budget (7) 126:10;130:4; 140:3;146:19,21; 147:1,13 Buffalo (3) 20:24;84:5,10 bug (1) 75:7 build (13)	11:19;15:7;29:4; 32:2;39:3;62:3; 64:24;65:13;70:11; 72:25;74:21;82:19; 130:7 building (8) 15:14;52:8,20; 67:16;75:10;82:5; 83:20;125:13 built (6) 11:16;29:8,10; 35:2;72:20;75:8 bullet (1) 142:20 bump (1) 101:6 bunch (2) 24:16;126:3 buoy (1) 65:25 Bureau (1) 106:2 burial (1) 128:1 burning (2) 64:6;65:9 Bush (3) 119:9;121:6,8 business (10) 24:2;71:13;77:18; 98:13;120:4;143:3, 19;144:20,24;145:25 businesses (8) 37:10;38:12; 85:18;95:19;111:20; 112:5,14;120:10 busy (1) 4:9 buy (1) 73:23 buyout (1) 120:21 buyouts (1) 120:24 buys (1) 79:2	Callais (4) 108:6;111:12,14, 17 called (8) 5:13;36:15;74:18; 78:9;100:6;110:9,11; 129:13 calling (1) 79:13 calls (4) 33:3;72:6;88:6; 132:3 camaraderie (1) 18:23 came (8) 9:9;79:20;80:9; 104:8;118:21; 125:20;126:2;127:14 Cameron (4) 27:17;29:20; 73:24;75:17 Caminada (7) 87:14;106:24; 111:23;112:1;124:1; 135:14;140:21 camp (2) 104:19,21 Can (82) 6:15;8:19;10:12; 13:4;16:23;19:19; 20:8;23:25;24:24; 26:21;27:24;29:13; 30:15;32:14;35:15; 36:13,24;37:6;40:8, 17,19;45:24;48:9; 51:9;52:6,17;54:7,8, 13;55:2,3,17;57:19, 20;58:9,10,19,20,25; 60:21;65:5;69:7; 70:10;71:19;72:24, 25;74:19;76:25; 85:8;87:16;88:17; 90:17,17;93:15; 97:13;99:25;104:21; 105:17;109:21; 110:1,6,6;115:23; 118:5;119:3;121:13; 124:17,18;130:20; 133:1,5;134:18,21; 138:17,22,23;143:4; 144:2;145:14;146:5, 13,23 Canal (4) 19:6;83:1;104:23; 136:18 canals (7) 79:20,20;123:11, 11,13;124:12;136:20 capability (3) 34:1;62:3;147:11 capacity (1) 151:14 Capital (2)	18:14;19:17 capture (4) 98:19,25;99:3; 142:15 captured (1) 58:21 cards (1) 57:25 care (1) 129:2 Carlos (6) 63:17;66:13,15; 68:11,12,16 Carmen (1) 101:13 carpet (1) 70:19 Carrell (1) 7:17 case (8) 44:25;45:1;54:12; 126:23;127:10; 129:5,11,12 cases (1) 37:13 Catahoula (1) 74:4 catalyst (1) 64:2 catastrophic (2) 124:16;125:22 categorized (1) 40:8 category (1) 61:21 cattle (2) 69:13;71:13 cattleman (1) 69:21 cause (3) 133:2;136:2; 151:12 causes (2) 98:11;107:21 causing (1) 123:24 caveat (1) 97:19 CCR (1) 151:1 CDBG (2) 82:11;142:21 cemeteries (1) 127:24 Cemetery (2) 127:6,16 cent (1) 11:22 central (5) 46:13;81:21; 85:17;89:15,16 cents (2) 114:24,25	certain (2) 131:7;141:17 certainly (26) 4:5,7,10;5:11;6:1; 25:6,10;27:3;31:10; 39:21;40:1;41:8; 45:2;47:21,25;48:4; 50:4;52:13;53:10,12; 56:22;87:13;138:1; 148:15,25;149:3 Certified (3) 150:5;151:15; 152:3 certify (3) 151:6,13,22 Chabert (11) 7:2;10:2;11:6; 16:24;17:6;18:24; 40:1;56:6;83:8; 100:8,24 Chabert's (1) 25:19 chair (2) 21:22,25 chaired (1) 64:1 chairing (1) 65:1 chairman (16) 4:17;6:12;11:12; 12:18,22;15:15; 16:15;25:24;34:20; 57:12;84:1;89:24; 91:5;94:7;106:1; 126:25 chairs (1) 4:12 challenges (3) 17:12;21:3;88:19 Chamber (1) 111:18 chance (8) 45:13;46:2;50:11; 91:6;136:11;138:9, 15,16 change (12) 9:13,17;31:15,19; 32:16;38:2;45:17; 64:15;65:12;76:13; 102:24;132:22 changed (4) 60:22;68:24,25; 115:16 changes (9) 8:11;31:9,14,18; 32:20;33:20;52:13; 53:24;150:14 changing (6) 31:11;32:5,6; 70:19;78:2;113:12 channel (2) 12:10;61:3 channels (1)
	C			
	Caillou (2) 137:3,5 Cajun (1) 106:16 cake (1) 23:18 Calcasieu (2) 27:16;75:6 call (11) 13:3,4;39:5,6; 40:15;47:21;57:21; 59:3;85:2;128:14,16 CALLAHAN (3) 148:3,4,16			

75:6 charge (3) 53:22;71:19;97:16 charged (1) 26:10 Charles (1) 6:21 Charlie (4) 119:9;121:4,8; 122:16 Charlotte (1) 7:16 Chauvin (1) 103:20 cheaper (1) 62:5 check (1) 49:8 Chene (7) 82:23;83:10,12; 92:5,18;108:17; 111:5 Chett (5) 93:21;97:10,14; 99:22;111:25 Chiasson (3) 93:22;97:12,14 children (3) 45:9;78:19;122:13 China (1) 125:14 Chip (1) 57:13 choir (2) 27:6;28:5 Christmas (1) 74:19 citizens (3) 26:13;34:24;39:13 City (14) 91:8,9,14,25;92:3, 16,25;100:8,20; 109:9,22;110:20,21; 118:21 Civil (1) 150:8 clarity (1) 34:11 clear (3) 23:23;54:11; 134:10 clearly (1) 4:6 climate (2) 102:24;132:22 clock (2) 11:10;99:25 close (6) 72:12,16;82:12,13; 109:15;140:14 closed (1) 109:16 closer (3)	45:23;46:25;101:5 closet (1) 81:23 closing (3) 93:3;112:16,17 Coalition (7) 63:25;65:1;78:10; 94:8;107:1;128:17; 132:16 Coast (56) 6:13,20;8:1;14:14, 16;20:22;22:22; 23:9;24:9;25:9,17; 26:15;27:3,15;29:6; 30:17;31:1,9,11,12; 33:20,25;35:1,6,16, 18,21;37:25;38:1; 45:21;46:14;53:11, 12;66:18;74:6,11; 75:1,23;76:17;86:14; 89:17;98:14;106:2,6, 20;109:19;110:3,7; 113:12,17,18,19; 127:25;128:1,10; 130:18 Coastal (72) 4:22;8:1;14:15; 18:15;20:12;22:21, 24;23:12;24:3,7,20; 26:8,12,16,19;27:6,8, 18;28:7,16,25;35:6, 13,19;36:1;39:12; 42:24;49:24;63:21, 25;64:2,15,19;67:7, 14,24;68:23;70:21; 74:8;78:21;79:8; 84:6;85:25;86:4,19; 90:10;91:10,13; 94:25;97:24;98:9; 102:18,21;103:7; 113:25;115:19,20; 119:18;120:7,8,12, 14,18;122:24;125:2; 126:5;127:5,8,18; 128:7;132:16;133:2 coastallagov (2) 54:15;58:19 coastline (3) 98:22,24;121:18 coast-wide (1) 47:11 Coco (4) 68:20;73:11,13,14 Cocodrie (1) 113:7 colleagues (3) 17:12;115:9;134:1 collected (1) 74:20 colleges (1) 86:14 color (2) 50:14,16	colored (1) 37:4 combined (1) 8:8 coming (26) 7:10;16:14;18:1, 14;20:24;28:15; 52:25;59:20;60:13; 63:13,19;67:9;80:3; 91:2;93:21;94:3; 97:3;99:12;105:11; 113:10;121:22; 133:24;142:19; 144:8,8,13 commend (1) 100:1 comment (22) 4:25;5:14;8:24; 21:9,19;42:14;56:3; 57:2;58:9,12;59:2, 11;74:13;89:12; 111:16;113:20; 132:18;137:25; 138:7;140:13; 146:11,13 comments (44) 5:4,7,20,21,23; 6:24;8:16,18;9:10, 11,20,23;25:19;56:8, 8,9;58:14,23;60:17, 21,23;61:1;63:10; 66:5;84:18;87:7; 89:18;91:10;103:19; 108:15;110:19; 111:10;112:17; 114:22;115:23; 116:1;132:17; 138:14,17;139:7; 140:17;146:8;148:8, 23 commerce (3) 27:11;28:2;111:18 commercial (2) 35:8;106:9 Commission (5) 97:15,18;99:18; 106:18;107:3 commissioners (3) 81:6,6,9 committed (4) 9:23;25:16;86:16; 96:10 Committee (5) 21:23,25;22:1; 125:3;127:1 commodity (1) 54:6 common (1) 123:7 communities (18) 10:16,22;33:23,24; 38:12;40:21,23; 41:12;42:17,18;	47:24;50:5;102:21; 104:13;115:14; 119:14;131:10,15 community (21) 33:19;40:16;42:9; 86:14;88:21;89:3; 97:6;102:25;114:11; 119:23;120:8; 122:20;128:7; 131:11,11,12,14,21, 23,24;133:21 companies (8) 23:11;78:23,24; 85:21;105:14,18; 116:17;123:18 companion (1) 34:6 comparisons (1) 103:5 compartment (1) 37:21 complete (1) 5:8 completed (9) 12:4;14:10;57:17, 25;59:7;60:22; 71:11;96:21;116:9 completely (1) 69:8 completing (1) 142:20 completion (3) 94:22;96:15; 111:23 complex (8) 17:16;20:7;61:3; 94:23;95:5;96:15; 142:5,25 complexities (1) 113:12 complicated (5) 17:16;18:8; 113:19;117:9;144:12 complying (1) 93:23 component (4) 61:9;67:7;141:14; 144:24 comprehensive (4) 66:20;73:6; 108:12;120:23 comprised (1) 111:19 comprises (1) 140:2 concern (4) 21:6;109:23; 129:20;133:20 concerned (2) 78:17;124:2 concerning (1) 115:6 concerns (1)	92:4 conclude (2) 137:24;148:24 concluded (1) 149:5 concludes (1) 5:15 condition (2) 22:22;24:1 conference (1) 18:25 confident (2) 25:20;104:3 congratulate (1) 108:11 congratulation (1) 134:24 Congratulations (1) 16:18 Congress (1) 95:9 Congressional (1) 117:12 Congressman (1) 7:18 connect (2) 71:9;82:19 connected (1) 82:22 consequently (1) 108:24 conservation (3) 75:16;81:1;94:16 conservative (1) 44:20 consider (7) 61:19;65:15; 111:2;131:5,14,17; 134:5 consideration (3) 10:10;128:3;132:6 considerations (1) 102:23 Considering (2) 61:8;130:10 consistent (1) 98:21 consists (1) 95:2 Consortium (1) 113:7 constraining (1) 10:23 constraint (4) 39:19,20,21;43:10 constraints (6) 10:22;39:9,23; 43:21,21;91:23 construct (1) 130:21 constructed (1) 74:23 construction (9)
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<p>desires (1) 64:8</p> <p>desperate (1) 18:17</p> <p>desperation (1) 19:15</p> <p>despite (2) 96:2;109:1</p> <p>destroying (1) 17:21</p> <p>destruction (1) 122:8</p> <p>detail (7) 48:1;52:2;89:17; 143:2,14;145:13; 146:5</p> <p>detailed (1) 87:7</p> <p>details (1) 134:2</p> <p>determine (2) 52:24;53:4</p> <p>devastation (1) 136:20</p> <p>develop (5) 54:25;67:12; 99:14;121:1;140:1</p> <p>developed (1) 141:13</p> <p>developing (8) 26:11;32:21; 35:24;43:22;44:11; 53:23;100:3;108:2</p> <p>development (10) 4:23;33:16;42:4; 53:9;84:21;86:22; 106:21;119:24; 120:5;135:7</p> <p>dialogue (4) 42:15;133:14,24; 134:1</p> <p>die (1) 38:3</p> <p>difference (4) 20:9;50:8,19;51:6</p> <p>differences (2) 32:8;50:20</p> <p>different (8) 42:11;44:4,10; 50:7;76:12;80:2; 84:3;123:3</p> <p>differently (1) 32:18</p> <p>difficult (3) 18:8;98:25;107:17</p> <p>digging (1) 12:10</p> <p>Dinner (3) 42:19,22,23</p> <p>direct (1) 14:18</p> <p>direction (4) 18:19;19:24,25;</p>	<p>20:8</p> <p>directly (3) 77:4;101:12,15</p> <p>Director (9) 5:17;57:15;81:1; 85:16;91:7;97:14; 108:10;129:12; 139:12</p> <p>dirt (1) 29:20</p> <p>disagree (1) 82:17</p> <p>disappear (1) 70:17</p> <p>disappeared (1) 121:19</p> <p>disappearing (1) 121:18</p> <p>disappears (2) 137:15,16</p> <p>disappointed (1) 108:25</p> <p>disaster (4) 128:19;129:14,16, 17</p> <p>discourse (1) 150:12</p> <p>discuss (2) 12:18;129:21</p> <p>discussed (3) 13:19;25:4;30:5</p> <p>discusses (1) 33:25</p> <p>discussing (2) 25:8;30:1</p> <p>discussion (1) 33:16</p> <p>discussions (1) 42:24</p> <p>dismantling (1) 107:14</p> <p>displaced (1) 64:22</p> <p>distance (1) 62:4</p> <p>District (8) 81:2;92:17;93:2; 94:14,17;108:11; 110:18,20</p> <p>districts (2) 70:14;94:15</p> <p>ditto (1) 90:6</p> <p>diversify (1) 136:1</p> <p>diversion (8) 46:18;74:23; 90:12,19;92:18; 108:18;111:7;134:9</p> <p>diversions (9) 47:4;48:18;74:18; 76:12;90:13;122:2; 133:1,7;142:6</p>	<p>dividing (1) 17:23</p> <p>DNR (1) 8:7</p> <p>document (7) 5:22;30:24;34:3; 54:16;138:8;139:21, 22</p> <p>doggone (1) 20:16</p> <p>dollar (7) 28:6;43:20,23; 47:11,19;48:9,19</p> <p>dollars (26) 10:12;16:2;27:17, 20;28:12,24;31:25; 32:1;44:4,7;64:4,5; 82:11;90:22;96:14; 109:14;115:15; 118:6;123:22;124:3; 130:1;141:17; 142:24;144:7;145:8, 14</p> <p>Donald (9) 60:3,5;63:16; 89:25;103:22;113:3; 114:7,10;116:4</p> <p>donate (1) 75:15</p> <p>done (18) 30:1;38:13;54:24; 64:4,22;74:18;75:3; 82:15;87:13;92:6; 97:21;110:2;113:16; 125:12;135:12; 138:4;140:9,15</p> <p>door (3) 77:18;138:12,24</p> <p>DOTD (1) 24:6</p> <p>doubt (2) 15:25;84:20</p> <p>Dove (15) 7:1,6;11:2,9,11; 16:20;17:4;18:25; 29:16;47:23;71:22; 81:3;82:8;83:8; 100:23</p> <p>down (13) 20:24;28:15; 40:13;57:19;72:21; 84:3;88:7;101:8; 127:12;129:7; 142:22;145:2;151:8</p> <p>downtown (1) 125:24</p> <p>downturn (1) 135:25</p> <p>Dr (1) 64:11</p> <p>draft (20) 4:22;5:18;9:12; 28:20;34:4;41:14,24;</p>	<p>45:12,16;46:4;51:22; 60:23;91:10;97:25; 102:5;115:12; 124:10;139:17,18; 148:23</p> <p>dredge (2) 12:9;29:4</p> <p>dredging (4) 48:15,16,20; 107:23</p> <p>drilling (2) 79:19,21</p> <p>drinking (1) 87:19</p> <p>drive (2) 134:19;149:4</p> <p>drivers (3) 39:5;40:11,14</p> <p>dropped (2) 101:14,20</p> <p>dry (1) 32:12</p> <p>duck (2) 73:18;100:11</p> <p>Ducks (5) 75:17,18,20;76:7; 77:9</p> <p>due (3) 129:6;145:1; 150:11</p> <p>dug (1) 75:6</p> <p>Dulac (2) 42:19;63:22</p> <p>Dularge (3) 82:23;136:17; 137:3</p> <p>duly (1) 151:14</p> <p>Dupre (7) 7:12;77:16;80:22, 23,24,25;101:3</p> <p>Dupre's (1) 84:18</p> <p>during (2) 59:22;91:15</p> <p>dynamic (1) 31:9</p> <p>dynamics (2) 64:15;65:12</p> <p>dynamite (1) 74:17</p>	<p>ears (1) 60:25</p> <p>Earth (1) 113:14</p> <p>earthen (1) 95:3</p> <p>east (14) 12:24;13:23;14:2, 25;15:20;17:25; 29:17;47:1;72:18; 82:24;91:14,19,25; 125:15</p> <p>eastern (12) 13:6;40:3;47:5; 62:14;84:25;85:9; 92:2,22;100:6;125:6; 126:7;137:8</p> <p>easy (2) 30:12;49:6</p> <p>eat (1) 23:19</p> <p>eaten (2) 12:25;15:21</p> <p>echo (4) 25:18;84:18; 112:18,23</p> <p>economic (12) 27:24;51:18;53:9; 67:19;86:23;95:13; 96:4;106:21;112:4; 119:23;135:5,23</p> <p>economics (1) 54:8</p> <p>economy (4) 35:21;53:12; 136:2;137:16</p> <p>Eco-restoration (1) 14:8</p> <p>ecosystem (8) 14:12;26:15,16; 35:17;52:1;102:22; 103:1;106:20</p> <p>Eddie (4) 108:6;111:12,17; 113:2</p> <p>educating (1) 24:9</p> <p>education (4) 113:22;116:12; 129:17,18</p> <p>educational (1) 84:13</p> <p>Edwards (2) 18:11;94:21</p> <p>effect (1) 84:8</p> <p>effective (4) 35:5;65:2;108:23; 111:6</p> <p>effects (2) 14:18;132:22</p> <p>efficiently (1) 32:1</p>
E				
			<p>earlier (13) 30:12;34:19; 35:19;36:1;43:11,24; 44:10;47:16;51:13; 70:18;112:21; 119:16,25</p> <p>earliest (1) 61:19</p>	

effort (7) 23:4;41:18;84:23; 98:7;133:10,13; 143:9	employ (2) 120:8;151:19	21:16	evaluated (4) 36:4,22;37:14; 43:13	expanded (3) 34:8;68:6;94:13
efforts (15) 8:8;86:2,6,22; 96:21;97:2;98:19,21; 110:19;122:23; 134:10,19,24; 145:15;148:7	employers (1) 112:20	enjoying (1) 42:23	evaluation (1) 33:9	expect (8) 4:14;140:4; 141:15,16;143:5,5; 144:18;145:6
eight (4) 69:8;71:3,6;135:6	employment (3) 65:17,22;120:6	enough (7) 16:16;40:5;71:20, 23;73:23;79:17; 146:7	even (8) 52:14;69:19;72:6; 80:7;89:11;116:25; 130:23;134:4	expectations (1) 143:1
eighteen (2) 107:23;144:3	EMR (1) 107:10	ensure (2) 9:25;146:24	evening (17) 4:15;5:11;6:15; 57:5;66:16;87:3; 94:2;97:13;105:25; 107:9;111:15; 112:25;114:16; 119:16;132:15; 140:18;149:2	expected (2) 34:17;51:9
eighty (4) 69:3;78:20;79:24; 114:23	enable (1) 18:6	entire (5) 67:13;75:14; 95:16,16;109:4	event (4) 30:7;50:10;51:4,5	expecting (1) 144:25
eighty-nine (1) 10:19	enclosures (1) 95:7	entirety (1) 99:18	everybody (14) 4:4;10:6;19:4; 20:19,23;21:7,9; 59:9;66:7;77:20; 104:21;126:20; 138:20,22	expedite (1) 61:5
either (4) 33:20;54:16; 62:23;91:21	encourage (15) 9:19;11:1;34:4; 55:21;61:4,5,25; 86:12,20;92:19; 105:13;108:16; 109:6;120:15;127:21	entities (3) 99:1,2;135:12	everybody's (2) 58:6;138:2	expend (1) 34:17
elaborated (1) 120:25	encouraged (2) 97:25;124:9	entity (1) 26:10	everyone (8) 5:6;15:3;16:10; 39:11;62:16;106:8; 139:4,8	expenditure (2) 48:21;143:13
elected (7) 7:1,8,20;18:20,20; 97:18;129:7	end (16) 8:20;10:11;19:11; 20:15;26:1,6;30:19; 38:21;41:7;56:3; 57:1;84:22;104:23; 105:2;123:11;145:5	entourage (1) 148:12	environment (3) 32:6;98:13;113:13	expenditures (4) 30:3;140:5; 143:12,23
elements (1) 119:17	endeavor (1) 19:10	environmental (5) 38:14;40:16;61:7; 95:4;127:20	environmentalist (1) 118:18	expensive (1) 75:2
elephant (1) 69:15	ended (1) 33:10	environmentalist (1) 118:18	equally (2) 58:13,15	experience (5) 27:2;44:18;86:4; 99:19;128:19
elevated (1) 131:1	ends (2) 56:5;72:18	Ernest (4) 122:17;124:23; 125:1;126:22	Ernest (4) 122:17;124:23; 125:1;126:22	experienced (1) 64:9
elevating (2) 37:9;130:14	enemy (1) 73:4	erosion (6) 65:20;74:8; 115:20;127:8,19; 128:7	erosion (6) 65:20;74:8; 115:20;127:8,19; 128:7	experiencing (1) 94:4
elevation (3) 120:21;130:14; 131:1	energy (3) 95:20;96:4;145:3	Erwin (3) 103:16;105:24,25	Erwin (3) 103:16;105:24,25	expertise (3) 48:5;122:24;124:8
elevations (1) 47:13	enforcement (2) 123:15;128:18	ES11 (1) 102:14	ES11 (1) 102:14	experts (1) 23:21
eleven (4) 12:1,1,61;21; 141:1	enforcing (1) 26:11	especially (2) 120:10;133:6	especially (2) 120:10;133:6	explain (1) 123:3
Ellis (5) 5:16;57:15; 138:10;139:3,11	engaged (1) 85:21	essence (1) 142:14	essence (1) 142:14	exportable (1) 54:6
else (4) 7:2;23:22;62:16; 106:7	engaging (1) 89:9	essential (1) 95:12	essential (1) 95:12	express (1) 77:12
elsewhere (1) 4:8	engine (1) 112:4	essentially (2) 57:22;129:14	essentially (2) 57:22;129:14	expressed (1) 34:21
e-mail (3) 56:10;58:19; 138:18	Engineer (1) 64:24	establish (3) 62:18,24;63:6	establish (3) 62:18,24;63:6	extend (1) 137:2
e-mails (1) 88:5	engineering (6) 60:12;92:9; 141:19,25;142:3,9	establishing (1) 63:9	establishing (1) 63:9	extensive (1) 107:1
emphasis (4) 33:19;124:20; 141:19;142:4	Engineers (4) 14:10;72:11;73:5; 76:19	estimate (1) 47:17	estimate (1) 47:17	extent (2) 67:17;133:17
emphasize (1) 105:15	enhances (1) 92:21	estuary (5) 121:11,14,24,25; 137:13	estuary (5) 121:11,14,24,25; 137:13	extra (1) 83:14
emphasized (1) 123:8	enhancing (1) 86:23	et (1) 151:16	et (1) 151:16	extremely (1) 9:11
	enjoy (1) 106:13	etc (1) 23:11	etc (1) 23:11	eye (1) 77:21
	enjoyed (1) 36:3;37:23	evaluate (2) 36:3;37:23	evaluate (2) 36:3;37:23	eyes (2) 98:6;121:17
				F
				face (7) 17:15;18:9;21:3; 22:13;98:11;132:22; 133:16

Facebook (2) 6:3;78:14	feed (2) 6:3;95:15	26:5;43:20;44:3; 47:11,19;70:23;85:8; 128:5	76:17;126:9	18:23;20:7;139:5
facility (2) 107:18,25	feedback (1) 42:5	figures (3) 28:6;48:9,19	fixing (1) 78:15	forces (1) 8:8
facing (2) 66:17;133:3	feeding (1) 88:22	final (6) 16:4;41:14;56:7, 13;58:22;92:20	flier (1) 54:16	forecast (1) 140:4
fact (16) 24:19;25:5,7;33:3; 42:19;54:25;55:2,10, 11,13;95:16;109:1; 117:21;118:4;120:1; 146:20	feeds (1) 53:11	finally (5) 67:18;92:16; 93:14;117:18;122:9	float (2) 106:15;128:2	forefront (2) 102:15,19
factor (1) 110:4	feel (7) 8:20,24;77:6;79:9; 104:2;115:9;132:1	financial (1) 128:3	floating (1) 128:5	foregoing (1) 151:6
factors (1) 39:1	feeling (1) 66:3	find (7) 10:11;19:9;72:23; 93:12;99:3;127:13, 17	flood (29) 12:2;33:12;37:16, 17;38:7;45:20;50:2, 13,22,25;55:19;61:3, 6;82:9,22;83:20; 91:24;92:18,25;93:1; 95:1,3,6;96:17,21; 108:23;109:21; 110:9,15	forget (1) 87:4
fail (1) 124:14	feelings (1) 9:15	fine (2) 20:14;123:17	flooded (1) 66:2	forget (1) 81:3
failing (1) 123:12	feels (2) 22:21;24:3	finer (1) 123:19	floodgate (5) 16:4,6;19:6;82:19; 83:1	form (7) 5:9;36:3;57:17,20; 58:18;59:7;132:4
fair (1) 23:14	feet (8) 50:15,16;72:21; 107:24;121:21,21; 130:15,23	first (29) 8:4,9;12:7;14:16; 18:9,22;31:3,7;32:9; 33:22;35:3;47:21; 67:1;68:25;70:5; 84:2,24;91:14;101:6; 108:16;111:21; 114:11;117:8; 118:12;119:22; 127:7,10;132:18; 135:11	flooding (5) 34:24,25;92:24; 94:6;120:20	formal (2) 57:2;115:22
fairly (1) 109:18	Felicity (1) 83:16	fish (6) 38:5;52:3;106:6, 12;121:10,13	flood-proofing (2) 37:10;47:14	formally (2) 13:8;114:22
Falgout (5) 19:6;87:1;89:21, 23,24	fence (2) 69:14;71:15	fiscal (5) 5:18;138:6;145:6; 147:9;148:23	floor (3) 5:2,21;19:1	format (2) 56:20;147:22
fall (1) 60:24	fences (1) 74:20	fisher (1) 23:6	flow (7) 76:20;78:3;91:23; 92:1,11,21;111:4	formation (1) 72:20
falling (1) 100:12	Fer (10) 91:12,13;100:7,12; 101:8,12,21;102:7; 103:10;110:23	fisherman (1) 23:6	flowing (1) 104:25	formed (4) 56:7;90:9;94:9; 128:17
familiar (3) 12:23;37:15;106:8	few (18) 4:19;10:8;11:3,6, 7;27:15;42:10; 48:23;51:20;55:24; 59:2;60:18;61:2; 63:9;64:5;76:5; 108:14;137:20	fishermen (1) 23:10	fly (1) 118:11	former (1) 7:11
family (2) 103:20;136:16	fewer (1) 111:8	fishery (2) 27:10;70:6	focus (9) 23:22;33:12; 66:25;85:23;86:7; 87:5,10;102:2;134:6	forms (3) 58:21;59:2;146:10
fantastic (4) 25:4;55:16;58:1; 130:11	field (3) 72:22;116:9; 129:15	fishing (14) 28:16;40:21;74:6, 13;76:14,15;78:3,12, 13;80:12;106:9,11; 112:13;123:9	flowed (1) 104:25	forsaken (1) 116:19
far (4) 41:17;69:1; 114:23;129:24	fifteen (6) 12:3;34:15;50:15; 67:10;79:15;99:13	fit (4) 36:10,11,12,14	flowering (1) 105:3	forth (2) 27:11;46:24
farm (1) 74:3	fifty (24) 10:12,12;34:18; 39:16,18;41:20; 45:19,22;49:15,16, 23;51:2,5,9,12,14; 52:4,5,7,73:17; 109:24;118:3,10; 134:5	five (8) 12:15;31:5;34:23; 53:1;103:11,12; 134:5;141:23	fly (1) 118:11	fortunate (1) 73:22
fast (3) 68:10;146:6,7	Fifty-four (1) 36:25	fix (2) 26:5;43:20;44:3; 47:11,19;70:23;85:8; 128:5	focus (9) 23:22;33:12; 66:25;85:23;86:7; 87:5,10;102:2;134:6	forty (3) 103:23;104:22; 127:4
fastest (1) 67:23	fifty-six (1) 143:24		folks (23) 18:9,12;19:3; 20:20,24;25:12,13, 23,25;26:16;28:9; 31:8;41:21,23;46:1; 47:25;56:21,23; 57:24;89:9;110:6; 113:9;139:1	forty-four (1) 74:7
Father (1) 117:23	fight (1) 18:16		follow (3) 25:2;140:10;148:6	forty-nine (1) 78:25
faucet (1) 72:15	fighting (2) 20:3;28:4		followed (7) 73:12;77:16; 80:22;83:24;118:4,6; 138:7	forty-three (1) 101:11
favor (1) 112:22	figure (8)		foot (3) 117:5;119:1; 124:15	forum (1) 119:21
fed (1) 118:22			force (3)	forward (14) 12:17;13:22;14:1; 16:11;32:7;53:7; 81:19;82:9;89:5; 108:13;110:1,25; 141:15;148:9
federal (11) 11:20;73:7;75:13; 82:5,6,15;96:2,12, 14;145:5;150:8				found (1) 93:14
federally (2) 95:9;96:11				Foundation (2) 89:2,3
Federation (2) 148:5,6				founder (2) 73:14;86:2
				founding (1) 90:5
				four (5)

<p>12:15;16:21; 24:12;121:20;140:11 Fourchon (9) 27:21;87:18;89:6; 95:21;97:16;98:15, 16;112:2,4 four-hour (1) 22:7 fourteen (2) 130:15,23 fourth (1) 19:1 fowl (4) 27:10;40:24; 73:17;74:5 framework (2) 30:18;84:21 Francisco (1) 54:2 Franklin (1) 110:14 frankly (4) 26:24;39:14;48:3; 113:16 free (1) 35:4 Fresh (6) 40:7;76:13;90:12, 13;121:23,24 freshwater (2) 46:18;111:24 Friday (1) 60:8 friend (2) 64:11;93:15 front (4) 4:13;57:12;87:16; 121:22 frontload (1) 144:21 fruition (2) 52:23,25 fuel (1) 95:15 fulfill (2) 39:11,12 full (3) 15:24;22:2;92:23 fully (1) 22:3 function (2) 62:17,20 fund (7) 67:13;71:22; 95:25;96:3,14;99:17; 123:20 funded (1) 67:8 funding (29) 18:4,17;19:6; 34:11,14,17;39:19; 43:8,9;44:1;66:25; 75:13;94:24;96:12;</p>	<p>99:8;118:8;120:16; 126:11;129:25,25; 130:7;144:11,12,12, 22;145:12;146:2,21, 25 funds (5) 75:24;79:23;98:4; 107:22;144:15 funnel (1) 80:11 funny (2) 18:7;88:7 further (6) 14:14;47:4;82:24, 25;151:13,22 future (33) 15:13;26:23;27:2; 31:14,16;38:14,15, 16,17,20;39:4;44:17, 17,21;45:10;49:3,5, 9;50:5,6;52:10,11; 55:6,20;67:14;97:23; 98:8,10;102:21; 107:18;122:6; 131:18;132:6 futures (3) 38:23,24;44:10 FY (5) 30:4;139:18; 143:4,4;145:5</p>	<p>75:24 generations (1) 79:16 gentleman (3) 122:1;123:8; 131:22 gentlemen (5) 24:4;78:1;80:8; 121:7;122:10 genuine (1) 23:5 geological (1) 72:23 gets (4) 7:7;18:19;101:7; 117:13 gifts (2) 59:25;95:18 given (3) 24:1;50:12;135:18 gives (4) 21:8;122:6,6,9 giving (5) 42:13;68:22; 77:11;91:6;118:17 goal (3) 12:6;109:21; 121:12 goals (1) 92:15 God (1) 116:19 Godell (1) 73:15 God's (1) 20:17 goes (2) 25:17;137:15 Golden (2) 107:2;112:9 GOMESA (1) 145:3 Good (46) 4:4;6:15,16,21; 8:13;10:24;25:20,22; 27:4;30:16,17;32:18; 41:6;42:25;44:20; 45:6;50:24,25;52:17, 18;56:4,17;58:25; 61:15;62:8;64:11,16; 66:2,16;77:1;78:1; 86:19;87:3;94:2; 97:13;100:18; 104:12;105:25; 107:9;111:15; 122:19;131:16; 132:15;139:8,15; 151:23 goodies (1) 60:1 Gordy (12) 7:1,6;11:2;16:25; 18:12,13,24;19:2,23;</p>	<p>21:25;63:1;71:22 gorilla (1) 90:15 government (4) 11:20;24:15;73:8; 76:21 government's (1) 96:2 governor (15) 18:11,11,21;20:1, 6;22:20,23,24;23:12; 24:3,6,20;34:21; 94:20;112:22 governor's (1) 57:14 grab (1) 72:3 Grace (1) 104:8 graduated (1) 79:18 Grand (2) 137:3,5 grandchildren (4) 45:10;65:24; 78:20;122:13 grandfathers (1) 76:15 grants (1) 126:4 graph (2) 143:17,19 grapple (1) 132:21 grasp (2) 98:22,25 grass (4) 69:23,24;72:7; 75:11 grassroots (1) 94:8 grateful (1) 106:25 Grave's (1) 7:18 Gray (1) 20:25 great (11) 6:17;16:9;52:2; 81:16;84:12;88:24; 100:9;125:14;129:6; 137:7;149:4 greater (6) 48:1;67:2;77:1; 89:1;97:15;99:18 greatest (1) 67:17 green (6) 26:22;46:5;49:8, 12,18;52:15 greens (3) 49:18;50:21,24 Gregory (3)</p>	<p>150:5;151:1;152:2 grew (1) 114:15 grim (1) 26:24 ground (14) 23:16;25:7;29:2,2; 31:1;38:19;44:23; 45:5;53:4;55:23; 87:22;134:8;143:21; 144:1 group (17) 36:14;37:24; 40:18;41:1;78:9,10, 13;80:11;84:12; 85:18;94:9;102:2; 127:5,9,23;128:22; 134:14 groups (4) 78:16;80:3; 128:10;134:17 grow (1) 80:19 growing (1) 67:23 grown (1) 82:2 growth (3) 95:13;115:17; 137:13 guarantee (1) 10:3 guess (5) 11:5;70:10;72:14; 129:20;130:14 guests (1) 4:19 guide (1) 30:22 guiding (1) 30:24 Gulf (16) 14:13;27:23; 35:17;62:25;74:10; 85:21;91:24;92:5; 95:20;96:6;101:5; 116:10;119:12,15; 125:16;145:3</p>
G				
<p>gain (1) 26:22 gained (2) 49:18;131:23 Galliano (1) 97:17 gap (1) 71:7 Garrett (1) 7:18 gas (7) 23:11;24:2;27:23; 85:23;123:17; 135:25;147:4 gate (6) 61:3;71:12,14,15; 82:9;95:1 gates (6) 12:2;37:16;82:22; 95:3,6;96:17 gathering (1) 148:8 gave (1) 146:15 general (2) 125:24;144:14 generally (5) 35:5;52:2;127:7; 128:2,15 generate (1)</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>H&C (1) 94:23 Haas (1) 21:15 Haase (3) 4:20;24:25;57:13 habitat (3)</p>		

<p>14:15;106:5; 112:11 habitats (1) 35:7 Hackberry (3) 73:20,24;75:4 half (9) 16:5;17:18;19:18; 38:6;42:6;75:8; 113:20;117:16;118:2 hall (2) 45:14;138:24 hand (3) 7:15;57:19;134:20 handle (1) 57:3 hands (1) 63:23 handwrite (1) 58:20 hand-write (1) 138:18 hanging (1) 126:19 happen (1) 116:13 happened (1) 127:18 happening (5) 16:10;53:4;55:1; 72:1;116:15 happens (4) 38:4,5;54:19; 128:9 happy (14) 4:15;10:6,18,21, 21;19:9;25:23;26:1; 56:25;76:10,25;90:2; 143:14;146:7 Harbor (2) 110:20;117:1 hard (13) 15:17;18:16; 21:13;22:14;26:4; 30:11,19;32:18;46:1; 81:18;98:19;128:11; 146:24 harness (1) 35:1 Harry (3) 117:14,15,18 harsh (1) 132:19 head (3) 21:10;104:24; 105:1 headed (1) 55:23 headland (1) 67:6 Headlands (3) 111:23;112:1; 124:1</p>	<p>health (1) 98:21 healthy (3) 53:10,11;121:14 hear (19) 5:2,3,23;6:15; 9:21;10:13;11:4; 21:7;29:23;42:14; 48:14;56:8;58:25; 62:15;77:19;103:24; 139:1;143:15,16 heard (15) 7:13;24:5;60:24; 69:1;74:12;112:21; 114:18;119:16; 134:8,9;139:7,15; 140:19;142:5;148:17 hearing (1) 149:5 hearings (2) 56:1;140:12 heart (1) 17:9 hearts (1) 35:10 heat (1) 117:13 heavy (1) 127:8 heel (1) 126:14 held (2) 64:17;65:3 helicopters (1) 118:12 hell (2) 85:4;117:12 help (15) 10:4;26:12;36:8; 42:21;54:8;84:5; 89:4;91:22;93:19; 122:2;128:14; 132:21;134:18; 136:8;137:19 helped (2) 20:25;23:3 helpful (1) 61:12 helping (1) 82:11 helps (1) 14:12 Herdis (1) 66:14 Herdis (6) 66:14;68:19; 72:12;73:11;82:17; 103:22 hereby (2) 150:9;151:5 herein (1) 151:8 hereinbefore (1)</p>	<p>151:11 heritage (5) 35:9,15;79:10,11; 112:13 Hey (1) 19:13 Hi (1) 119:11 high (6) 13:1;47:18;75:4; 94:23;102:9;130:22 highest (1) 103:12 highlight (3) 114:17;119:15; 133:23 highlighted (2) 102:16,16 highly (1) 127:22 hinges (1) 148:19 historic (1) 26:25 historical (2) 26:18,18 Historically (1) 135:18 histories (1) 97:24 hit (2) 89:18;135:24 hold (4) 19:11;49:3;55:6; 97:13 holes (2) 64:6;65:9 holistic (1) 129:16 holistically (1) 130:20 Holy (1) 16:19 home (4) 16:10;22:12; 83:12;106:4 homes (4) 37:9,11;38:12; 95:18 honestly (1) 139:7 hope (12) 26:2;44:13;45:12; 46:2;54:11;55:14; 65:25;122:6,6,9; 131:17;146:7 hopefully (8) 8:14;9:1,8;10:24; 33:14;38:20;56:13; 86:16 hoping (5) 13:19;45:2;64:18; 83:1;136:1</p>	<p>horse (1) 117:24 hospitals (1) 24:7 Houma (12) 4:6;35:12;61:2; 63:19;68:13;94:3; 95:6;100:19;125:21, 24;127:3;136:17 hour (5) 31:10,10;101:14, 17,20 hours (4) 24:8,12;88:5; 133:12 House (4) 21:24;22:1,1; 70:19 houses (1) 131:6 housing (4) 129:23;130:18,22; 131:15 huge (1) 83:20 human (1) 128:4 hundred (15) 10:9,14,17;27:17; 29:3;36:21,23;41:20; 43:12;51:4,5;107:19; 109:17,21;147:11 hundreds (2) 87:20;124:3 hundred-year (1) 50:10 hunted (1) 78:7 hunter (2) 23:5;73:17 hunters (1) 100:11 hunting (4) 73:18;74:6,12; 80:12 hurricane (15) 11:16;50:10; 74:14;81:16;82:7,21; 91:16;94:10;101:13, 16,17,18,19;126:2; 127:9 hurricanes (4) 26:14;34:25; 101:12;125:19 hydrologic (2) 46:8;66:22</p>	<p>ID (1) 100:17 idea (8) 34:14;38:17; 64:10,16;88:23,24; 101:10;131:14 ideas (4) 32:22;33:2,7;66:6 identified (5) 30:4;47:10;48:21; 61:24;62:8 identify (1) 36:2 iffy (1) 147:14 Im (1) 130:6 imagine (2) 118:8,14 immediate (2) 124:20;134:22 immersed (2) 22:10;23:4 impact (9) 28:1;55:8;67:2; 92:15;94:5;107:12; 127:19;133:7;147:5 impacts (3) 27:19;111:8;128:7 implement (6) 30:25;45:19; 47:22;109:2;139:14, 22 implementation (10) 43:24;49:21; 92:23;98:1,5;108:14, 22;109:25;140:6; 145:24 implemented (1) 109:12 implementing (6) 26:11;49:11,14; 50:1,23;109:12 importance (6) 12:22;90:12;96:6; 109:5;116:1;121:23 important (43) 4:6,11;9:11;16:9; 18:4;20:23;21:11; 27:5,21;28:17;35:7, 23;38:11;40:12; 50:4;51:11;53:13; 58:8,14;60:19,20,25; 61:4,18;62:2,13,17; 67:7;90:3;101:9,22; 105:15;110:4; 112:14;133:15; 137:17;140:12; 141:14;142:6; 143:20;144:2,17,23 importantly (1) 23:8 imposed (1)</p>
			I	
			Iberia (1) 110:12 Iberville (1) 93:8	

123:20 impressed (1) 17:7 impression (1) 18:22 impressive (1) 134:12 improve (6) 32:15,20;98:21; 142:16,17,17 improved (3) 29:8;32:10;101:1 improvements (2) 82:13,14 improves (1) 32:3 inaudible (21) 14:24;63:24;71:8; 73:22;74:24;75:5,11, 18,19,21;76:5;77:9; 83:1;117:18;125:8, 10,12;127:16;137:6; 145:13;150:21 inch (2) 15:7,10 include (7) 21:19;92:19;98:1; 107:22;108:17; 109:6;131:2 included (6) 33:10;43:14; 108:19,20;109:1,24 includes (1) 98:8 including (3) 66:21;96:22;98:14 inclusion (2) 94:19;106:25 income (1) 120:3 incorporate (2) 32:19;33:1 incorporated (1) 32:21 increase (4) 89:13;92:1;111:3; 142:24 increased (3) 33:12,18;107:15 incredible (1) 67:19 incredibly (1) 21:16 indeed (2) 22:23;27:14 independent (1) 98:19 indicate (2) 150:13,17 indicated (3) 44:25;60:19;62:1 individuals (3) 33:7;120:3,19	Industrial (1) 85:17 industries (2) 85:23;108:4 industry (4) 27:18,23;92:15; 98:9 inexpensive (1) 84:6 influx (1) 15:19 information (10) 6:8;28:19;32:22; 33:2,4;43:2;54:10, 23;56:20;78:1 informative (1) 55:22 informed (1) 22:3 infrastructure (1) 95:22 inherited (1) 127:9 initiative (1) 90:1 ink (1) 32:11 inland (1) 14:17 inlet (1) 137:8 innovation (2) 102:15,20 input (3) 23:24;24:10; 119:21 inside (4) 38:7;64:14,23; 65:12 insight (1) 21:14 instances (1) 93:7 institution (1) 113:21 insure (1) 120:7 insuring (1) 34:1 integrated (2) 37:21;94:24 integration (1) 102:24 integrity (1) 14:13 intended (1) 92:2 intent (2) 62:10;90:9 interact (1) 43:1 interaction (1) 150:11	interchangeably (1) 37:7 intercoastal (2) 125:18,21 interest (6) 25:12;74:2;82:1; 108:3;110:22;151:20 interested (6) 54:22;55:1;84:17; 86:9;110:8,22 interests (1) 76:21 Interfaith (1) 114:11 interim (2) 90:18;110:13 interior (1) 14:14 intersection (1) 124:13 intertwined (1) 35:16 into (36) 5:5;15:11;21:13, 14;26:4,6,23;27:2; 32:6;34:14;38:14,16, 25;42:3,4,16;43:5; 45:10,11,13;46:15; 52:23,25;65:22; 80:11;84:23;88:6; 90:4;92:13;105:3; 141:5;142:8;144:6,9 intricately (1) 35:16 introduce (3) 6:12,25;81:5 intrusion (2) 70:1;137:7 investigate (1) 92:9 investigation (1) 127:17 investing (2) 27:14;90:22 investment (5) 51:17;86:10; 102:18;109:20;133:5 investments (3) 27:18;67:3;68:2 investors (1) 98:9 involved (10) 22:9;60:12;63:21; 87:23,23;90:1;121:8; 122:12;124:7;134:15 ironic (1) 83:11 Island (39) 12:9,12,14;13:23; 14:2,3,3,3;29:9,18; 64:14;69:7,10,18,19; 71:2,4,4,5,6,20,21,	24;72:9,20;96:23; 100:7,7,12,18,19; 101:8,13,15,18,21, 22;102:7;127:17 islands (32) 12:7;13:16,20; 14:4,11,13,20;15:23; 29:5;46:20,21;64:23; 65:6,7,7,12;66:8,9,9, 21;67:6;69:5,5,11; 71:6,25;72:1,5; 83:18;85:3;89:13; 90:17 issue (3) 18:15;78:24; 123:12 issues (16) 8:2;18:8;23:9; 24:9,10;25:7,9; 42:25;48:1;53:17; 54:4;66:17;80:18; 82:1;86:4;113:25 items (1) 104:5 iteration (2) 7:24;8:2 iterations (1) 89:5	27:19,22;65:20; 68:1,2;86:10,13,18, 19;107:19 Johanna (3) 116:5;119:8,11 Johnny (6) 4:17;6:12;22:25; 84:1;100:25;146:6 join (1) 134:2 joined (1) 57:11 Jones (1) 64:24 Jr (1) 122:17 juvenile (1) 54:19
K				
			J	Kareem (1) 103:9 Katrina (1) 81:16 keep (14) 11:3;20:17;23:17, 25;49:6;63:11;77:21, 22;101:23;102:13; 103:7;112:22;126:9; 137:19 keeping (5) 5:7;12:16;59:14; 62:10;115:1 keeps (1) 101:7 kept (1) 79:4 key (8) 32:8;39:1,5,19,20; 40:12,14;43:7 keys (1) 76:18 kick (1) 144:9 kicking (1) 145:4 kid (1) 78:4 kids (2) 84:12;118:22 killng (1) 137:8 Kim (4) 132:9,10,15;135:2 kind (10) 17:23;37:17; 41:17;42:12;44:15; 71:7;81:21;88:7; 124:6;144:4 Klein (1) 57:14 Kleward (1)

<p>92:10 knew (2) 17:12;18:15 Knight (3) 103:16;105:24,25 knocking (1) 101:7 known (1) 106:17 knows (3) 20:23;24:1;104:21 Kolker (3) 113:3,5,6 kumbaya (1) 19:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <hr/> <p>lack (1) 21:5 ladies (1) 24:4 Lafayette (1) 72:11 Lafont (3) 132:10;135:3,4 Lafourche (41) 13:7,24;17:14; 46:16;55:4;80:5; 82:24;85:19;86:1; 87:18,19;93:8,94:12, 14,15;95:11,14,17, 24;97:15,17;99:18; 106:1,9,17,24;107:4; 111:18,20,24;112:3, 5,6,15;122:21; 124:13;126:16; 129:8,19;135:13; 140:20 laid (1) 53:25 Lake (18) 6:21;12:19;15:11; 17:22;62:20,24;70:3; 83:15,16;85:1;92:10, 10,21;104:20;105:3, 8;125:8,9 land (46) 13:4;15:22;25:8, 10;26:17,18,20,22; 29:7;39:4;40:24; 45:16;49:3,10,13,18, 19,20,24;51:8;52:8, 20;53:19;64:24; 65:13;66:10,19; 67:15;70:24;71:1,1, 72:25;74:17;78:22, 23;79:6;85:1;94:5; 100:4;115:20; 121:19;124:16; 125:9;127:19;133:8; 136:25 landed (1)</p>	<p>127:16 landowner (2) 76:7;102:2 landowner's (1) 76:4 landscape (2) 49:1,12 language (2) 14:7;117:10 large (4) 66:25;78:15; 103:20;144:7 larger (3) 107:14;142:4,8 large-scale (2) 90:10;103:1 last (17) 6:5;16:6;28:22; 29:10;31:23;45:8; 63:3;65:16;70:5; 79:12;102:18; 105:12;121:18; 132:11;141:18; 142:20;145:16 lastly (3) 53:8;111:1;134:4 late (1) 135:8 later (6) 34:18;59:22;65:4; 70:15;118:10;144:23 law (3) 6:19;31:4;128:18 lead (1) 81:14 leaders (2) 67:12;99:14 leading (3) 41:14;53:17,22 laid (1) 102:25 learn (2) 84:13;142:16 learned (6) 31:23,24,25;32:5, 23;142:15 least (2) 61:16;83:2 leave (2) 65:23;138:9 LeCompte (3) 99:23;103:17,19 led (2) 88:21;89:10 Leeville (5) 122:20,22;123:9; 124:11,17 left (10) 19:3;56:4;74:25; 77:22;85:7;103:9; 115:8,13;146:15; 150:18 left-hand (2)</p>	<p>39:8;48:11 leg (1) 54:5 legacy (1) 65:24 legislatively (1) 31:3 legislator (2) 23:1;80:14 legislators (3) 7:12;9:25;80:8 legislature (3) 21:22;56:14;94:21 lenses (1) 41:2 less (4) 11:3;32:2;34:3; 92:15 lessees (1) 100:11 lessons (3) 32:5,23;142:15 letter (1) 80:14 letters (1) 20:11 Levee (26) 16:3;71:16;73:1; 75:10;81:1;82:14,21; 85:7;92:17;93:2; 94:13,14,15,16;95:1, 3,17;96:16;108:10; 109:9;110:18; 125:11,15,19; 135:14;137:3 levees (8) 12:2;29:8;37:16; 71:11;75:9;82:20; 96:2;141:7 level (6) 31:17;47:18;83:4; 90:24;115:20;132:19 levels (2) 13:1;133:20 leverage (1) 48:5 license (1) 151:22 life (2) 69:24;78:9 lightly (1) 96:20 limit (3) 58:3;77:23;93:24 limited (3) 88:3;146:21; 147:14 line (12) 12:7;14:16;17:23; 63:3;68:25;83:14,17, 19;84:24;90:18; 91:14;101:4 lines (10)</p>	<p>11:17;34:2;42:2; 46:12;83:7;100:24; 101:4;131:3,4; 133:17 link (1) 54:16 lip (1) 105:7 Lirette (4) 60:4;63:16,18; 89:25 list (3) 30:21;47:19; 128:16 listed (9) 34:23;37:1;39:7; 40:15;42:9;45:25; 46:8;48:10;120:17 listen (3) 9:20;24:21;129:2 Listening (4) 24:8;114:14; 126:18,20 listens (1) 23:5 lit (1) 118:20 literally (1) 22:6 litigation (1) 34:13 little (34) 5:5;7:21;17:12; 19:10;21:14;29:23; 31:15,21;34:3,9,10, 10;36:20;37:18; 45:13;46:25;47:15; 50:3;51:10;59:22; 83:5,11;84:6;93:9; 97:19;118:11,15,16, 21;126:6;136:2; 140:19;141:11,20 live (11) 6:3,6;7:13;27:8; 28:17;33:25;35:11; 78:6;110:6;125:17; 127:2 lives (1) 39:20 living (1) 120:6 local (22) 23:24,24;47:24; 65:17,22;86:12,17; 96:1,9;99:1;104:10; 105:13,14,16,18; 109:14;111:8; 112:19,19;120:9; 131:22;132:2 locally (1) 89:2 located (3) 74:3;85:18;117:6</p>	<p>locations (1) 29:14 lock (5) 61:3;94:23;95:1,5; 96:15 locked (1) 79:11 locks (2) 107:16;136:18 logic (1) 9:14 long (18) 4:16;5:22,24; 24:15;52:19;53:19; 57:5;60:4;62:4; 75:10;89:25;104:18; 106:21;114:16; 116:25;128:16; 134:15;149:2 long-distance (2) 91:16;93:16 longer (1) 48:2 long-term (6) 45:3;77:5;96:24; 102:23;134:5,20 look (47) 17:17;20:11; 22:25;26:23;32:18; 34:5;38:18;40:25; 44:3;45:13,23;46:2, 13,25;47:1;48:23; 49:12,15;50:5;51:2; 52:9;53:2,3,24; 54:21;55:15,18,21; 64:4,7;65:10;69:6; 77:1;80:15,20;83:20; 86:17;89:5;92:13; 108:12;118:1; 137:21;139:21; 140:13,16;142:7; 146:5 looked (3) 44:13,14;49:2 looking (10) 14:7;15:5;38:8; 49:4;61:10,18;69:6; 130:10,17;137:11 looks (3) 38:2;93:14,15 loop (1) 109:16 Lord (1) 23:25 lose (2) 13:5;121:25 losing (7) 27:3;65:18,19; 70:24,25;71:1;79:10 loss (16) 14:14;25:9,10; 26:18;27:1,1;49:3, 10;53:19;66:18,19;</p>
--	--	--	---	--

<p>74:8;94:5;115:20; 124:17;127:19 losses (1) 110:16 lost (2) 26:21;85:11 lot (39) 6:1;8:13,15,17; 13:10;16:11,12; 25:20,21;31:23;41:9; 51:21;52:16,18,18; 64:21;69:22;71:12; 72:3;74:11;79:18,21; 80:2,5,17,18;84:23; 90:4;101:18;104:11, 17;116:18,18; 118:11;122:11; 123:1;136:7;141:19; 143:9 lots (3) 30:13;89:12,13 loud (1) 134:9 Louisiana (70) 11:15,23;14:16; 15:18;23:17,25; 24:17;26:8,12,19; 27:6,8,12;28:7,17, 25;35:2,14,20;53:15; 63:25;64:20;67:11, 15;70:15;72:19,24; 73:2,20,25;74:7; 75:1;76:6,18;78:6, 10,12,13;81:17,21; 84:14;94:21;96:5; 97:24;98:9;99:11,14; 102:19;106:4;108:4; 109:19;110:7; 112:23;113:6,8,23; 114:1;117:3;121:9; 122:8;127:5,25; 128:11;132:16; 135:5;144:15;148:5; 150:6;151:17,24 Louisiana's (4) 66:19;67:24; 106:8,16 Loutre (3) 73:19;74:15,15 love (8) 35:12,12,13;87:15; 99:11;101:24; 106:15;113:24 low (2) 120:2;147:3 lower (1) 137:2 low-income (3) 115:10,13;120:19 Lucretia (4) 124:23;126:22; 127:2;129:9 Luling (1)</p>	<p>78:6 lush (1) 17:24 lynchpin (1) 19:7 M Mac (5) 89:21;91:7;93:21; 94:20;96:13 Mac's (1) 91:2 Magee (2) 59:21,24 mail (1) 56:11 main (6) 14:17;19:20; 40:11;54:16;121:12; 129:20 mainly (1) 145:1 maintain (7) 14:12,22;63:7; 99:10;107:23; 121:24;146:24 maintained (2) 69:12;123:14 maintaining (2) 13:21;123:18 maintenance (6) 13:18;14:6;67:5; 72:4;73:7;97:1 major (4) 78:23;86:13; 124:2;144:11 makes (1) 35:3 making (3) 103:7;118:25; 134:11 Maloz (3) 59:24;85:13;87:2 man (3) 21:16;76:9;117:20 manage (4) 74:5;95:18; 136:23;137:10 management (6) 67:23;125:2; 142:11,12,13,19 manager (3) 74:14;100:5;102:6 managing (1) 136:19 Manchac (1) 73:19 mandated (2) 31:4;140:1 Mandeville (1) 56:19 man's (1)</p>	<p>76:2 Manufacturers (1) 73:15 manure (2) 117:24,25 many (30) 5:23;10:13;18:18; 20:7;26:17;29:13; 31:8,8;32:19;33:8,9; 54:1;71:23;72:11; 82:1;87:8,8;88:11; 93:10,11,11;98:14; 100:22,22;127:20, 20;128:17;134:15, 17;145:17 map (10) 26:18,23;29:12; 36:24;46:12,12;49:7; 51:6;98:10;115:6 maps (6) 46:3;49:2;50:9; 52:14,15;69:6 March (2) 56:2;138:14 Marguerite (5) 103:15;105:22,25; 107:6;112:10 Marine (6) 70:6;85:23; 112:11;113:7,22,22 Mark (4) 19:4;80:23;83:23; 85:13 marking (1) 19:8 Marmande (1) 81:4 marsh (31) 46:6,6,23;61:9,10, 11,17,19;63:9;66:21; 70:3;72:5;73:23; 75:7;79:12,91;11,19; 92:2;96:23;98:18; 100:5,15;101:23; 103:12;105:2;107:1, 1;112:9;137:12; 141:21;142:1 marshes (5) 29:5;70:12;78:21; 137:1,14 marshland (1) 95:8 marshlands (1) 79:3 Martin (1) 93:7 Mary (16) 17:15;18:2;85:20; 91:15,25;92:17,24, 25;93:2,6;100:21; 108:10;109:22; 110:12,18;129:19 Mary's (1)</p>	<p>86:2 mass (3) 64:24;65:13;66:11 Master (68) 4:22;7:23,24; 12:17,20,21;20:10; 24:13;26:12;30:1,6, 8,14,17;31:18;33:11; 34:18;38:22;49:21; 51:15;54:1,11,14; 55:13;58:22;60:22; 62:10;65:21,22; 67:13,21;68:7;76:23; 77:2,7;81:14;83:6; 84:20;87:24;91:11, 13;92:20;94:20; 97:25;98:6;99:17; 102:22;106:18; 107:11,17,21;108:2; 115:3;119:18;120:7, 12,14,18;122:5; 137:25;138:4; 139:13,14,15; 140:10,15;141:13; 147:9 match (1) 143:12 material (2) 29:4;150:20 Matte (3) 107:7;108:8,9 matter (3) 55:5;79:2;82:2 Maurepas (1) 73:21 Maurette (2) 92:10,22 maximum (1) 145:7 may (6) 6:22;25:25;28:18; 31:16;131:13;136:2 maybe (9) 64:7;69:2;78:12; 89:14;93:16;105:5; 114:7;131:12;132:3 McBride (4) 124:24;126:22,24; 127:2 Meadow (2) 107:2;112:9 mean (13) 17:5;18:13,14; 23:11;24:5;50:21,25; 51:20;69:22;71:5,18; 82:12;121:18 means (6) 8:22;9:13;10:25; 20:15;23:21;69:24 meant (1) 117:9 measurables (1) 41:3</p>	<p>measure (1) 40:17 media (1) 6:1 meet (3) 15:1;74:11;108:1 meeting (11) 4:7,11;33:15; 56:18,24;65:3;69:2; 81:23;108:1;135:9; 148:25 meetings (8) 6:4,18;15:3;42:19; 88:8;93:11;128:25; 148:8 meets (1) 21:4 member (5) 7:9;90:5;102:2; 104:7;146:23 members (12) 7:5;11:14;60:9; 78:11,14;80:18;81:4; 91:5;94:2;127:1; 134:16;136:16 men (1) 23:10 mention (8) 43:10;48:7;52:1; 53:8;81:3;95:21; 96:19;109:9 mentioned (21) 25:25;29:16; 30:12;35:18,25; 36:22;41:16;43:9,22; 44:9;48:13;51:8,13; 52:6,9;56:6;70:5; 84:24;110:13; 111:25;112:10 met (1) 22:6 method (1) 150:15 metrics (4) 40:15,16,16,25 Mexico (7) 27:24;74:10; 85:22;91:24;95:20; 116:11;145:3 Miami (1) 54:2 mic (4) 5:13;21:8;58:16; 59:12 Michael (4) 5:16;57:14; 138:10;139:11 microphone (1) 65:4 microphones (1) 57:16 middle (3) 19:2;20:1;57:19</p>
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<p>midst (1) 55:25</p> <p>Midwest (1) 28:15</p> <p>might (26) 27:1,2;28:2,14; 34:14,17;36:10; 38:16,18;40:19; 43:18;44:22;49:3,12; 52:11;55:6,9,19; 61:12,15;65:13;72:6; 92:14;111:2;124:6; 131:3</p> <p>Mike (2) 84:2;146:19</p> <p>mile (3) 71:7;101:14,17</p> <p>mileage (1) 48:5</p> <p>miles (23) 12:2,3;26:20;29:7, 9;45:17;49:24;51:8; 52:9,10;69:8;71:3; 75:8,10;82:21;83:3; 85:6;95:2,21;101:20; 125:18;131:13;141:7</p> <p>million (22) 12:11;16:2;19:14; 27:7,17;29:3;69:9; 82:12,13;96:9; 110:17;130:1,5; 141:2;142:1;143:6, 22;144:19,25;145:7, 19;147:12</p> <p>millions (3) 106:5;123:22; 124:3</p> <p>mind (2) 103:8;138:21</p> <p>mine (1) 64:11</p> <p>mineral (1) 144:16</p> <p>Minnesota (1) 28:18</p> <p>minute (4) 4:21;7:21;31:9,10</p> <p>minutes (11) 5:8;9:2,5;10:8; 11:3;16:18;58:5,16; 63:12;77:25;146:16</p> <p>misnomer (1) 98:11</p> <p>Miss (2) 85:13;136:11</p> <p>missed (1) 126:1</p> <p>mission (1) 20:4</p> <p>Mississippi (6) 28:1;46:16;47:1; 67:16;76:20;117:6</p> <p>Missouri (1)</p>	<p>80:10</p> <p>mistakes (3) 116:24;117:3; 118:25</p> <p>mitigation (2) 98:17;129:17</p> <p>mitigations (1) 47:12</p> <p>model (3) 37:22;103:6,10</p> <p>modelers (1) 100:2</p> <p>modeling (3) 42:1;92:6;103:2</p> <p>models (4) 36:5,6,17;37:19</p> <p>moderate (1) 120:2</p> <p>Moertelle (4) 97:10;99:24; 100:1,4</p> <p>Monday (1) 22:9</p> <p>money (40) 23:3,17,25;32:3; 39:15,17;43:17; 48:15,16;64:6,18; 65:9;69:18,18,19,21, 22;70:9;71:3,12,19, 20,21,23;72:9;76:1; 88:3;96:9;112:23; 117:10;122:11; 123:25;126:6,9,12, 12;128:20,20; 143:21;144:6</p> <p>monster (1) 76:18</p> <p>Montague (3) 14:24;83:12; 125:19</p> <p>month (1) 16:5</p> <p>months (1) 16:5</p> <p>Moore (3) 81:8;111:13;113:2</p> <p>mop (1) 81:25</p> <p>mor (1) 12:11</p> <p>moral (2) 122:10,12</p> <p>more (53) 4:12;5:5,10;6:7,8, 22,24;16:21;23:2,7; 26:17;27:3;29:22,23, 24;31:8,25;32:2; 33:16;37:15;43:4,4; 45:13;48:4,15,16; 54:10,13,22;56:18; 63:9;66:5;70:22; 75:24;94:6;95:10; 98:6;104:17;107:16,</p>	<p>19;111:6;115:10; 116:2;120:22; 127:22,23;131:20; 132:11;137:20; 141:17,19;142:4; 144:6</p> <p>Morgan (13) 91:8,9,14,25;92:3, 16,24;100:8,20; 109:9,22;110:19,21</p> <p>Morganza (19) 11:18,19;15:24,25; 62:25;83:18;94:8,17, 18;95:1,10,12,16; 96:1,6,10,17,25;97:7</p> <p>Morganza-to-the-Gulf (5) 82:7;94:10;96:22; 97:5;125:11</p> <p>morning (1) 76:11</p> <p>most (28) 18:4;21:10;29:11, 14;30:16,16,17; 35:18;38:11;39:20; 44:7;56:16;65:2; 66:16;70:24;71:1,1; 76:3;78:22;79:24; 85:9;94:6;106:3,8; 115:18,19;120:20; 128:8</p> <p>Mother (1) 117:22</p> <p>move (10) 19:22;32:7;34:16; 53:7;57:2,11;65:19; 81:24;82:9;141:15</p> <p>moved (6) 13:25;29:21; 43:23;73:19;110:1, 25</p> <p>movement (1) 64:3</p> <p>moves (1) 37:25</p> <p>moving (7) 12:16;16:11; 38:25;81:19;82:24; 137:11;148:9</p> <p>much (32) 18:1,3;19:19; 23:24;24:21;28:25; 31:22;43:1,48:1; 61:6;70:10;71:19; 72:12;74:22;81:25; 83:21;85:11;87:4; 91:6;93:18;99:10,14; 107:16;110:2;121:2, 7;122:2,3,14;129:3; 134:23;147:10</p> <p>multiple (8) 11:17;58:8,11; 81:12;83:7;100:24; 101:3,4</p>	<p>must (6) 67:12;96:19; 97:22;98:20;107:22; 143:12</p> <p>myself (2) 18:13;71:13</p>	<p>19;24:1;28:10; 31:13;32:15;39:15, 17,25;40:7;41:11; 43:25;45:4,5,5,6; 48:14,15;56:24;57:5; 62:17;63:4;72:23; 73:1;76:2,25;93:12; 97:6,21;99:2,7,8; 103:25;110:5; 121:24;123:6;124:6; 135:21;138:21</p> <p>needed (2) 5:8;68:3</p> <p>needs (10) 18:17;31:12; 39:11;75:16;77:7; 83:7;89:16;103:3; 120:1;125:5</p> <p>negative (1) 111:8</p> <p>negatively (2) 76:24;107:12</p> <p>neighborhood (1) 131:12</p> <p>neighbors (2) 133:25;137:10</p> <p>Neil (3) 66:14;68:19,21</p> <p>nervous (1) 81:3</p> <p>net (1) 45:16</p> <p>Network (1) 119:12</p> <p>nevertheless (2) 84:4,16</p> <p>New (24) 6:20;18:10,21; 30:3,13;32:21;33:2, 2,3,4,7;35:13;52:8; 54:2;64:12;69:14; 71:14;72:5;84:15; 88:4;89:2;119:13; 125:14;148:11</p> <p>newer (1) 70:23</p> <p>news (1) 52:17</p> <p>next (52) 16:5;18:21;19:23; 22:9;34:15;39:16,18; 60:5;63:16,17;66:14; 67:10;68:1,19;77:15; 82:9;85:14;86:9; 89:22;91:3;93:22; 97:11;99:13,22; 103:16;105:23; 107:7;108:7;111:13; 113:4;114:8;116:5; 119:9;121:5;122:17; 124:24;126:23; 129:5;138:22,23,25; 139:23;140:7;143:1,</p>
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<p>3,7,10,23,24;144:4; 145:1,20 NGO (1) 87:15 NGOs (2) 131:22;136:8 nice (4) 34:6,6;71:14; 118:14 Nick (4) 4:5;57:3;60:7;84:1 night (7) 56:19;58:2;59:10; 118:15,16;129:9; 149:4 nights (1) 88:11 nine (5) 10:9;36:21;43:12; 81:6,9 nineteenth (2) 56:5,12 ninety (2) 69:3;70:13 ninety-eight (1) 95:2 ninety-nine (1) 17:1 nitty-gritty (1) 42:1 nobody (1) 147:19 noise (1) 118:19 nominal (1) 110:16 none (3) 30:11;72:16;77:3 non-profit (2) 122:21;129:13 non-profits (2) 104:10,11 non-structural (14) 33:17;36:25;37:3, 5,8;46:7;47:6,9; 48:12;51:25;119:17; 120:13;129:21;130:2 non-structure (5) 114:19,25;115:2,6, 15 nor (2) 151:18,19 Norby (1) 18:23 Norby's (1) 103:24 normally (1) 128:24 north (2) 94:14;104:20 northern (2) 78:8;126:13 notable (1)</p>	<p>140:25 note (7) 51:11;58:20;93:3, 9;106:23;121:16; 130:6 noted (2) 26:22;151:11 notice (2) 17:2;129:23 notion (1) 39:9 Number (12) 12:6;30:22;33:5; 47:20;51:11,12; 53:20;84:8;100:17; 103:11,11;106:10 numbers (4) 49:22;50:24,25; 51:7 numerous (2) 84:24;98:23 nutrients (1) 40:7</p>	<p>7:1,20;108:1; 129:7 offshore (2) 117:8;118:13 often (2) 87:25;135:18 oil (16) 23:11;24:1;27:23; 72:22;78:23;85:23; 116:9;117:17; 123:17;135:25; 141:17;142:24; 144:7;145:2,14; 147:4 Oilman's (1) 89:7 old (3) 73:16;79:17; 127:11 older (1) 142:21 old-timers (1) 74:12 Once (13) 5:15;19:11;20:4; 22:24;23:3,13;29:25; 30:20;76:15;93:22; 94:19;97:3;109:2 one (81) 6:20,21;12:5,6; 16:8,14;17:3,10; 18:9;19:20,24;20:1, 5;22:8,8;25:21;30:4; 35:11;38:3,19;41:12, 13;42:7,17,17,18; 43:10;47:22,24; 48:13;50:11,14; 54:24;56:18;59:1; 61:16;62:23;64:9; 66:16;69:7,19;70:7; 74:9,13;75:25;76:10; 80:9,13;82:18;86:11; 93:9;100:16;104:6, 15,25;105:10;106:3, 10;109:4;114:22; 117:22;118:15,16; 121:16,19,22;122:4; 124:2,11;128:21; 131:20,21;132:11; 134:20;135:5; 138:13;144:13,16; 145:21;147:8;148:9 one-minute (1) 59:16 ones (5) 30:15,15;42:17; 63:11;118:16 one-way (1) 42:15 ongoing (2) 12:14;141:4 online (4) 56:10;58:17,18;</p>	<p>138:18 only (22) 10:13,14;19:19; 20:20;41:8;56:8; 62:2;70:10;71:19; 74:16,24;78:18;83:5, 5;90:8;97:6,18; 110:16;112:6;130:4; 135:13;143:16 open (5) 5:1,20;69:17; 72:14;85:6 opened (1) 105:2 opening (4) 4:18;88:15,20; 89:8 operates (1) 144:20 operating (1) 107:24 operation (1) 117:9 operations (2) 12:1,1 opinion (1) 20:9 opportunities (10) 41:21;53:10;63:5; 67:20;88:19;99:16; 111:2;120:6,11; 133:23 opportunity (20) 5:12;8:23;42:16; 55:14,15;58:15,17; 68:23;74:2;77:12; 103:18;107:25; 111:10,16;119:19, 20;122:3;133:22; 135:23;136:6 opposed (1) 69:10 options (1) 103:5 orators (1) 129:6 order (1) 59:3 organization (9) 59:13,14;60:1; 68:9;111:19;119:14; 129:15;132:3;139:13 organizations (2) 77:8,10 organize (2) 36:8;42:21 Organizing (1) 114:11 original (2) 8:11;115:1 originally (1) 63:22 Orleans (6)</p>	<p>6:20;35:13;64:12; 89:2;119:13;125:15 others (2) 48:18;54:3 otherwise (2) 49:20,25 ought (1) 105:5 ourselves (8) 19:17;34:2;40:20; 52:12;73:8;78:19; 117:5;119:1 out (70) 4:9,15;12:9,19,25; 13:10,11,14;15:21; 16:4;17:25;25:16; 26:5,23;29:19;30:13; 42:7;44:5;46:22; 47:1;50:14;53:25; 66:10;70:13,23; 72:14,23;73:21; 75:14;76:11;79:11, 20;80:9;81:25;85:4, 8;90:20;91:23;102:4, 6,9,12;103:10,11; 104:19,22;115:8,13; 118:21;123:17; 125:21;126:10,10; 127:14,14,15,17; 128:2,5,10;133:12, 25;138:12,24;139:5; 141:24;142:14; 144:14,17;150:18 outcome (3) 41:1,2;151:21 outfitter's (1) 80:10 outlook (1) 140:3 output (1) 36:5 outputs (2) 36:8,9 outreach (10) 34:8;41:18;68:6; 88:15;89:5;104:6,11, 14;131:21;133:10 outside (1) 62:11 over (65) 4:20;5:16;10:12; 15:12;22:2,19,25; 27:7,16;28:22;29:7, 8;31:22;34:15; 38:13;39:16,17; 40:15;42:9;44:4; 45:17,21,21;46:3,14; 47:5,15;48:11,12; 50:15;51:10,14; 54:12;57:6;63:2,22; 67:2,10,25;77:5; 86:9;98:2;101:12,15, 17,21;106:12;</p>
	O			
	<p>objecting (1) 76:12 objective (1) 109:17 objectives (1) 34:22 obviously (12) 34:12,19;35:4; 43:25;45:4;46:3; 47:2;56:1;60:18; 61:2;130:25;146:18 occurred (1) 28:22 occurring (2) 50:11;53:19 occurs (1) 124:14 off (11) 52:3;61:21;66:1; 73:5;92:12;105:6; 108:16;128:1;144:9; 147:22,25 offer (1) 99:19 offered (1) 117:15 office (4) 7:18;57:14; 127:11;128:4 Officer (1) 150:7 officers (1) 128:18 official (5) 5:13,21;7:8;56:3; 138:7 officials (4)</p>			

<p>111:19;116:10; 127:24;130:1; 131:24;136:20; 140:7,23;141:3,6,8, 17;143:2,3,7,14; 144:25;145:12 overall (3) 30:8;43:8;54:20 overemphasize (1) 90:11 overs (1) 150:14 overview (1) 9:5 own (1) 136:16 owned (1) 78:21 owner (2) 70:7;73:15 owners (1) 78:22 ownership (2) 76:4;79:8 owns (2) 79:2;117:17 oyster (3) 23:10;29:19;66:23</p>	<p>park (2) 104:7;114:21 part (28) 29:17;33:8,9; 38:21;39:8;40:2,3; 43:13,14;45:24; 46:13,19;47:2;48:21; 51:22;61:22;75:23; 84:21;90:3,14; 103:20;116:8;125:6; 132:1;133:10;140:1; 143:18;145:23 participate (2) 4:10;136:3 participated (1) 60:10 participation (1) 60:15 particular (5) 9:16;104:25; 105:10;109:15; 123:21 particularly (6) 10:2;86:8;94:23; 132:25;141:22; 145:17 parties (2) 151:19,20 partner (3) 78:15;82:5;88:16 partnered (1) 78:11 partnering (1) 136:7 partners (2) 42:21;114:20 partnership (1) 134:16 parts (1) 54:1 pass (5) 59:7;69:7;73:19; 74:15,15 passes (8) 14:22;72:10,13,17, 17,18;74:17;78:2 passing (3) 5:10;101:15,21 passion (3) 16:24;17:10;25:12 past (5) 24:16;68:4; 101:11;129:18;140:9 patience (1) 138:2 patient (1) 122:25 pauses (1) 150:13 pay (6) 76:4;115:25; 120:6;127:13; 144:20,21</p>	<p>Pearl (1) 117:1 Peggy (4) 126:23;129:5,12; 132:9 people (64) 6:5,8,23,25;10:16, 21;11:21;16:12,12; 17:13;18:2,14;19:16; 20:21,21,22;21:3; 22:12;27:7;30:9,16; 33:22;41:22;42:3; 52:18;65:17;67:11; 71:18;76:1,12,14,24; 79:13;80:11;81:20; 84:3;86:12,17;87:15, 18;88:17;89:1; 97:23;99:13;100:22; 106:5;107:19;108:3; 115:8,10,11,13,18, 19;116:1,11,14; 118:12;128:8,15; 129:1,22;136:3; 146:15 people-centered (1) 120:2 people's (1) 33:24 per (5) 86:20;101:17,20; 144:19;145:8 percent (13) 17:1;50:11;69:3; 70:14;78:20;79:24; 115:3,24;117:16; 118:2,3;143:24; 144:3 percentage (1) 65:21 perfect (2) 32:25;41:8 perform (3) 36:13;38:22;44:24 perhaps (2) 25:18;36:11 period (12) 4:25;43:24;48:2; 51:15;56:3;57:3; 59:11;85:5;105:19; 109:25;140:14;143:6 periods (2) 98:1,5 permit (1) 123:19 permitted (1) 13:24 perpetuity (1) 145:11 person (2) 138:19;143:16 personally (2) 122:23;128:22 personnel (1)</p>	<p>123:15 phase (1) 19:23 phone (2) 33:3;88:5 phrase (2) 20:14;150:21 phrases (1) 150:18 physical (1) 113:13 pick (4) 38:19,20;46:4,19 picked (1) 132:13 picture (4) 77:1;99:4;134:5,6 pie (1) 143:19 piece (3) 18:17;34:7;37:21 pieces (1) 37:20 piggy-back (1) 93:13 Pinlon (1) 64:12 pipeline (12) 15:6,7,8,10;62:1,5, 9,13;63:6;91:17; 93:17;104:23 pipelines (3) 83:16;95:22;105:6 place (7) 31:9;35:3;110:5; 118:11;135:17,19; 151:11 placed (2) 74:20;91:18 places (2) 40:6;116:19 Plan (216) 4:22;5:19;6:10; 7:24;8:3,4,5,9,9,10, 11,21,25;9:3,6,9,12, 13;10:6,10,23;11:8; 12:17,20,21;13:15, 17;20:10;21:13,18; 24:13;25:21,22;26:7, 12;28:20;29:25;30:1, 6,8,14,17;31:3,4,11, 19,20;32:4,6,9,12,19, 21;33:11,20,21;34:4, 7,19,22;35:24;36:18; 38:22;39:10,22; 40:20;41:14,14,22, 23,24,24;42:4,25; 43:5,6,14,22;44:11, 12,16;45:1,11,12,15, 16,19;46:4,19;48:20, 22;49:1,7,9,11,12,14, 16,17,21;50:1,23; 51:15,19,22;52:4,5;</p>	<p>53:1;54:1,11,14,20; 55:7,8,13,19,24;56:7, 13;58:22;60:18,22; 62:7,10,19;63:10; 65:21,22;67:13,22; 68:7;72:6;76:24; 77:3,8,13;81:14; 83:6;84:20;86:1; 91:11,13;92:20; 94:20,25;97:5,25; 98:6;99:17;100:3; 102:4,5,14,17,20,22; 106:19;107:11,17, 21;108:2,12,18,19, 20,24;109:1,7,24; 113:10,16;115:3,12; 119:18,24;120:1,7, 12,14,18,23;122:5; 123:3,5;124:10; 130:13;131:9; 132:20;137:18,25; 138:4,7,11;139:14, 14,15,17,19;140:1,2, 11,15,16;141:11,13, 14,16;143:18;144:8; 145:23;146:3,4,5,11; 147:9;148:24 planes (1) 118:11 planned (3) 44:19;131:1; 143:24 planner (1) 100:2 planning (10) 36:6,18;38:25; 47:18;53:23;90:2; 103:4;104:1;142:17; 146:1 plans (5) 8:11;87:24; 120:25;132:6;139:13 plant (4) 20:25;69:20,24; 72:7 planted (1) 75:11 planting (1) 69:23 plantings (1) 69:20 plants (3) 70:12,15,17 plausible (1) 43:19 play (3) 88:15,20;89:8 played (1) 73:21 playing (1) 134:20 pleasant (1) 114:14</p>
P				
<p>page (2) 9:3;102:14 paid (1) 75:14 paint (1) 99:3 Paradise (2) 77:9;78:18 Parish (72) 7:6,14,16;11:15, 22;13:6,24,25;14:21; 15:9;16:2,13;17:18, 19;18:12,20;20:4; 27:16,17;29:20;40:2, 3;54:25;55:2,4,4,5,7, 9,9,12;61:25;62:15; 64:25;65:6,66:7; 68:13;71:11;73:24; 74:4;81:2;82:8,10, 24;83:8;84:25;85:9, 10;93:6;94:4;97:4; 100:6,21,21;106:10, 17;107:4;109:23; 111:20;112:6,7,15; 113:24;117:6; 122:21;125:2,6; 126:15;127:3; 129:13;135:8;137:2 parishes (10) 19:11;33:6;80:4; 85:20;93:8;94:12; 95:11,14,24;129:8</p>	<p>part (28) 29:17;33:8,9; 38:21;39:8;40:2,3; 43:13,14;45:24; 46:13,19;47:2;48:21; 51:22;61:22;75:23; 84:21;90:3,14; 103:20;116:8;125:6; 132:1;133:10;140:1; 143:18;145:23 participate (2) 4:10;136:3 participated (1) 60:10 participation (1) 60:15 particular (5) 9:16;104:25; 105:10;109:15; 123:21 particularly (6) 10:2;86:8;94:23; 132:25;141:22; 145:17 parties (2) 151:19,20 partner (3) 78:15;82:5;88:16 partnered (1) 78:11 partnering (1) 136:7 partners (2) 42:21;114:20 partnership (1) 134:16 parts (1) 54:1 pass (5) 59:7;69:7;73:19; 74:15,15 passes (8) 14:22;72:10,13,17, 17,18;74:17;78:2 passing (3) 5:10;101:15,21 passion (3) 16:24;17:10;25:12 past (5) 24:16;68:4; 101:11;129:18;140:9 patience (1) 138:2 patient (1) 122:25 pauses (1) 150:13 pay (6) 76:4;115:25; 120:6;127:13; 144:20,21</p>	<p>Pearl (1) 117:1 Peggy (4) 126:23;129:5,12; 132:9 people (64) 6:5,8,23,25;10:16, 21;11:21;16:12,12; 17:13;18:2,14;19:16; 20:21,21,22;21:3; 22:12;27:7;30:9,16; 33:22;41:22;42:3; 52:18;65:17;67:11; 71:18;76:1,12,14,24; 79:13;80:11;81:20; 84:3;86:12,17;87:15, 18;88:17;89:1; 97:23;99:13;100:22; 106:5;107:19;108:3; 115:8,10,11,13,18, 19;116:1,11,14; 118:12;128:8,15; 129:1,22;136:3; 146:15 people-centered (1) 120:2 people's (1) 33:24 per (5) 86:20;101:17,20; 144:19;145:8 percent (13) 17:1;50:11;69:3; 70:14;78:20;79:24; 115:3,24;117:16; 118:2,3;143:24; 144:3 percentage (1) 65:21 perfect (2) 32:25;41:8 perform (3) 36:13;38:22;44:24 perhaps (2) 25:18;36:11 period (12) 4:25;43:24;48:2; 51:15;56:3;57:3; 59:11;85:5;105:19; 109:25;140:14;143:6 periods (2) 98:1,5 permit (1) 123:19 permitted (1) 13:24 perpetuity (1) 145:11 person (2) 138:19;143:16 personally (2) 122:23;128:22 personnel (1)</p>	<p>123:15 phase (1) 19:23 phone (2) 33:3;88:5 phrase (2) 20:14;150:21 phrases (1) 150:18 physical (1) 113:13 pick (4) 38:19,20;46:4,19 picked (1) 132:13 picture (4) 77:1;99:4;134:5,6 pie (1) 143:19 piece (3) 18:17;34:7;37:21 pieces (1) 37:20 piggy-back (1) 93:13 Pinlon (1) 64:12 pipeline (12) 15:6,7,8,10;62:1,5, 9,13;63:6;91:17; 93:17;104:23 pipelines (3) 83:16;95:22;105:6 place (7) 31:9;35:3;110:5; 118:11;135:17,19; 151:11 placed (2) 74:20;91:18 places (2) 40:6;116:19 Plan (216) 4:22;5:19;6:10; 7:24;8:3,4,5,9,9,10, 11,21,25;9:3,6,9,12, 13;10:6,10,23;11:8; 12:17,20,21;13:15, 17;20:10;21:13,18; 24:13;25:21,22;26:7, 12;28:20;29:25;30:1, 6,8,14,17;31:3,4,11, 19,20;32:4,6,9,12,19, 21;33:11,20,21;34:4, 7,19,22;35:24;36:18; 38:22;39:10,22; 40:20;41:14,14,22, 23,24,24;42:4,25; 43:5,6,14,22;44:11, 12,16;45:1,11,12,15, 16,19;46:4,19;48:20, 22;49:1,7,9,11,12,14, 16,17,21;50:1,23; 51:15,19,22;52:4,5;</p>	<p>53:1;54:1,11,14,20; 55:7,8,13,19,24;56:7, 13;58:22;60:18,22; 62:7,10,19;63:10; 65:21,22;67:13,22; 68:7;72:6;76:24; 77:3,8,13;81:14; 83:6;84:20;86:1; 91:11,13;92:20; 94:20,25;97:5,25; 98:6;99:17;100:3; 102:4,5,14,17,20,22; 106:19;107:11,17, 21;108:2,12,18,19, 20,24;109:1,7,24; 113:10,16;115:3,12; 119:18,24;120:1,7, 12,14,18,23;122:5; 123:3,5;124:10; 130:13;131:9; 132:20;137:18,25; 138:4,7,11;139:14, 14,15,17,19;140:1,2, 11,15,16;141:11,13, 14,16;143:18;144:8; 145:23;146:3,4,5,11; 147:9;148:24 planes (1) 118:11 planned (3) 44:19;131:1; 143:24 planner (1) 100:2 planning (10) 36:6,18;38:25; 47:18;53:23;90:2; 103:4;104:1;142:17; 146:1 plans (5) 8:11;87:24; 120:25;132:6;139:13 plant (4) 20:25;69:20,24; 72:7 planted (1) 75:11 planting (1) 69:23 plantings (1) 69:20 plants (3) 70:12,15,17 plausible (1) 43:19 play (3) 88:15,20;89:8 played (1) 73:21 playing (1) 134:20 pleasant (1) 114:14</p>

<p>please (20) 5:6;46:5;54:21; 56:24;57:18;58:2,7, 11;59:12,13;84:11; 85:7;114:5;122:13; 132:5;134:2;136:7, 13;138:20;139:2</p> <p>pleased (3) 82:4;94:18;133:6</p> <p>pleasure (2) 4:5;11:13</p> <p>pledge (1) 134:13</p> <p>plug (2) 42:3,4</p> <p>pm (1) 149:5</p> <p>pocket (2) 65:10;75:14</p> <p>pockets (1) 64:7</p> <p>point (24) 5:1,19;9:18;16:14; 25:15;42:7;50:14; 65:16;82:23;91:12, 13;100:7,12;101:8, 12,21;102:7;103:10; 110:23;144:2,14,17; 147:2,3</p> <p>points (1) 43:8</p> <p>policies (1) 120:5</p> <p>politically (1) 102:12</p> <p>politically' (1) 102:10</p> <p>politicians (1) 7:11</p> <p>polygons (2) 37:4;47:8</p> <p>Pont (2) 83:10,12</p> <p>pool (1) 126:11</p> <p>poor (1) 76:8</p> <p>population (1) 115:17</p> <p>Port (17) 27:21;87:17;91:8, 9;92:3,16;95:21,21; 97:15,16,18,18; 98:15,16;110:20; 112:2,3</p> <p>portion (4) 30:6;62:14;115:2; 137:25</p> <p>portions (2) 5:25;109:13</p> <p>position (1) 11:7</p> <p>possibility (1)</p>	<p>92:14</p> <p>possible (7) 61:6,12;67:18; 92:4;96:16;130:9; 132:5</p> <p>possibly (1) 130:10</p> <p>posted (1) 77:22</p> <p>posts (1) 69:15</p> <p>potential (7) 27:25;38:19,23; 43:3;47:12;98:8; 146:22</p> <p>potentially (2) 43:13;50:23</p> <p>pound (1) 90:15</p> <p>power (1) 67:16</p> <p>practical (1) 31:6</p> <p>practicality (1) 65:8</p> <p>practices (1) 8:19</p> <p>preaching (2) 27:5;28:5</p> <p>predict (3) 38:15,15;48:25</p> <p>predictions (9) 26:24;31:14,19; 32:5;52:23;53:2,5, 25;132:20</p> <p>predictive (3) 36:4,6;37:19</p> <p>preference (2) 105:18;120:12</p> <p>prepare (1) 52:12</p> <p>presentation (14) 4:21;5:16,18,25; 17:3;29:25;42:13; 59:22;138:1,6,11,22, 25;140:18</p> <p>presentations (2) 6:6;149:1</p> <p>presenting (1) 56:7</p> <p>Preservation (1) 127:6</p> <p>preserve (1) 35:14</p> <p>preserving (2) 77:11;130:19</p> <p>President (19) 7:1,16;11:9,11; 16:20,23;17:4;18:20, 24;29:15;47:23; 62:1;81:2,7;82:8;</p>	<p>83:8;100:23;117:6; 148:11</p> <p>pressure (1) 98:12</p> <p>pretty (8) 26:24;34:5;44:24; 46:1;52:15;58:25; 74:22;144:12</p> <p>previous (2) 87:24;123:7</p> <p>previously (1) 144:18</p> <p>prices (1) 145:2</p> <p>pride (2) 86:21;87:14</p> <p>primarily (1) 108:21</p> <p>primary (1) 85:22</p> <p>prioritization (3) 98:3;120:15; 132:24</p> <p>prioritize (1) 98:2</p> <p>prioritized (2) 67:8;120:20</p> <p>priority (1) 94:24</p> <p>prism (2) 65:2;78:2</p> <p>private (3) 76:3;79:8,25</p> <p>privately (1) 78:21</p> <p>probably (6) 44:14,23;46:1; 76:14;110:10;123:2</p> <p>problem (7) 18:2;69:25;70:2, 11,16,25;78:3</p> <p>problematic (2) 13:17;14:5</p> <p>problems (8) 41:10;68:24; 79:22;84:14,15; 88:13;123:24;133:2</p> <p>Procedure (1) 150:8</p> <p>proceeding (2) 150:12,16</p> <p>proceedings (1) 151:8</p> <p>process (26) 10:4;21:15,18; 26:2;30:21;41:25; 42:3;58:5;60:10,23; 74:21;75:2,3,9; 76:23;79:21;88:4,6; 90:3;98:6;103:4; 114:14;115:16; 132:1;133:11;138:3</p> <p>processes (3)</p>	<p>35:2,4;142:8</p> <p>producer (2) 69:13,21</p> <p>production (3) 27:10,10;117:17</p> <p>productive (1) 97:23</p> <p>program (11) 4:20;22:19;23:2; 33:18;121:9;122:5,9; 124:1;142:13;144:9; 146:3</p> <p>programs (6) 120:5;142:21,21, 22;144:22;145:16</p> <p>project (63) 12:16;19:14; 22:25;23:20;34:18; 37:5,24;39:2,6; 40:18;41:1;43:21; 45:25;47:8,9;55:11; 61:11;62:2,9;73:7; 75:8,13;76:7,9; 82:10;84:7;87:15; 92:18,20;93:13; 94:17;96:3,22,25; 97:1;100:14,16,17; 106:25;108:18,19; 109:3,8,9,10,13,15, 20;110:8,10,12,24; 111:4,5,7,23,24; 112:9,11;126:6; 131:9;136:25;140:23</p> <p>project' (1) 62:22</p> <p>projection (1) 139:23</p> <p>projects (123) 8:14;9:7;10:9,13, 15,18,19;13:2;21:1; 23:16;28:13;29:1,12, 14;30:4,13,21,22,24, 25;32:2,24,25;33:4, 6,8;36:1,2,4,10,11, 12,14,15,20,24;37:1, 3,14,24;38:8,16,18, 21;39:22;40:6,19; 41:2;43:12,15;44:23; 45:4,15,23;46:10,11, 18,22;47:6,23;48:8, 11,17;51:21,22,25; 55:8,10;63:8;64:21; 65:14;66:20;67:1,4; 70:22;71:21;72:4; 75:20,23;77:3,4; 79:24;87:21;89:13; 91:22;92:19;93:4; 94:13;98:2,4,22,23; 99:1,5,17;106:19; 108:15;110:21; 111:22;112:21; 114:24;124:10; 126:4;130:3,10;</p>	<p>131:2;132:24; 140:20,21,21,25; 141:1,4,5,21,23,24; 142:2,5,9,24;146:4; 147:2</p> <p>promise (1) 139:20</p> <p>promote (2) 94:9;104:9</p> <p>promotes (1) 65:21</p> <p>proper (1) 150:15</p> <p>properties (3) 74:5;77:6;79:25</p> <p>property (13) 66:1;75:4,16,17; 76:2,9,10;77:4,6; 136:17,19,22;137:12</p> <p>propose (1) 91:20</p> <p>proposed (5) 76:23;77:3;92:12; 94:19;107:15</p> <p>protect (13) 14:14,21,24;15:17; 23:3;26:13;34:24; 73:2;77:5;95:10,18; 100:19;106:19</p> <p>protected (1) 101:15</p> <p>protecting (2) 14:17;71:10</p> <p>Protection (36) 6:13;11:16;20:3, 12,16;26:9;33:18; 37:1,5,8,14;46:10, 11;51:25;61:6; 66:23;70:22;75:10; 82:7;83:4;85:25; 87:17;92:18,25;93:1; 94:10,11,25;97:7; 108:17;109:18,21; 110:9,11,14;112:2</p> <p>protects (1) 100:19</p> <p>proud (12) 28:10;34:5;42:8; 53:14;54:7;75:23; 81:11,12,20;88:16; 90:4;140:22</p> <p>proved (1) 108:23</p> <p>provide (22) 4:18;5:3,13;6:8; 33:7;35:6,17,22; 42:4;51:21;58:9,12; 60:2,17;63:7;93:5; 95:19;110:5;111:7; 112:16;119:20;140:8</p> <p>provided (4) 58:14,24;111:3; 120:11</p>
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<p>provides (7) 27:12;30:18; 86:21;87:19;110:14; 112:2;140:6</p> <p>providing (6) 53:9;62:3;91:24; 103:4;106:21;135:22</p> <p>provision (1) 151:16</p> <p>public (38) 4:25;5:4,14,21; 6:4;8:16,16,24;9:10; 21:8,19;42:14;56:1, 3;57:2;58:9,12,23; 59:11;60:14,23;69:4; 79:1,3,4;111:16; 119:20;133:14; 137:24;138:7,14; 140:11,13,17; 146:11;148:9,22; 149:5</p> <p>publicly (1) 21:12</p> <p>published (1) 58:22</p> <p>pulled (1) 18:18</p> <p>pump (2) 12:11;15:11</p> <p>pumping (1) 74:24</p> <p>purchase (1) 74:2</p> <p>purchased (1) 75:7</p> <p>purplish (1) 50:16</p> <p>purpose (2) 14:23;121:12</p> <p>pursuant (1) 151:15</p> <p>pushing (2) 19:23,25</p> <p>put (43) 5:12;8:8;11:22,23; 13:3,9;14:4;15:8,10; 16:4;19:19;21:13; 23:15;28:8;39:21; 41:15;44:14,23; 48:25;58:3;59:8; 63:1;65:22;69:14,15; 71:3,14,21,24;76:5; 82:11;84:19;88:6,17; 90:4;99:8;102:19; 105:17;112:20; 113:9;124:20; 136:21;142:15</p> <p>putting (5) 7:15;60:13;62:19; 71:12;148:7</p>	<p>quality (2) 9:5,14</p> <p>quantitative (1) 103:4</p> <p>quick (7) 4:14;93:9;104:6; 121:16;135:4;138:3, 13</p> <p>quicker (2) 62:6;110:2</p> <p>quickly (2) 86:7;99:9</p> <p>quit (1) 117:23</p> <p>quite (4) 18:5;39:13;42:10; 59:2</p> <p>quote (1) 129:9</p>	<p>25:19;31:6;39:23; 41:25;42:25;43:1; 68:10;71:14;102:9; 104:6;135:4,25</p> <p>realistic (1) 43:16</p> <p>realities (1) 132:19</p> <p>reality (4) 62:22;63:2;64:4; 134:11</p> <p>realize (1) 123:6</p> <p>really (51) 5:2;6:16,21;17:8; 25:5;30:10,11;35:9; 36:7;37:19,22;38:11; 39:1;41:16;44:12; 53:14,15,22;71:8; 72:8;75:25;77:19; 97:21;98:11;104:2; 113:15;118:14; 119:15,22;123:2; 124:2,9,19;129:24, 24;132:21;133:4,9, 14;134:7;135:20; 139:6,8;140:2,10,22; 142:14;143:2,9; 145:13,23</p> <p>reason (6) 13:13;33:21; 39:14;43:19;72:19; 117:21</p> <p>reasonable (1) 43:18</p> <p>reasons (7) 19:20;31:6;35:11; 41:12,13;81:12; 95:23</p> <p>rebuild (6) 66:10;71:24;72:9, 9;90:21;133:8</p> <p>rebuilding (3) 13:20;35:5;131:15</p> <p>rebuilt (2) 13:16;14:5</p> <p>receive (8) 56:10;58:23; 140:4;144:14,16,18, 25;145:7</p> <p>received (2) 59:4;75:19</p> <p>receives (1) 96:12</p> <p>receiving (1) 145:11</p> <p>recent (4) 27:18;67:22; 106:24;111:22</p> <p>recently (1) 80:8</p> <p>receptive (1) 89:9</p>	<p>recognize (7) 4:18;6:2;52:13; 59:20;84:2;88:10; 99:7</p> <p>recognized (2) 96:5;99:6</p> <p>recognizing (2) 34:19;97:4</p> <p>recommend (2) 114:23;139:21</p> <p>record (2) 135:10;150:10</p> <p>recording (1) 6:7</p> <p>recovery (5) 128:19;129:14,16, 16,17</p> <p>recreate (2) 70:3;133:18</p> <p>recreation (1) 96:24</p> <p>recreational (3) 35:8;106:11; 112:13</p> <p>recurring (1) 145:10</p> <p>Recycling (3) 107:10,13,20</p> <p>red (6) 26:22;49:2;52:14; 74:4;98:10,12</p> <p>redesigning (1) 131:15</p> <p>redfish (1) 137:13</p> <p>reduce (5) 39:3;51:9,14,16; 52:6</p> <p>reduced (3) 45:20;50:22;51:1</p> <p>reduces (1) 97:1</p> <p>reducing (1) 92:11</p> <p>reduction (5) 20:14;33:17;67:4; 91:24;147:4</p> <p>reductions (2) 52:20;146:22</p> <p>reef (1) 66:23</p> <p>reestablish (1) 142:7</p> <p>reevaluated (1) 36:16</p> <p>reference (1) 150:20</p> <p>reflect (1) 8:14</p> <p>reflection (1) 8:14</p> <p>reflective (1) 110:10</p>	<p>Reg (1) 8:5</p> <p>regard (1) 68:23</p> <p>regarding (3) 91:10;92:7;110:21</p> <p>regardless (1) 98:4</p> <p>Reggie (13) 7:12,14;8:4;15:2; 18:12;19:4;77:16; 80:22,25;85:3;86:3; 96:8;101:3</p> <p>region (7) 4:8;17:13;27:13; 61:13;96:19;97:6; 109:4</p> <p>regional (2) 93:4;114:20</p> <p>regions (4) 14:18;16:7;78:8; 135:6</p> <p>regrets (1) 44:15</p> <p>regular (1) 56:11</p> <p>reimbursed (1) 144:23</p> <p>reinforcement (1) 124:7</p> <p>reintroduce (1) 62:18</p> <p>reiterate (1) 121:23</p> <p>relate (1) 35:20</p> <p>related (5) 39:23;52:19; 54:17,23;151:18</p> <p>relax (1) 146:16</p> <p>released (2) 15:6;55:24</p> <p>reliable (1) 67:12</p> <p>remaining (3) 39:4;91:12;96:16</p> <p>remains (1) 128:4</p> <p>remark (1) 64:25</p> <p>remarks (1) 4:18</p> <p>Remember (8) 8:5;58:8;66:1; 74:19;100:22; 101:19;104:22;117:1</p> <p>remind (3) 122:4,10;128:9</p> <p>reminder (2) 138:3,13</p> <p>remove (1) 91:22</p>
Q	R			

<p>repair (1) 73:9</p> <p>repairing (1) 69:4</p> <p>repeat (1) 60:16</p> <p>repeatedly (1) 102:3</p> <p>repetitive (1) 110:15</p> <p>report (1) 54:17</p> <p>Reporter (5) 150:6;151:5,15,23; 152:3</p> <p>Reporter's (1) 150:15</p> <p>represent (6) 10:1;85:20;127:4; 132:15;136:15; 145:14</p> <p>Representative (14) 7:3,4;10:5;20:10; 59:18,19,21,23;60:3; 63:15;83:9,23;125:4; 148:14</p> <p>represented (2) 134:17;141:1</p> <p>representing (3) 59:13;111:18; 141:1</p> <p>represents (9) 37:4;41:20;43:14; 47:8;54:15;141:25; 143:18,22;144:7</p> <p>request (1) 92:8</p> <p>requested (1) 93:1</p> <p>required (1) 6:18</p> <p>requires (1) 66:19</p> <p>rescue (1) 11:21</p> <p>research (2) 121:13;135:7</p> <p>reside (1) 127:3</p> <p>resident (1) 68:12</p> <p>residents (5) 87:20;95:11,24; 112:5,14</p> <p>resilience (2) 33:13;102:25</p> <p>resilient (2) 53:11,11</p> <p>Resource (3) 21:24;99:20;114:4</p> <p>Resources (9) 21:23;38:5;39:24; 40:8;88:3;99:9,10;</p>	<p>106:4;112:19</p> <p>respect (2) 58:3;129:6</p> <p>respectful (2) 5:6;77:20</p> <p>respectfully (1) 82:17</p> <p>respond (1) 128:13</p> <p>response (1) 33:5</p> <p>responsibility (2) 122:11,12</p> <p>responsible (1) 45:7</p> <p>responsive (2) 41:11,15</p> <p>rest (3) 14:22;27:13;35:22</p> <p>Restoration (46) 6:13;12:13;14:9; 20:12;21:1;26:9; 36:23;46:9,9,23; 48:10;51:23;63:21; 64:2,16;66:20,22,22, 24;67:1,3,5,7;68:2, 24;71:22;73:6;75:3; 84:7;86:11;90:11,16; 94:25;96:20,23;97:2, 21;98:7;102:18; 103:1;110:24;112:9; 113:10;119:12; 122:25;136:4</p> <p>restore (13) 15:18,22;26:15; 59:25;63:7,25;64:19; 75:4;90:5,9;132:16; 136:8;141:24</p> <p>restored (2) 85:3;124:18</p> <p>restoring (3) 69:5;106:7;133:4</p> <p>restraint (1) 64:17</p> <p>restrict (1) 114:17</p> <p>restrictions (1) 130:7</p> <p>result (6) 45:16;49:13,25; 50:22;108:21;123:10</p> <p>results (2) 23:15;36:18</p> <p>rethink (1) 64:7</p> <p>retire (2) 76:5;83:2</p> <p>retired (1) 76:8</p> <p>Retreat (4) 59:25;90:6,9; 136:8</p> <p>retrofitting (2)</p>	<p>131:2,3</p> <p>return (1) 51:17</p> <p>revenue (10) 67:9,13;96:8; 99:12,15;143:1,7; 145:8,10;147:4</p> <p>revenues (5) 140:5;143:5,11,23; 144:16</p> <p>review (1) 140:19</p> <p>Reyher (3) 132:9,14,15</p> <p>Rhoders (3) 121:5;122:18,19</p> <p>Rhodes (8) 114:8,8;116:4,6; 119:3,5,6,8</p> <p>rich (1) 76:2</p> <p>ride (1) 118:12</p> <p>ridge (5) 46:9,23;66:22; 85:4;96:24</p> <p>ridges (1) 29:5</p> <p>rig (4) 79:19,21;118:20, 20</p> <p>right (37) 12:8;17:17,22; 19:2;20:13,18;21:2, 5;22:9;29:2,2,18; 32:24;33:23;39:19; 46:14;52:25;57:10; 59:1;63:1;69:14; 73:3;77:22;79:4; 83:16;85:10;89:2; 104:1,20,21;105:3,8; 141:25;142:3;147:1, 14,25</p> <p>rights (2) 79:9,9</p> <p>rigs (1) 116:19</p> <p>rim (13) 12:19;13:4;15:22; 62:17,19,24;63:6; 70:4,4;83:15;85:1; 104:20;126:13</p> <p>ring (2) 11:5;105:7</p> <p>rise (4) 31:17;98:12; 115:21;132:20</p> <p>risk (15) 20:14;33:12,17; 38:7,10,10;39:3; 52:19;55:19;67:4; 94:5;115:10;116:2; 120:16,20</p>	<p>risks (2) 52:6;133:16</p> <p>River (12) 28:1;47:2;73:5; 76:20;90:19;91:18, 21,23;92:5,12;111:7; 117:7</p> <p>Rivers (3) 46:16;67:17;74:4</p> <p>robust (1) 33:16</p> <p>rock (3) 21:4;72:17,21</p> <p>rocks (7) 17:1,3;19:24;63:1; 71:24;72:1;124:4</p> <p>Rockweiler (4) 73:12;77:16,24; 78:6</p> <p>rodeo (1) 114:13</p> <p>roll (2) 32:4;142:14</p> <p>roof (3) 70:20;131:2,4</p> <p>room (10) 18:25;20:19;21:7; 24:6,8;45:14;54:12; 138:21,23;139:2</p> <p>rope (1) 18:18</p> <p>Rouge (2) 17:11;19:12</p> <p>rough (1) 47:17</p> <p>roughly (9) 30:2;41:20;42:6; 43:15;44:6;47:9; 49:23;51:16,17</p> <p>Rule (1) 150:7</p> <p>ruler (1) 86:3</p> <p>Rules (1) 150:8</p> <p>run (3) 4:14;36:6,17</p> <p>running (2) 15:25;118:16</p>	<p>144:21</p> <p>salary (2) 67:25;86:19</p> <p>sales (1) 11:23</p> <p>salinity (2) 13:1;38:1</p> <p>salt (3) 17:21;70:1;137:6</p> <p>same (13) 18:19;20:8;24:12; 51:2;54:4;56:19,20; 70:21;76:14;84:15; 105:9;126:17;150:14</p> <p>San (1) 54:2</p> <p>sand (6) 12:12;63:4;64:13; 72:3;124:3,7</p> <p>save (5) 71:20;72:8;74:16, 25;137:1</p> <p>Saving (3) 74:25;106:7; 116:23</p> <p>saw (7) 11:19;18:14; 20:23;33:14;79:21; 122:7;133:11</p> <p>saying (6) 19:13;116:13; 117:23;118:23; 125:5;126:10</p> <p>scale (1) 67:1</p> <p>scenario (3) 44:19;45:2;143:20</p> <p>scenarios (4) 31:16;38:14;44:9; 52:10</p> <p>schedule (6) 140:6,7,11;145:21, 22,24</p> <p>schedules (1) 4:10</p> <p>schematic (1) 35:25</p> <p>Schlitz (1) 104:21</p> <p>SCIA (3) 86:8,16,21</p> <p>science (20) 8:13;18:3;23:19; 32:10;41:5;60:11; 100:25;101:1,2,3; 102:9,11,13,15,20; 106:22;113:22; 114:3;123:6;132:21</p> <p>science-based (3) 103:6;113:11,15</p> <p>scientist (1) 64:11</p> <p>scientists (1)</p>
S				
<p>Sabine (1) 75:6</p> <p>sacrificed (2) 83:13,13</p> <p>sadness (1) 83:6</p> <p>safe (3) 97:22;148:2;149:4</p> <p>sake (1) 20:17</p> <p>salaries (1)</p>	<p>Saline (1) 75:6</p> <p>sacrificed (2) 83:13,13</p> <p>sadness (1) 83:6</p> <p>safe (3) 97:22;148:2;149:4</p> <p>sake (1) 20:17</p> <p>salaries (1)</p>			

8:17 scored (1) 102:8 screen (3) 20:11;48:12;61:13 Sea (3) 31:17;115:20; 132:19 seafood (1) 137:16 season (1) 82:21 second (8) 4:16;7:7;104:15; 109:8;113:20; 114:13;132:23; 135:17 secret (1) 135:24 Secretary (3) 8:6,7;60:19 sections (1) 137:9 sector (2) 67:23,24 secure (4) 67:14;97:22;99:9; 107:22 secured (1) 28:24 security (2) 96:4;145:4 sediment (24) 15:6,14;17:20; 38:4;39:24,25;46:18; 47:4;48:18;61:23; 62:1,4,6,9,11,14; 63:7;64:14;90:13; 91:19;107:15,22; 132:25;133:7 seeing (4) 22:5,18;104:17; 110:8 seems (1) 123:16 segments (1) 96:17 select (1) 39:22 selected (5) 9:8;10:15;39:2; 43:20;47:7 selecting (1) 38:21 selection (2) 39:7;43:21 sells (1) 79:2 Senate (3) 21:22;22:3,4 Senator (18) 7:2,12;10:2;11:6; 16:24;17:6;18:24;	22:17;25:18;40:1; 56:6;80:22,23,24; 83:8;84:18;100:8,24 send (2) 58:19;91:19 sense (4) 34:20;35:3;69:12; 123:7 sensitivities (1) 23:8 sensitivity (1) 9:15 sentiment (2) 112:18,24 seq (1) 151:16 series (1) 48:24 serve (2) 119:14;125:1 served (2) 42:20,22 serves (3) 91:13;108:3;109:4 service (1) 116:17 services (1) 95:20 sessions (1) 22:7 set (1) 9:18 settled (2) 34:12,13 settlement (5) 67:11;91:17,20; 92:7;93:17 settlements (1) 74:21 settling (1) 136:21 seven (1) 17:11 seventy-one (1) 122:7 seventy-six (1) 51:23 several (5) 6:5;7:5;38:20; 65:3;146:15 shaded (1) 46:8 shale (1) 72:21 shape (2) 44:20;132:4 share (2) 66:6;121:16 129:2 Shay (1) 64:11 sheet (2)	55:3,11 sheets (4) 5:9;54:25;55:10, 13 sheriff (1) 127:11 sheriff's (1) 127:11 Ship (1) 64:13 ships (1) 107:14 Shoal (1) 64:13 shoot (1) 117:4 shooting (1) 118:25 shore (2) 14:13;46:21 shoreline (4) 14:9;46:9;66:23; 98:14 shorelines (1) 29:9 shores (1) 130:8 short (3) 15:4;16:15;85:5 shot (2) 125:16;147:20 show (8) 4:14;50:7;51:6; 59:21;76:8;124:10; 128:15;143:17 showing (2) 17:9,9 shown (1) 67:22 shrimp (4) 40:25;54:19,20; 137:13 shrimpers (2) 23:10;79:13 shrimping (1) 79:15 shutting (1) 77:18 side (17) 12:24;13:2,6,7; 14:25;15:18,20; 17:22;41:5;47:5; 48:11;96:21;100:10; 126:8;137:8;147:23, 25 sides (1) 69:17 significant (5) 66:17;109:13; 133:6;145:15;147:5 silt (1) 17:20 similar (3)	55:10,12;62:4 Simone (6) 59:24;85:13; 86:25;89:21;90:6; 111:25 Simone's (1) 60:7 simple (4) 20:18;40:10; 116:7;117:10 single (2) 26:10;48:21 sit (1) 146:16 sitting (4) 18:25;24:6;42:22; 104:22 situation (6) 22:23;34:12; 42:12;44:13,16,17 six (6) 9:3;16:18;24:8; 66:2;130:1;147:11 sixty (2) 29:9;83:3 sixty-two (1) 73:16 size (1) 132:4 skeletons (1) 128:4 slide (3) 39:8;43:11;50:8 slides (3) 48:24;50:6,7 slight (1) 105:19 slip (1) 75:5 slowed (1) 65:1 slurring (1) 64:13 small (9) 64:21;65:14; 78:22;84:6;93:24; 109:19;120:4,9; 126:3 smokes (1) 16:19 snapshot (1) 140:8 Soil (2) 29:21;137:4 solicit (1) 128:20 solution (2) 41:10;131:11 solve (4) 69:25;70:1,11; 88:12 solved (2) 69:25;70:16	solving (1) 70:25 somebody (1) 128:24 someone (1) 113:17 sometimes (7) 21:5;23:20;48:14; 117:4;118:23;124:5; 129:19 somewhere (1) 23:22 soon (2) 96:15;125:7 sorely (1) 68:3 sorry (1) 131:20 sort (24) 5:22;24:14;28:23; 29:24;36:2;37:6,19; 38:7;39:5;41:3; 42:15;44:9,12,15; 45:1;46:7,11;50:14, 16;51:13;53:23; 55:3;84:22;134:1 sound (1) 106:22 sounded (1) 64:16 source (5) 61:24;62:7;64:14; 87:14;104:12 sources (2) 144:11;145:12 south (10) 72:19;81:21; 85:17;94:14;97:17; 100:7;112:3;113:23; 125:20;135:5 southeast (2) 89:17;124:12 southern (6) 16:6;107:10,12,20; 108:4;127:24 southwest (3) 73:24;89:15; 124:12 soy (1) 74:3 speak (14) 12:8;27:15;29:21; 57:18,25;58:4,9,16; 68:23;77:15;119:19; 125:4;136:12;138:15 speakers (3) 87:9;93:23;112:19 speaking (3) 52:2;100:15; 103:21 spear (1) 53:16 special (1)
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4:19 specific (5) 23:14;41:3,3; 100:16;108:15 specifically (3) 103:3;107:13; 110:22 specifics (1) 43:6 speed (2) 24:13;101:6 spend (8) 44:8;48:15,15; 69:9,17;71:19; 123:22;143:5 spending (2) 44:3;79:23 spent (12) 8:15,16;69:18,19, 22;71:12;75:22; 76:1;96:10;114:24, 25;123:1 SPEYRER (43) 4:3,5;57:8;63:14; 66:12;68:8,14,18; 73:10;77:14;80:21; 83:22;85:12;86:24; 89:20;91:1;93:20; 97:9;99:21;103:14; 105:21;107:5;108:5; 111:11;113:1;114:6; 116:3;119:2,7;121:3; 122:15;124:22; 126:21;129:4;132:8; 135:1;136:10; 137:22;146:9; 147:15,21;148:13,21 spill (4) 141:17;142:24; 144:7;145:14 spirit (1) 88:14 split (3) 44:1,5;48:10 spoke (5) 69:4;70:4;80:8; 140:12;141:20 sponsoring (1) 104:8 spontaneous (1) 150:12 sportsman (1) 77:7 Sportsman's (3) 78:10,16,18 spot (1) 44:6 spots (1) 74:9 spread (1) 31:25 spreading (1) 133:12	sprout (1) 38:4 square (6) 26:20;45:17; 49:24;51:8;52:9,10 St (18) 17:14;18:2;85:20; 86:1;91:15,25;92:17, 24,25;93:2,6,7; 100:21;108:10; 109:22;110:12,18; 129:19 stable (1) 67:14 stack (1) 59:9 staff (1) 22:5 stage (1) 134:25 stake (1) 34:14 stakeholders (2) 80:17;100:2 stand (4) 68:25;84:11,11; 106:14 standing (2) 42:13;151:23 stands (1) 107:17 stared (1) 19:5 stark (1) 52:16 start (16) 19:25;49:17; 59:10,18;62:25;63:5; 70:17;99:25;103:25; 104:2;105:4;130:8,9; 142:13,22,24 started (11) 6:4;8:3;11:18; 12:11,14;25:15;54:5; 71:10;73:18;81:15; 138:25 starting (8) 12:9;46:17,19; 47:3;104:3;141:19; 142:2;144:9 startling (1) 52:16 starts (2) 19:23,24 starving (1) 17:19 state (58) 6:19;11:15,23; 15:9;19:18;20:22; 24:17;26:10;28:12; 29:18;31:8;43:17; 45:24;47:5;59:12; 66:17,25;67:9,18;	68:9;70:14;72:24; 75:13;76:3;78:24; 80:9;81:17,19;82:4, 10;94:6;96:5,7,9,14; 97:19;99:2,12,20; 103:13;107:12; 109:14;112:7;115:2, 14;118:7;119:3; 135:6;136:12; 144:13,15,16;145:6; 146:12;150:6,9; 151:17,24 stated (2) 83:9;122:1 statement (1) 76:17 states (2) 78:25;79:1 state's (1) 94:24 stats (4) 27:9;28:23;35:18; 55:3 stay (1) 138:23 stayed (2) 88:12;139:6 staying (1) 139:4 steady (1) 99:12 steam (1) 15:24 steel (1) 69:15 stenomask (1) 151:7 step (2) 32:13;110:14 step-change (2) 8:10,10 Steve (2) 78:5;81:5 Steven (2) 73:12;77:16 stick (4) 4:15;5:22;29:24; 147:22 sticking (1) 149:1 still (10) 14:2;17:5;58:20; 63:17;71:25;103:24; 113:3;132:10; 138:17;147:14 stone (1) 9:18 stop (3) 104:1;117:23; 118:25 stories (1) 74:12 storm (8)	11:16;26:13; 34:25;38:8;101:7,9; 124:3;127:9 storms (2) 26:14;126:1 story (1) 18:7 straight (2) 101:17;125:16 strategically (1) 91:18 strategy (3) 12:5;100:3;148:11 stream (3) 99:12;144:12; 145:10 streams (2) 67:13;99:15 stress (2) 12:21;116:1 stretch (1) 32:1 strip (1) 125:9 strong (2) 97:22;124:15 structural (4) 37:13;46:10; 48:12;51:24 structure (3) 19:7;109:3;114:24 structures (6) 47:10,13;75:15; 95:5;130:15,25 struggling (1) 146:20 students (3) 84:4,9;104:8 studies (2) 95:8;113:17 study (2) 14:19;15:8 studying (1) 104:1 stuff (4) 25:20,22;41:6; 126:4 subject (2) 9:13,17 submit (8) 58:18;63:11;66:4; 87:6;114:21;115:22; 138:14,17 submitted (4) 10:10;56:13; 136:25;137:18 subsequent (1) 120:25 subsidence (3) 53:18;136:21; 137:5 substantial (1) 129:25	success (2) 90:24;127:23 successful (3) 19:21;108:21; 127:23 sufficient (1) 12:5 suit (1) 148:6 suite (1) 66:20 summer (1) 82:20 supervision (1) 151:9 supper (1) 88:23 supplying (1) 86:17 support (33) 27:22;42:21;67:2, 4,15;77:2,8;86:1,6; 89:1,6;90:10,17,18; 91:11,16;92:17,23; 94:13;98:5;100:16; 101:24;106:18; 107:20;112:8,11,15; 119:17,25;132:23; 133:20;134:13;149:3 supported (4) 13:10;68:2;86:10; 89:4 supporting (2) 14:15;93:4 supportive (2) 98:3;110:23 supports (1) 110:18 sure (17) 7:13;9:24;10:4; 23:1,2,15,16;28:8; 38:23;45:7;57:16; 59:7;87:10;88:23; 130:6;133:14;135:10 surge (3) 101:7,9;127:8 surges (3) 26:13;35:1;38:9 surprised (1) 17:10 surrounding (2) 109:22;114:19 survivability (1) 96:25 survival (2) 82:2;96:18 sustain (3) 61:10;72:25;90:21 sustainability (2) 40:24;95:13 sustainable (2) 102:21;129:23 sustained (3)
--	---	--	---	---

<p>49:13,19,20 sustaining (1) 90:19 Suzanne (4) 63:16;66:13; 68:12,15 Swamp (1) 73:21 swamps (1) 106:13 sweeps (1) 146:22 sweet (1) 44:6 swept (1) 146:25 sworn (2) 150:9;151:14 symbolity (1) 145:25 synergistic (1) 98:20 system (20) 11:16;62:11,25; 78:8;82:8;83:3; 90:15,20;94:11,18, 22;95:1,8,17;96:10, 11,18;102:25;142:8, 16 systems (4) 78:5;132:25; 133:4;135:14</p>	<p>103:25;105:4;115:9; 117:7;126:17 Tanner (1) 59:21 tape (1) 151:7 taste (1) 20:6 tax (4) 11:23;95:25;96:7; 109:14 taxed (1) 19:17 taxes (1) 76:4 taxing (1) 73:8 taxpayer (1) 79:23 team (3) 81:11;84:22; 120:15 Teche (2) 93:1;110:9 technical (7) 19:3;32:10;34:3; 41:5,25;54:17;101:2 technology (3) 18:4;32:3;70:23 Ted (4) 86:25;89:21,24; 91:2 telling (2) 23:12;79:14 temporary (2) 108:22;109:3 ten (8) 11:4,19;34:15; 68:1;70:15;79:15; 86:9;102:19 term (2) 18:21;37:6 Terminal (1) 110:20 terms (45) 25:8;27:9,19,22; 28:5;29:1;32:22; 33:19;34:11,22;35:5, 19,24;39:6,21;40:2, 18,20;41:15;43:8; 45:3;47:6;48:8,9; 49:2,3,22;50:20; 51:7;52:3,7;53:16, 22;54:10;55:5,23; 61:9,17,19;62:3; 64:1;120:13;123:19; 147:4,12 terrace (1) 75:9 terraces (2) 74:22,23 Terrebonne (71) 7:6,14;11:15,22;</p>	<p>12:19,24;13:5,6,25; 14:9,11,21,25;15:9, 14,19;16:2,13;17:14, 18;18:12;20:4;40:2, 3;55:2,4;64:25;65:6; 66:7;68:5,13;70:4; 71:10;78:4;80:6; 81:1;84:25;85:9,19; 86:1;91:15,19;92:1, 3,22;93:6;94:4,11, 16;95:14,23,24;97:4; 100:6,20;111:4; 113:24;121:11; 125:2,6,17,23;126:7, 7,13,15;127:3;129:8, 13,19;137:1 testament (1) 133:13 testimony (1) 150:9 Texas (1) 76:20 thankless (1) 88:1 thanks (8) 16:11;19:15; 93:23;96:7;97:3; 103:18;111:15; 112:24 theory (1) 115:1 therefore (1) 131:7 thereof (1) 21:5 THERIOT (2) 136:14,15 thinking (1) 103:2 third (7) 7:23;8:2;55:25; 81:14;114:13;133:9; 135:22 thirteen (1) 69:3 thirty (12) 4:21;9:2,4;19:14; 49:5,10,14;57:24; 95:7;109:24;124:15; 125:9 thirty-five (3) 12:2;36:23;82:21 thirty-seven (2) 117:16;118:2 thirty-six (2) 15:7,10 thirty-two (1) 51:24 thorough (1) 123:1 though (2) 108:15;147:8 thought (6)</p>	<p>44:22;88:22; 131:11,16;147:19; 150:14 thoughts (1) 77:12 thousand (6) 6:5;9:3;26:20; 79:15;98:17,18 thousands (3) 87:20;88:5;95:19 threatened (2) 80:7,13 three (26) 5:7;6:19;50:15; 58:4,16;63:12;64:1; 69:1,16;77:25;81:7, 9;101:11;104:5; 121:11;132:17; 139:23;140:2,5,8; 143:1,6,8;145:1,20; 146:16 three-quarter (1) 11:22 three-year (1) 140:3 thriving (1) 17:24 throughout (2) 111:20;119:24 throw (1) 126:6 throwing (1) 123:25 thrown (5) 102:4,6,9,12;126:8 Thus (1) 75:14 tidal (4) 65:2;78:3;94:5; 104:16 tie-ins (1) 95:17 Tim (4) 107:7,7;108:6,9 Timbalier (4) 13:23;14:2;71:5; 85:7 times (7) 18:18;20:8;52:12; 66:2;69:1;84:24; 121:12 tiny (1) 109:19 tip (1) 53:15 tired (2) 22:5,18 tirelessly (1) 100:3 today (15) 16:1;24:2;30:1; 36:19;41:13;64:6,22; 65:9;69:7;77:19;</p>	<p>82:8;87:25;119:19; 121:15;130:25 together (14) 7:15;8:9;9:10; 18:15;36:10,12,13, 14,15;39:22;60:13; 82:10;108:2;113:9 token (1) 124:1 toId (6) 22:24;65:24; 79:25;93:10;117:19; 123:14 tomorrow (1) 56:19 tonight (41) 6:10,16,22;7:9,22; 8:12;25:3,11;55:15; 56:1,9,21;57:18; 58:1,10;60:14;66:7; 69:2;81:12,22;84:9; 87:6,9;89:11,19; 91:7;103:19,22; 111:10,17;112:16; 114:18;119:25; 136:12;138:15; 139:7,9,16,18; 143:14;148:18 Tony (1) 81:7 took (4) 32:13,18;113:11; 117:24 tool (4) 36:7,18;55:16; 90:16 tools (3) 32:16,20;38:25 top (3) 37:20;39:8;73:1 topic (1) 16:24 total (3) 11:25;141:6;143:6 totally (2) 23:4;77:2 touch (3) 34:9;43:7;60:15 tough (2) 25:1;88:1 tourist (3) 106:10,17;107:3 Tourists (1) 106:11 toward (1) 126:16 towards (2) 73:18;134:11 track (2) 49:6;129:13 traction (1) 93:15 traditional (1)</p>
T				
<p>table (6) 19:1;42:23;57:11; 135:18;142:25; 143:13 tactic (1) 6:4 TAG (2) 121:8,13 tagline (1) 25:16 talent (1) 23:24 talk (24) 4:23,24;5:4;7:6, 20;16:25;28:12; 31:15;36:20;37:2,18; 41:21,22,23;100:11, 23;102:11;104:5,16, 19;115:5;131:10; 139:16;150:14 talked (11) 31:21;39:9;50:3; 100:23,25,25;101:1, 2,3;105:7;131:7 talking (15) 12:23;19:5,24; 37:7,9,22;49:7;79:5; 86:18;101:24;</p>	<p>telling (2) 23:12;79:14 temporary (2) 108:22;109:3 ten (8) 11:4,19;34:15; 68:1;70:15;79:15; 86:9;102:19 term (2) 18:21;37:6 Terminal (1) 110:20 terms (45) 25:8;27:9,19,22; 28:5;29:1;32:22; 33:19;34:11,22;35:5, 19,24;39:6,21;40:2, 18,20;41:15;43:8; 45:3;47:6;48:8,9; 49:2,3,22;50:20; 51:7;52:3,7;53:16, 22;54:10;55:5,23; 61:9,17,19;62:3; 64:1;120:13;123:19; 147:4,12 terrace (1) 75:9 terraces (2) 74:22,23 Terrebonne (71) 7:6,14;11:15,22;</p>	<p>12:19,24;13:5,6,25; 14:9,11,21,25;15:9, 14,19;16:2,13;17:14, 18;18:12;20:4;40:2, 3;55:2,4;64:25;65:6; 66:7;68:5,13;70:4; 71:10;78:4;80:6; 81:1;84:25;85:9,19; 86:1;91:15,19;92:1, 3,22;93:6;94:4,11, 16;95:14,23,24;97:4; 100:6,20;111:4; 113:24;121:11; 125:2,6,17,23;126:7, 7,13,15;127:3;129:8, 13,19;137:1 testament (1) 133:13 testimony (1) 150:9 Texas (1) 76:20 thankless (1) 88:1 thanks (8) 16:11;19:15; 93:23;96:7;97:3; 103:18;111:15; 112:24 theory (1) 115:1 therefore (1) 131:7 thereof (1) 21:5 THERIOT (2) 136:14,15 thinking (1) 103:2 third (7) 7:23;8:2;55:25; 81:14;114:13;133:9; 135:22 thirteen (1) 69:3 thirty (12) 4:21;9:2,4;19:14; 49:5,10,14;57:24; 95:7;109:24;124:15; 125:9 thirty-five (3) 12:2;36:23;82:21 thirty-seven (2) 117:16;118:2 thirty-six (2) 15:7,10 thirty-two (1) 51:24 thorough (1) 123:1 though (2) 108:15;147:8 thought (6)</p>	<p>44:22;88:22; 131:11,16;147:19; 150:14 thoughts (1) 77:12 thousand (6) 6:5;9:3;26:20; 79:15;98:17,18 thousands (3) 87:20;88:5;95:19 threatened (2) 80:7,13 three (26) 5:7;6:19;50:15; 58:4,16;63:12;64:1; 69:1,16;77:25;81:7, 9;101:11;104:5; 121:11;132:17; 139:23;140:2,5,8; 143:1,6,8;145:1,20; 146:16 three-quarter (1) 11:22 three-year (1) 140:3 thriving (1) 17:24 throughout (2) 111:20;119:24 throw (1) 126:6 throwing (1) 123:25 thrown (5) 102:4,6,9,12;126:8 Thus (1) 75:14 tidal (4) 65:2;78:3;94:5; 104:16 tie-ins (1) 95:17 Tim (4) 107:7,7;108:6,9 Timbalier (4) 13:23;14:2;71:5; 85:7 times (7) 18:18;20:8;52:12; 66:2;69:1;84:24; 121:12 tiny (1) 109:19 tip (1) 53:15 tired (2) 22:5,18 tirelessly (1) 100:3 today (15) 16:1;24:2;30:1; 36:19;41:13;64:6,22; 65:9;69:7;77:19;</p>	<p>82:8;87:25;119:19; 121:15;130:25 together (14) 7:15;8:9;9:10; 18:15;36:10,12,13, 14,15;39:22;60:13; 82:10;108:2;113:9 token (1) 124:1 toId (6) 22:24;65:24; 79:25;93:10;117:19; 123:14 tomorrow (1) 56:19 tonight (41) 6:10,16,22;7:9,22; 8:12;25:3,11;55:15; 56:1,9,21;57:18; 58:1,10;60:14;66:7; 69:2;81:12,22;84:9; 87:6,9;89:11,19; 91:7;103:19,22; 111:10,17;112:16; 114:18;119:25; 136:12;138:15; 139:7,9,16,18; 143:14;148:18 Tony (1) 81:7 took (4) 32:13,18;113:11; 117:24 tool (4) 36:7,18;55:16; 90:16 tools (3) 32:16,20;38:25 top (3) 37:20;39:8;73:1 topic (1) 16:24 total (3) 11:25;141:6;143:6 totally (2) 23:4;77:2 touch (3) 34:9;43:7;60:15 tough (2) 25:1;88:1 tourist (3) 106:10,17;107:3 Tourists (1) 106:11 toward (1) 126:16 towards (2) 73:18;134:11 track (2) 49:6;129:13 traction (1) 93:15 traditional (1)</p>

40:21 train (1) 86:15 transcribed (1) 151:9 transcript (1) 150:18 transcription (2) 150:16;151:7 transfer (1) 43:2 transferred (1) 16:1 transition (1) 138:5 translate (2) 50:2;144:5 translated (1) 38:9 Transportation (4) 8:7;22:1;27:11; 28:2 trapped (1) 76:16 travel (1) 56:22 travels (1) 74:10 treasure (1) 27:7 treasures (1) 106:14 trees (1) 74:19 tremendous (10) 27:12;28:21;33:4; 89:1;105:11;122:8; 136:21;141:3,9; 143:8 tremendously (2) 35:23;86:6 trends (1) 53:3 triangle (1) 125:13 Tricia (3) 150:5;151:1;152:2 tried (1) 8:18 Trinity (1) 14:3 trip (2) 28:16;148:2 tri-parish (1) 85:19 trips (1) 80:12 Trosclair (1) 81:5 trouble (2) 80:4,5 trout (1) 137:13	true (6) 20:6;54:1;78:5; 100:10;119:20;151:6 Truman (4) 117:14,15,18,18 Trust (5) 75:18;79:1,3; 118:5;131:23 try (10) 9:4;23:17;38:15; 62:18;74:21;77:25; 80:15;85:8;136:25; 139:5 trying (19) 6:8;7:22;8:16,17; 9:12;15:4;23:7; 24:22;26:5;62:14; 80:11;88:12;93:16; 110:5;112:22;118:8; 125:21;133:18;137:6 tune (1) 52:8 turn (8) 4:19;5:15;22:18; 57:20;103:10;114:4; 132:12;133:25 turned (2) 59:3;103:11 turning (1) 29:20 turnout (3) 6:17;25:4,11 turnouts (1) 6:22 turns (2) 44:5;127:14 tweak (2) 21:19,20 twelve (3) 51:24;61:21;69:2 twenty (9) 10:14,17;28:24; 29:3;37:13;114:25; 115:3,24;121:21 twenty-eight (1) 72:22 twenty-fifth (1) 56:14 twenty-five (15) 4:21;9:1,4;50:9,18, 19;57:24;64:18; 76:16;81:22;85:6; 117:25;118:3,5; 129:18 twenty-fourth (2) 56:2,17 twenty-nine (1) 141:5 twenty-sixth (3) 56:2;138:14; 140:14 twenty-three (1) 95:4	twenty-two (1) 95:3 twin (1) 83:16 two (33) 6:17,20,23;10:9; 16:5;26:20;27:7; 30:10;33:3;36:21; 37:3,20,20;39:1,5; 40:11;42:6;43:12; 49:18;50:9;62:23; 75:8,10;78:1,12,15; 79:12;80:4,7;121:11; 125:17,19;131:13 two-minute (1) 59:16 type (2) 38:3;55:18 types (1) 45:25 typical (2) 145:21,22	unprecedented (4) 24:14;41:17,17; 102:17 unsustainable (1) 98:13 unwillingness (1) 96:3 up (87) 5:1,13,20;7:7,20; 8:23;9:19;11:4,5,22, 23;15:14;17:2,9; 19:11,18,19;21:8; 24:13;26:6;28:8; 33:10;38:21;39:7; 41:15;42:13;43:24; 46:4,20;48:19;50:15; 51:14;54:5;57:21; 59:11,15,17,19,20, 21;60:20,25;61:13; 65:4;66:14;68:19; 73:18;78:15;79:10; 80:16;82:11;88:15, 20;89:8;91:2;93:21; 97:17;99:22;100:9; 105:2;113:10,15; 118:19,21;121:4; 123:12;124:6;125:3, 5,11;126:2;128:15; 130:8,9,15,23; 131:16;132:13; 133:24;137:16; 138:8,10;140:13,13, 24;145:16;146:12 update (3) 31:4,5;53:1 updated (1) 31:13 updating (3) 31:2,20;32:4 upon (2) 9:14;123:5 upper (1) 137:9 upsets (1) 75:25 upwards (1) 57:23 urge (3) 67:18;134:4,12 urgency (1) 34:20 urgent (2) 23:14;66:17 urges (1) 94:20 use (17) 13:18;20:14; 23:18,24;28:11; 32:20;35:3;37:6; 63:6;67:15;86:12; 104:13;105:13,16; 122:14;133:7;137:4 used (8)	13:18;21:25;29:4; 75:5;103:5;120:7; 145:17;150:13 using (7) 6:4;15:14;91:20; 102:20;104:9; 109:13;112:19 utilizing (1) 61:23
V				
		U		
		ultimate (1) 12:6 ultimately (2) 36:17;41:14 Uncle (1) 103:24 under (3) 14:8;128:1;151:9 underlying (1) 133:2 undersigned (1) 151:5 understands (1) 23:8 underway (1) 29:18 undoubtedly (1) 98:8 unfortunate (2) 62:21;63:2 unfortunately (2) 19:16;115:8 unique (4) 14:12,20;106:3; 109:18 universe (1) 36:3 Universities (1) 113:7 University (2) 84:5,10 unless (3) 13:3;90:19;128:8 Unlimited (5) 75:17,18,20;76:7; 77:9 UNO (1) 64:12		valid (1) 53:5 valuable (3) 87:17;102:22; 106:3 value (2) 97:4;141:6 valued (1) 92:8 valuing (1) 115:14 vast (3) 106:9;109:5;123:9 vegetation (4) 21:1;38:2;73:22; 137:9 vehicle (1) 120:8 velocity (1) 92:7 venue (1) 42:12 venues (1) 43:3 verified (1) 150:20 version (1) 107:21 versus (2) 40:3;45:3 vet (1) 132:3 vetted (1) 13:9 viability (2) 95:13;107:18 viable (3) 97:2;130:16,21 Vic (1) 132:10;135:2,4; 136:11 view (2) 102:23;106:12 viewer (3) 55:13;88:17,20 views (1) 11:8 visiting (1) 28:14 Visitor's (1) 106:2

<p>vital (2) 95:20;96:24</p> <p>volume (1) 64:23</p> <p>voluntary (3) 37:11;47:14; 120:21</p> <p>volunteer (3) 20:25;104:7; 128:21</p> <p>volunteering (1) 120:23</p> <p>vote (1) 22:2</p> <p>voted (1) 95:25</p> <p>vulnerable (1) 115:18</p>	<p>watched (1) 118:15</p> <p>water (41) 15:20;17:21;19:7; 21:4;27:10;37:25; 38:1;40:7,24;64:23; 66:10;67:22;70:1; 72:12,13,15;73:16; 74:5;76:13;79:1; 85:6;87:19;90:12,14; 92:21;95:5;104:24; 105:10;107:24; 119:13;121:15,23, 24;125:20,23;126:2; 127:8;128:1,6;137:7, 15</p> <p>waters (2) 92:9;106:12</p> <p>waterways (3) 79:5;80:1;95:4</p> <p>waves (1) 38:9</p> <p>way (27) 16:25;20:2,2; 29:11;30:11;36:7; 42:5;43:1;44:14; 49:6;53:17;56:17; 58:5,24;60:8;74:16, 24;81:25;99:3; 115:11,14;116:21; 128:8;132:5;137:3; 142:15;146:20</p> <p>ways (3) 6:7;58:9,11</p> <p>weapons (1) 80:7</p> <p>webinars (1) 42:1</p> <p>website (3) 54:21;55:17; 138:17</p> <p>week (6) 6:5;70:20;104:9; 121:12,18,20</p> <p>weeks (2) 55:24;78:12</p> <p>week's (1) 121:21</p> <p>weighed (1) 58:15</p> <p>weight (1) 73:1</p> <p>weirs (2) 123:11,13</p> <p>welcome (1) 56:23</p> <p>wells (1) 116:10</p> <p>weren't (1) 42:12</p> <p>west (8) 13:2;15:18;17:22; 18:1;46:22;72:18;</p>	<p>76:20;82:25</p> <p>western (6) 13:7;40:2;45:24; 91:15;100:5,6</p> <p>wetland (2) 69:20;75:22</p> <p>wetlands (10) 14:17;29:6,22; 62:4;75:3;76:3;77:2, 11;119:13;141:8</p> <p>what's (11) 10:25;16:10; 38:11;53:3;55:1,7; 71:25;79:18;85:6; 119:25;143:20</p> <p>wherever (1) 28:18</p> <p>whichever (1) 132:5</p> <p>Whiskey (4) 12:9,12;29:18; 71:4</p> <p>white (2) 5:9;54:20</p> <p>whole (4) 33:21;64:2;77:1; 131:25</p> <p>wide (6) 14:23;69:8,17; 71:3;121:21,21</p> <p>wildlife (12) 38:5;52:3;70:6; 74:15;76:6;97:23; 106:6,13,20;116:20; 121:10;148:5</p> <p>willing (2) 24:20;86:15</p> <p>wind (3) 14:18;101:14; 142:22</p> <p>Windell (4) 7:8,10;86:4; 124:18</p> <p>Wine (7) 14:3;69:19;71:2,4, 5,24;72:9</p> <p>wisdom (1) 19:15</p> <p>wisely (3) 99:9;118:2;122:14</p> <p>wish (2) 69:23;99:19</p> <p>wishes (1) 64:8</p> <p>within (4) 38:22;58:16; 63:12;64:18</p> <p>without (18) 33:21;38:18;49:5, 10,16;50:6,12,17; 51:3;52:5,5;55:6; 62:22;82:5;90:15,21; 98:10;121:25</p>	<p>witnesses (2) 79:17;151:13</p> <p>WMA (1) 74:15</p> <p>woke (1) 125:5</p> <p>woods (2) 29:19;46:21</p> <p>word (3) 13:17;17:1;124:5</p> <p>words (5) 11:6,7;79:4; 150:17,19</p> <p>work (59) 4:23,24,24;5:24; 6:9;11:13;14:20; 15:17;21:13,15; 22:14;23:1;28:21; 29:15,21;30:23; 31:22,24;42:20; 43:15,25;57:23;58:6; 60:11;68:4;72:23; 75:21;76:7;81:13,18; 84:19;87:13;90:4; 94:13,16;99:9;100:3; 106:24;107:10; 108:2,13;110:6; 112:21;119:12; 128:11,23;133:19; 134:16;136:4,9; 137:19;139:23; 140:7;141:2,4,9; 142:1;143:9;146:24</p> <p>worked (5) 88:9;116:9; 127:10;129:15;138:2</p> <p>workers (3) 95:19;105:13,16</p> <p>workforce (3) 86:15,16,22</p> <p>working (13) 12:15;21:16; 35:18,20;57:15,16; 84:7;109:11;110:3; 114:20;130:18; 135:12,14</p> <p>works (4) 101:5;113:18; 114:4;135:6</p> <p>world (4) 27:14;85:22; 103:6;106:12</p> <p>worry (1) 41:19</p> <p>worst (6) 13:1;44:12,16,17, 19;45:1</p> <p>worth (9) 28:4,7;30:3;106:7; 116:15,23;118:24; 141:2;142:1</p> <p>written (7) 56:9,11;60:17;</p>	<p>63:11;66:5;87:7; 112:17</p> <p>wrong (1) 118:22</p> <p>wrote (1) 80:14</p>
Y				
<p>Wade (3) 89:21;91:4,7</p> <p>wages (1) 120:6</p> <p>wait (1) 16:21</p> <p>waiting (2) 116:18;146:2</p> <p>wake (1) 81:15</p> <p>walk (1) 21:17</p> <p>Walker (3) 91:3;94:1,7</p> <p>Walker's (1) 81:8</p> <p>walking (2) 57:19;138:12</p> <p>walks (1) 21:8</p> <p>wall (2) 83:20;125:14</p> <p>walls (1) 37:17</p> <p>wants (7) 11:2,7,9;28:16; 65:6;138:8;143:16</p> <p>warning (2) 59:16,16</p> <p>Warren (4) 68:20;73:11,14; 77:15</p> <p>wash (2) 124:4;128:2</p> <p>washed (2) 125:7;127:15</p> <p>washing (1) 123:10</p> <p>Washington (2) 28:11;148:19</p> <p>watch (3) 6:6;106:13,15</p>	<p>y'all (26) 16:14;17:8;20:18; 39:13;58:25;63:19, 20;66:4,5,11;84:11; 87:3;93:11,18;94:3; 97:8;126:18;135:11, 12;136:5,5;139:18; 143:15;146:16; 148:1,25</p> <p>y'all's (2) 93:19;102:17</p> <p>yard (2) 86:3;125:9</p> <p>yards (4) 12:11;15:13;29:3; 74:10</p> <p>year (50) 5:18;13:22;31:10, 11;34:18;49:5,10,14, 15,16,23;50:9,12,18, 18;51:2,4,5,5,9,12, 15;52:7;56:15;70:13, 13,13;79:19;84:3; 90:20,20;94:12; 98:15;109:17,21,24; 134:6;138:6;140:9, 19;141:18;142:19; 143:6,24;144:19; 145:6,8,19;147:9; 148:23</p> <p>years (65) 10:12;11:19; 12:15;15:12;17:11; 31:5;34:15;39:16,18; 42:6;45:19,22;52:4, 5;53:1,20;61:21; 63:23;64:18;65:4; 67:10;68:1;69:3; 70:15;71:23;72:22; 73:16,17;74:7,13; 76:16;79:13;81:22; 82:1;84:8;86:9;88:9, 9,10;95:7;99:13; 101:11;102:19; 103:23;104:22; 117:25;118:4,5,10; 122:7;127:4;129:18; 131:24;136:20; 137:20;139:24; 140:5,8;143:1,8,10; 144:5;145:1,17,20</p> <p>yesterday (1) 75:7</p> <p>York (2)</p>			

54:2;84:15				
Z				
Zach (1) 57:19				
Zeringue (15) 7:3;10:2;59:18,19; 60:3,6;63:15;83:9, 10;86:5;125:4,4; 146:14;147:18,24				
zero (2) 25:7;82:15				
zone (3) 67:24;125:2;126:5				

In The Matter Of:
State Of LA Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority

Meeting For Master/ Annual Plan
January 25, 2017

Associated Reporters, Inc.
201 St. Charles Avenue
Suite 4315
New Orleans, LA 70170
(504) 529-3355

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STATE OF LOUISIANA
COASTAL PROTECTION and RESTORATION AUTHORITY

The CPRA Meeting for MASTER PLAN/ANNUAL
PLAN, taken in connection with the above
captioned matter at the David C. Treen
Instructional Technology Center, 2024
Livingston Street, Mandeville, Louisiana, on
Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Reported by:
Tricia S. Gregory
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate Number 2015008

A P P E A R A N C E S

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NICK SPEYRER

CHAIRMAN: Johnny Bradberry

Senator Sharon Hewitt

Bren Haase

Jason Lanclos

I N D E X

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10
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12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

PAGE

Caption:	1
Appearances:	2
Proceedings:	4
Reporter's Page:	103
Reporter's Certificate:	104

1 MR. SPEYRER:

2 If everyone could please have a seat we're
3 going to go ahead and get started. First off,
4 good evening. It's certainly a pleasure to be
5 here with you on the Northshore, certainly an
6 important part of coastal Louisiana. And we're
7 excited to wrap up what has been a fantastic
8 two weeks. We visited other parts of the
9 state, having conversations with our coastal
10 Louisiana citizens. And then sit down and hear
11 the feedback, and the comments, the concerns,
12 and the positives from you as we traveled
13 around the state. So hopefully we saved our
14 best for last as we are here in Mandeville
15 tonight.

16 A quick run of what the agenda will be.
17 After I speak I am going to call up Chairman
18 Johnny Bradberry of CPRA and he will provide
19 some opening remarks as well. The Bren Haase
20 to my left, your right, who is head of the
21 branding for CPRA. He will give about a
22 twenty-five minute presentation going over the
23 draft of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan. After
24 that we are going to then accept your public
25 comments. We're going to ask you to please

1 limit your comments to three minutes, Zach will
2 be sitting up her monitoring the time. He will
3 let you know when you get down to one minute
4 and when your time is up. We ask you to just
5 please be respectful of the others as we
6 anticipate a number of public comments tonight.
7 And then after the public comment period Jason
8 Lanclos, the Deputy Executive Director with
9 CPRA will then come up and give a presentation
10 on the draft fiscal year 2018. At that point
11 in time we'll take public comments on the
12 Annual Plan. And when we conclude we will
13 answer questions as best we can. Unfortunately
14 we won't be able to answer your questions
15 during the formal public comment period. We
16 are certainly happy after the meeting to sit
17 and have those conversations. So that's the
18 plan.

19 With that, one final comment I would like
20 to say. For the fourth time we have done these
21 meeting we've got a live Facebook feed taking
22 place here. And while we've had, with
23 tonight's, close to 1,000 people attend our
24 four public meetings, we know more than 20,000
25 people across Louisiana have been able to view

1 the presentations as well.

2 So with that I will stop talking and
3 introduce to you Johnny Bradberry, Chairman of
4 CPRA.

5 MR. BRADBERRY:

6 It's really good to be here tonight. You
7 know, this is the, this is the fourth of four
8 public meetings that we are holding across the
9 coastal area. And turnout so far has been
10 really, really good, and it's good tonight.
11 And I'm excited to see, to see you. More
12 importantly I'm excited to hear what your
13 comments are relative to the Master Plan after
14 you hear it.

15 But before I make any more, any more
16 comments, let me recognize some elected
17 officials that are here tonight. Senator
18 Sharon Hewitt is here. And the senator, after
19 I'm done, she wants to say a few words. So
20 she'll come up here and she'll talk a little
21 bit about, about the plan and tell you how she
22 feels about it. How about that? Senator Jack
23 Donahue is here. Jean Pelloat of Madisonville
24 is here. Where are you, Mr. Mayor? There you
25 are. Thank you. And Don Villere, Mayor of

1 Mandeville. You need to know that Don has been
2 in our hair a little bit. He's been trying to
3 push his product - not his product, but his
4 desires, and he is working hard for you guys, I
5 can tell you that. Here earlier were President
6 Pat Brister of St. Tammany and Representative
7 Reid Falconer. So, anybody else that I didn't
8 recognize that might be an elected official
9 here? I don't see anyone. Thank you for
10 coming out. I think it's a testimony of how
11 interested and how supportive they are of what
12 we are trying to do and of you, the people that
13 they represent.

14 Like I stated before, this is the, this is
15 the fourth of four public meetings that we are
16 going to hold. By law we are required to, to
17 have three of these meetings. We've decided to
18 have four this year. We feel like we have to
19 take engagement of the public up to another
20 level. And in fact after this fourth meeting
21 we are also going to piggyback off of an NGO
22 and have four additional meetings where we'll
23 be present. It won't be as, maybe as formal as
24 this, but we'll listen to the people, we'll
25 listen to you, we'll take comment, and we'll

1 take that back and rationalize it. Really the
2 purpose of this meeting is to get your input.
3 So when you come up to the mic and you make a
4 comment you're not going to get a response from
5 us because we are out here to listen, one
6 hundred percent to listen to what you have to
7 say about what you're going to see tonight, and
8 how you feel about your area, and how you feel
9 about the plan, and what you see in the plan,
10 what you don't see in the plan, and so forth.

11 You're going to see that this plan is not
12 going to make everybody happy. You know? I'll
13 look you in the eye and I'll tell you that
14 straight up. There were 209 projects that were
15 submitted for consideration in this Master
16 Plan. It's a \$50 billion plan. Okay? Those
17 209 projects, however, okay, represent about
18 \$150 billion worth of work. So in fifty years,
19 which is the life span associated with this
20 plan, we, we rationalize it - it doesn't make
21 sense, we don't believe that we can raise \$150
22 billion. We feel like \$50 billion is a, is a
23 target that we can get to. And so of that 209
24 projects only 120 projects got selected. Okay?
25 Now, that leaves eighty-nine projects not done.

1 Good projects that are not going to get done
2 and not considered, at least this time around.
3 So you have some people that are going to be
4 real happy and you're going to have eighty-nine
5 groups of communities or people that are not
6 going to be happy. That's just the reality of
7 it all.

8 And this plan changes from year to year.
9 And so it doesn't mean that a, that a project
10 that's not in the plan this five year interval
11 won't get into it in the next. Our coast is so
12 dynamic and it changes. And every five years,
13 and every year - you'll hear Bren say that it
14 changes every minute, every hour, every day,
15 every month, and every year. So we see it as a
16 framework, as a dynamic process, and projects
17 could come and go. But, again, I'm here to
18 tell you that there are going to be some groups
19 that are not going to be happy and there are
20 going to be 120 that are going to be really
21 happy. Okay?

22 Now, the other challenge in front of us is
23 how do we find, how do we find \$50 billion?
24 Well, I can tell you today, even with the BP
25 spill, okay, and even with GOMESA money, the

1 Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act money
2 coming to us as revenue, we don't have \$50
3 billion. We are way short, you know? The BP
4 money is going to give us about seven, a little
5 over \$7 billion, maybe close to eight if we get
6 all that we want. GOMESA money, probably
7 another, you know, five or six. Other streams
8 of revenue that we identified might give us,
9 you know, another five or six. So we are
10 talking about, of the fifty billion that we
11 need, probably we - I can identify a little
12 less than twenty. So I've got to find \$30
13 billion in the next fifty years.

14 And so not only is CPRA responsible for
15 putting this plan together, and showing it to
16 you, and prioritizing projects, but we're also
17 responsible for, like many others including
18 representatives and senators, for finding that
19 money and helping us find that money. We will
20 do that.

21 So in closing I want to tell you that I
22 encourage you to step up to the mic tonight,
23 fill out a white card, give us your thoughts.
24 We're going to listen, we're going to take
25 those comments back, we're going to rationalize

1 them. And this is a draft plan. If the
2 comments that you have are strong enough,
3 logical enough, make sense, we're going to
4 rationalize them all and we're going to make a
5 decision as to whether or not we want to change
6 the plan and alter it. And in, you know, in
7 2012 when the plan, the last plan was done,
8 there were some changes made after public, the
9 public comment period. So don't hesitate, I
10 really encourage you to do that. I am excited
11 to hear those comments. And, you know, fill
12 out a white card and come on up. Okay?

13 So before I ask Senator Hewitt to come up
14 here I want to make one more comment and that,
15 that relates to your governor. I need to look
16 you in the eye and tell you that you have a
17 coastal governor. This is a governor that
18 supports what it is that we're trying to do and
19 supports the coast. He protects our money.
20 And believe me there are entities that are
21 coming after our money. A lot of it is really,
22 really protected and they can't get to it but
23 he is committed to making sure that BP dollars,
24 and donation dollars, okay, and the mineral
25 dollars - the revenue that we get from mineral

1 revenues across the state, stays to the coast.
2 And, you know, he also is one that wants to be
3 fair. He's never told me, since I took this
4 job, he's never indicated to me - he says,
5 "Johnny, look. I need you to take this project
6 over here in Terrebonne Parish, make sure it
7 gets done. Go talk to that legislator or
8 whomever, the local parish president, and make
9 sure that project gets done." That's not,
10 that's not how he operates, ladies and
11 gentlemen, okay? He has basically said, "Let's
12 do what's fair." He laid out some things in
13 our discussions in establishing goals and
14 priorities and he basically is saying, "I want
15 you to make sure that you operate with a sense
16 of urgency. We've got to get projects done.
17 Get some results, get things on the ground."
18 Okay? He wants to be fair in the selection
19 process for projects and he wants us to assure,
20 to the best of our ability, that the money that
21 we've gotten from the BP spill and the money
22 that's coming from donations, that \$18 or \$19
23 billion I talked about, let's try to keep it in
24 Louisiana with Louisiana contractors. Create
25 Louisiana jobs with that. And that is his

1 mission. So being fair, okay? Sense of
2 urgency, get results, and keep the money in
3 Louisiana. And that's his fundamental message.
4 And, you know, we're working hard to stay
5 focused on that.

6 Well, having said that, I'm going to ask
7 Senator Hewitt to come up and say a few words.
8 Senator.

9 SENATOR HEWITT:

10 Well, it's great to see everyone here
11 tonight. This is such an important part of the
12 process, having public input. And Senator
13 Donahue and I are here because we, we care
14 about what you think and we want to hear your
15 thoughts. He and I represent most of St.
16 Tammany Parish, and I also represent parts of
17 St. Bernard, and Plaquemines, and part of
18 Orleans. So flood protection and coastal
19 restoration is very important to me and very
20 important to the people in this area.

21 And I've been very involved with a lot of
22 the work that CPRA has done. I'm newly
23 elected, I've been here a year, and I've been
24 asking a lot of questions of CPRA. I serve on
25 the governor's Advisory Commission where I have

1 an opportunity to ask questions and be part of
2 their work. I also serve on the Transportation
3 Committee which will ultimately approve the
4 plan, and the Finance Committee which is going
5 to help find the money.

6 And on top of that I'm an engineer, and so
7 I spent a lot of time with them, even as
8 recently as this week, going through the
9 technical work behind it and the science behind
10 some of their work, and challenging some of
11 their assumptions to get comfortable myself
12 that this is a well thought out plan. And so I
13 want you to know, after all of that, I want to
14 tell you that I have great respect for the work
15 that they have done. This is a monumental task
16 that we are taking on. And, you know, when you
17 are fighting mother nature it's never easy.
18 But they're looking at it from a, a very
19 logical approach, it is very science-based.
20 You know, we have very little history to go on
21 so that makes it difficult. But I'm confident
22 that they are going to continue, as we move
23 forward in building our learnings into the
24 models, so that we continue to get smarter and
25 get better at what we're doing. And so, you

1 know, some of the message is tough to hear, and
2 you guys are going to hear some of that
3 tonight.

4 Some projects I like better than others
5 and you probably will too, but I'm very excited
6 about the work that they're doing and I feel
7 very comfortable with the plan for the next
8 five years. And I know that things are going
9 to change as we learn more and get better. But
10 I think that we have a good plan and we've got
11 great leadership. And so, you know, I'm very
12 excited to have you here to be part of it. If
13 there's anything I can do, of course you can
14 call my office. And I look forward to hearing
15 your feedback. So thank y'all for being here,
16 I appreciate it.

17 MR. BRADBERRY:

18 Thank you, Senator. And don't take her
19 comments lightly. She, she has really been in
20 our business. Like she said, like she said,
21 she's an engineer and she has asked some really
22 good, tough questions, very probing questions.
23 And she understands a lot of the technical
24 stuff that's going into this. She has a good
25 appreciation for the science. So I really

1 respect her opinion and her position on what
2 we're trying to do. So, and we are open to
3 having anyone, particularly legislators, work
4 on a one-on-one basis to try to illustrate to
5 them the importance of the plan.

6 All right. So let's get with it. We're
7 going to ask Bren Haase to come up here and
8 start his presentation. It will be about
9 twenty-five minutes long. And after that,
10 right after that we'll, we'll hear public
11 comments. And after that, I'm sure some of you
12 are probably not going to stick around, but
13 we'll do the Annual Plan.

14 The Annual Plan is nothing more than a
15 subset of the Master Plan. It's what we're
16 going to spend, okay? What we're going to
17 focus on in the next year. And we take a three
18 year outlook for, for that Annual Plan. But
19 it's to show you how much money we are going to
20 be spending here in the next year and what
21 projects we are going to be working on. And
22 that's, that's fundamentally what - we are
23 obligated to do that by law. And we will share
24 that with you if you are willing to stay for a
25 while. I don't know if you will after you hear

1 this next presentation.

2 All right. Thank you very much. Bren,
3 the floor is yours.

4 MR. HAASE:

5 Thank you very much, Chairman Bradberry.
6 Senator Hewitt, I appreciate those comments.
7 Thank you. It's good to be here tonight, it's
8 a heck of a crowd. I'm proud of this crowd,
9 I'm glad you all are here, and it shows the
10 dedication and interest you have with the
11 issues facing coastal Louisiana. So I'm
12 excited to get into it.

13 But if you'll indulge me I would like to
14 take a moment, a personal privilege, if I may.
15 As Mr. Bradberry mentioned this is our fourth,
16 our last of four meetings like these that we've
17 had over the last couple of weeks. So it's
18 been a pretty busy time for CPRA as you might
19 imagine. Just organizing an event such as
20 this, but also in developing the plan. And so
21 I would like to just recognize my team very
22 quickly. And I haven't done this at any other
23 meetings. So I promise I won't embarrass you
24 too much. You can either raise your hand or
25 stand up. Mandy, Melanie - Mandy is not

1 standing up, she's just raising her hand there.
2 Randy, Andrea, Zach, and Brett, and Nick. And
3 I think that's everybody, I'm certain I didn't
4 leave anybody out. But we owe them a debt of
5 gratitude for helping not only this meeting,
6 but the others that we've had to be well-
7 organized, run smoothly, and indeed for helping
8 us pull this document together and undertake
9 this, what is really a very daunting task, over
10 the last several years. So many, many thanks
11 to those folks, we appreciate it.

12 So we're going to jump right into I. We
13 are the Coastal Protection and Restoration
14 Authority. We are the single state entity in
15 Louisiana mandated with developing,
16 implementing, and enforcing a comprehensive
17 plan to help restore our coast, restore our
18 ecosystems, and protect our citizens from storm
19 surges associated with hurricanes and tropical
20 storms. You all are well aware of this,
21 Louisiana is facing a crisis, a crisis of
22 immense significance. We have lost a
23 tremendous amount of coastal wetlands over the
24 last hundred plus years or so. Since 1932 we
25 have lost almost 2,000 square miles. And the

1 predictions for the future, if we don't do
2 anything about that, don't look a whole lot
3 better. You can see those land losses here.
4 Of course red is land loss in these maps, green
5 is land gained.

6 So this is extremely important to us, and
7 I know I'm preaching to the choir here when I
8 say this, but Louisiana is a national treasure.
9 It is important for us to save what we can of
10 our coast for a number of different reasons,
11 not the least of which, more than two million
12 people live along coastal Louisiana. And I'm
13 not going to go through each of these, but in
14 terms of fisheries production and water fowl
15 production, commerce, transportation, and so
16 forth, Louisiana provides tremendous service to
17 the rest of the nation.

18 And we're investing in our coastal economy
19 now as we speak. These are just a few
20 examples. But if you look at the port of Lake
21 Charles, the amount of investment that's going
22 on over there in recent years, about \$100
23 million or so. You can see the impact that has
24 on jobs in that area. Port Fourchon, of
25 course, immensely important in terms of energy

1 production for the, for the country. And then
2 when you look at the economic impact associated
3 with the deepening of the Mississippi River,
4 certainly you see the value of coastal
5 Louisiana and why we are worth fighting for.

6 Again, there are some other stats that you
7 see listed here. I'm not going to go through
8 all of these. But the economic impact and
9 service we provide to the rest of the nation,
10 indeed the rest of the world, is immense. All
11 of this information is part of the draft Master
12 Plan, and, again, is hopefully a tool that you
13 all can use as you are making a case for
14 coastal Louisiana, whether that be in
15 Washington, D.C., or with - the example I give
16 is if you have a friend who is coming down here
17 from the Midwest and wants to know why it's
18 important to save these wetlands that he's
19 fishing in. You can refer him to, to some of
20 these numbers.

21 And so a tremendous amount of work has
22 been done in recognition of this, of course,
23 over the last decade or so. You see the stats
24 associated with that here, but \$20 billion has
25 been secured. Much of that has been invested

1 in projects that are on the ground today.
2 Projects like coastal restoration projects,
3 ridge, and risk reduction projects. 120
4 million cubic yards of dredge material has been
5 dredged to do things like build our barrier
6 islands, our marshes, coastal ridges, and so
7 forth. And that's benefitted over 36,000
8 coastal acres of coastal wetlands. 282 miles
9 of levees have been constructed or approved.
10 Again, over the last decade roughly sixty miles
11 of our barrier islands or shorelines have been
12 constructed or are even under construction as
13 we speak.

14 This is just a, a representation of where
15 those projects, most of those projects - this
16 is not an exhaustive list. But most of those
17 projects have been constructed. You can just
18 sort of see the distribution across the coast.
19 And we're turning dirt today. So this is not
20 something that we're stopping doing, it's not
21 something we would consider slowing down. As a
22 matter of fact we're ramping up as we think
23 about these projects. So Bayou Bonfouca, a
24 project not too far from here, is under
25 construction right now on the Northshore.

1 Shell Island West, Lost Lake, Oyster Bayou,
2 these are all projects where we are turning
3 dirt today. And certainly the intent is to do
4 that, as well, in the future. In the Annual
5 Plan presentation that Mr. Bradberry mentioned
6 just a moment ago outlines \$660 million worth
7 of investment in our coast in terms of
8 implementing projects, again, related to, or
9 very similar to these restoration projects and
10 risk reduction projects to help restore our
11 coast and protect our citizens.

12 So what is the Coastal Master Plan? I get
13 this question a lot, what is it? It's a big
14 document, of course, it's a book, it's a -
15 it's also a methodology or a means for us to
16 make, frankly, some hard decisions. The -
17 there's no, there's no right answer to the
18 question of how we solve the coastal land loss
19 crisis. There's no optimal solution. And
20 depending on who you are your perspective might
21 be much different. And so you have, you know,
22 209 projects worth \$150 billion that Mr.
23 Bradberry mentioned earlier. How do you select
24 the right ones? How do you know you're
25 selecting the right ones? The Master Plan

1 really is a process to enable us to try to make
2 sense of all that and hopefully select the
3 projects that can do the most good for coastal
4 Louisiana.

5 But at the end of the day it's a list of
6 projects. There's a list of projects in the
7 Master Plan and those are the projects that the
8 state believes it should invest its dollars in,
9 again, to do the most good for our coast.

10 So why do we do another plan? First of
11 all, it's required by law to do another plan.
12 And I think it's, it's for good reason. And
13 it's really, it's that second and third bullets
14 that are good reasons. You all are well aware,
15 better than I, that our coast is an extremely
16 dynamic place, it changes week to week, day to
17 day, even, and certainly year to year. And so
18 as that landscape changes our techniques and
19 the things that we believe that we can do for
20 the coast changes as well. And so to think a
21 plan that we develop today is necessarily
22 appropriate, the appropriate plan fifty years
23 from now is probably not that good of an
24 assumption.

25 So in addition to that I mentioned all the

1 work that has occurred over the last decade.
2 Well, we've learned a tremendous amount from
3 implementing those projects. We've learned how
4 to stretch our dollar farther, we've learned
5 how to build projects better, we've learned how
6 to do things in a way so they last longer in
7 terms of building projects. We want to
8 incorporate that knowledge into our projects as
9 we move forward, of course. So being able to
10 react to those changes, improve technology,
11 improve science, is an important piece of us
12 updating the plan every five years. And it's
13 what enables us to do that so that we can
14 advance that comprehensive plan get integrated
15 certainly, in risk reduction and restoration.

16 So some of the differences about this plan
17 from the 2012 plan? You see listed here first
18 of all, we've taken a hard look at that science
19 and technology that was used to develop the
20 2012 plan and used to implement the projects
21 since 2012. And we said, how do we get better,
22 what do we do, what is it that we can do better
23 in terms of the tools that we use to evaluate
24 projects, the engineering behind those
25 projects, how they might be built, and so

1 forth. And so the ink rally wasn't dry on the
2 2012 plan before we began to do that. And many
3 of those improvements have been incorporated in
4 the process that has been used to develop the
5 draft plan that you see here, that you will see
6 here - what you have already seen here
7 tonight.

8 We have incorporated some new ideas and
9 information. I've touched on that a little bit
10 already, but for the 2107 plan we actually made
11 two public calls for new projects. We don't
12 believe we have all the right answers, all the,
13 all the perfect projects. So we asked you,
14 what are the projects you want us to consider
15 as part of 2017? Again, there were two calls
16 made for those. (Inaudible) responded to and
17 many of those projects were evaluated for
18 consideration in the 2017 plan and certainly
19 many of those have made it into the plan as
20 well.

21 There's an increased focus on flood risk
22 reduction and resilience in this plan and
23 you'll see that reflected in the non-structural
24 program primarily as you look through the
25 documents. And I'll discuss it in a little bit

1 more detail in just a bit.

2 There's an increase in emphasis on our
3 communities, and really what our coastal land
4 loss situation, and the situation with being
5 able to restore some of that land means to our
6 communities, means to the people that live on
7 our coast, which is, after all, why we're doing
8 this work in the first place, right? So
9 you'll, you'll see that highlighted in what we
10 call Appendix B, the People and Landscape,
11 where we discuss issues like how does land loss
12 affect our ability to insure our homes and
13 things of that nature. So I encourage you to
14 take a look at that if you haven't already.

15 We've expanded our outreach and public
16 engagement. I'll get into that in a little
17 more detail this go around. And one of the
18 things Mr. Bradberry mentioned is funding. So
19 we've been able, we've got a little clarity in
20 terms of the funding coming to the state in
21 order to implement this plan and these kind of
22 projects as a result of some things like the BP
23 settlement, GOMESA, and so forth that are
24 coming to the state. So that in conjunction
25 with the idea that we have a tremendous sense

1 of urgency in terms of needing to get these
2 projects done, money now is better than money
3 later. Projects now are better than projects
4 later in general. You know, we've been able to
5 move some of the funding up in the planning
6 cycle, if you will, to try to begin those
7 projects now rather than later.

8 So in terms of the objectives of the plan.
9 You see those listed here. Again, we want to
10 protect our citizens from coastal flooding and
11 from those floods associated with hurricanes
12 and tropical storm surges. We want to harness
13 the natural processes that helped build coastal
14 Louisiana in the first place. And we want to
15 provide coastal habitats that are important for
16 recreational and commercial activities. We
17 also want to preserve, help preserve, our
18 cultural heritage to the, to the best extent we
19 can. Certainly that heritage is intricately
20 intertwined with our coastal wetlands. And so
21 that's something that's very important to us.
22 It's one of the reasons many of us live in this
23 part of the world, of course. And we want to
24 make sure and preserve that to the extent
25 possible. And I think Louisiana's coast, like

1 no other, is really a working coast. It's not
2 just a place we visit on the weekends, although
3 certainly we like to do that and encourage
4 those kind of things. It's a place where we,
5 where we live, a place where we work and live.

6 So in terms of developing the Master Plan.
7 This is a, sort of a schematic of that process.
8 And it starts with the projects. I mentioned a
9 call for new ideas for new projects that was
10 made. So we'll start there. So this is a map
11 that shows the projects that were evaluated for
12 potential inclusion in the 2017 draft plan.
13 One hundred thirty-five of those were
14 restoration projects, fifty-four of those were
15 non-structural protection projects. When I say
16 non-structural I should go ahead and define
17 that. We are talking about raising, elevation
18 of homes, flood-proofing of businesses, and
19 voluntary acquisitions where that might be
20 appropriate. And then twenty structural
21 protection projects which is what we are much
22 more familiar with in terms of levees, flood
23 gates, flood walls, and those kind of things.

24 So there's 209 projects listed here as Mr.
25 Bradberry mentioned earlier. If you, if we

1 implemented every one of these projects the
2 price tag estimate for those at this point in
3 time would be about \$150 billion. We know
4 that's simply not realistic in terms of money
5 that might be coming to the state over the next
6 150 years. And so again, the Master Plan
7 process is the, is the means through which we
8 can wade through that \$150 billion of projects
9 and pare it down to something we think is more
10 reasonable, which is roughly in the \$50 billion
11 range. And I'll get into that in a little more
12 detail in a bit.

13 So we have to evaluate those projects in
14 some way. We do that through a suite of
15 predictive models. I will not get too into the
16 weeds on this but there are a couple of pieces
17 of this that are integrated models that you see
18 listed at the top, top left-hand side of the
19 slide there. And this is really where we ask
20 the questions; how do the projects, how does
21 the plan affect things like where the water
22 moves across our coast; what's the salinity of
23 that water; what happens to the vegetation
24 around that water, does it change, does it die,
25 does it sprout? What happens to sediment?

1 Sediment is immensely important, of course.
2 But how does the sediment move? Does it erode,
3 or does it deposit, or does it help build
4 levees? Those kind of questions. What happens
5 to our fish and wildlife species that are so
6 important to us all?

7 But there's also a second piece to that
8 and that's the storm surge and waves piece,
9 sort of the risk assessment model where we do
10 look, again, at how those projects affect storm
11 surges and wave heights. And then how we
12 translate that into risks around communities,
13 which, again, is so immensely important to us.

14 So we do that over a range of
15 environmental risk scenarios as you see. The
16 factors that will be affected you will see
17 listed over there to the right side of the
18 slide. So we organized the outputs from those
19 models through a planning tool. And there are
20 two real primary drivers that impact whether or
21 not a project is selected for inclusion of the
22 draft plan. One is how much can those projects
23 reduce flood risks and how much can those
24 projects build and maintain land? And so those
25 are our primary, what we call, decision drivers

1 and you see those listed here at the top of the
2 slide.

3 But we also recognize that we have to
4 interject some reality in this plan, right?
5 And so it is a constraint plan. And we've
6 touched on this a little bit already in terms
7 of funding, right? Most of us are constrained
8 by funding in our daily lives. And indeed we
9 are as part of this plan as well. We don't
10 have all the money in the world to implement
11 all the projects that we would like to and that
12 we think the citizens of our coast deserve.
13 The question becomes how do you select those
14 projects that can do the most good?

15 We also have some real limitations in
16 terms of our natural resources. So sediment.
17 The sediment deficit across most of Louisiana
18 is really the fundamental problem, basically it
19 is at the root of our land loss issues. But we
20 don't have all the sediment in the world that
21 we would need to implement, again, every
22 project that we would like to. There's not all
23 the fresh water available or nutrients
24 available for that matter, either. And so
25 those constraints are factored into our project

1 selection process.

2 But those, you know, I mentioned the two
3 decision drivers being the kind of primary
4 factors of ours to select projects. They're
5 the things that we know are really, really
6 important to us and to you, to our coastal
7 citizens. And those decisions can be measured
8 through the metrics you see listed on the
9 right-hand side of the slide there.

10 So we have a group of community metrics
11 and a group of environmental metrics. So this
12 is when we can ask questions like, how does the
13 plan affect traditional agricultural
14 communities, or traditional fishing
15 communities, or oysters, or shrimp, or
16 saltwater fish? And those kind of things.
17 Being able to look at those metrics allows us
18 to, to look at the output of the plan so we can
19 see the result of the plan through some of
20 those different pieces.

21 So that was sort of the science, technical
22 piece of this. But certainly we recognize that
23 we need to be responsive to our, our coastal
24 communities. And we know that that scientific,
25 sort of technical process, is certainly not

1 perfect. It doesn't produce the best answer
2 every time. And sometimes its not always as
3 responsive to our communities as perhaps we
4 need to be. And so that's one of the reasons
5 we're here tonight and that's one of the
6 reasons we have a draft plan that leads to a
7 final plan that incorporates public comments
8 such as what we'll hear tonight.

9 So a piece of that being responsive to our
10 communities, and this is kind of one of the
11 first parts of that, is the increased outreach
12 that we discussed just a bit ago. Again, I
13 will not go through each of these numbers but I
14 will just point out that this represents over
15 150 opportunities for us to speak with you
16 about the plan, about the developmental process
17 for implementing, for developing the plan, and
18 to get feedback from you and have you be able
19 to ask questions from us about this.

20 One of the pieces of this I will point out
21 is pretty unique, I think. It's something that
22 we haven't done before and with CPRA I think
23 was very effective were those community
24 conversations that you see listed over on the
25 left-hand side of the screen. So we were able

1 to partner with some of our NGO partners to
2 coordinate these meetings. And they weren't a
3 typical setting such as this where I'm getting
4 up and speaking to you and you're giving formal
5 public comment. It was an opportunity where we
6 were able to serve dinner and sit around the
7 table from each other, have dinner, and discuss
8 these issues and discuss what it is in the
9 Master Plan that you most like, what some of
10 the projects perhaps you don't like. And how
11 the coastal issues in general affect all of us.
12 And so very, very - I think it was a very
13 effective way to get some rather meaningful
14 feedback and have some really good discussions
15 about these kinds of issues. And it's a model,
16 I think, that we are going to continue to
17 follow into the future.

18 So lastly - I moved forward a little too
19 quickly. So this is just ramping up. So this
20 is 150 or so opportunities over the last, you
21 know, two and a half, two years or so. And
22 certainly as we move, we move forward through
23 the release of the draft plan in the future we
24 are, we are going to be having many, many more
25 of these opportunities for engagement.

1 So we're going to get into some of the
2 results for the plan, the outcomes of the plan.
3 But before we do that I want to talk about some
4 key decision points. So we mentioned the
5 overall funding constraint of dollars earlier.
6 And we alluded to it already, but the
7 constraint that we selected for the development
8 of this plan and indeed what we selected in
9 2012 was that \$50 billion figure. That's an,
10 that's an amount that we think is reasonable to
11 come into the state over the next fifty years
12 or so. And, again, it's a constraint through
13 which we plan. It's not what we hope to get.
14 We certainly hope to get 150 or even more to do
15 more projects and do more good for our coast.
16 But we think that's a realistic constraint
17 within the plan. And I already mentioned
18 funding in terms of (inaudible).

19 The split, in terms of how we expend those
20 dollars within the plan between restoration
21 projects and risk reduction and protection
22 projects is roughly 50/50, or \$25 and \$25
23 billion for each. That's not just an arbitrary
24 split. We did do some analysis and looked at
25 expending additional dollars for restoration,

1 for example. And what, sort of, the cost-
2 benefit was in terms of expending those
3 additional dollars. And it turns out that sort
4 of sweet spot is about the 50/50 split so we're
5 doing that again.

6 In terms of future scenarios, I touched on
7 this just very briefly. And the first that is
8 taken as part of the 2017 Master Plan is that
9 we think it is a conservative approach and we
10 are planning for pretty dire conditions.
11 You've seen that already in some of the red and
12 green maps and you'll see it again here in just
13 a minute. Because if we plan for that worst
14 condition, if we plan for that pretty dire
15 condition in the future and we don't experience
16 that, we experience something less than that,
17 then we have expended dollars wisely and we're,
18 frankly, ahead of the game, as it were, in
19 terms of our approach to restore the coast and
20 protect our citizens.

21 It's important to not that we are going to
22 update this plan every five years. So if we
23 see that those predictions are not wrong we are
24 able to react one way or another to some of
25 those things. And so that's good news.

1 And then in terms of results, we'll talk
2 about a fifty year plan. We certainly know we
3 need results and benefits on the ground now.
4 Those future benefits are immensely important
5 to us. We also want to make sure that we are
6 spending our dollars wisely and responsibly so
7 that we can ensure that our children and our
8 grandchildren, frankly, are experiencing the
9 benefits of hopefully a healthy coastal system.

10 So let's get into the plan. This is the,
11 this is the map. And I hope you had a chance
12 to take a look at this before you sat down this
13 evening. This is - we'll take a little bit of
14 a closer look, but this represents 120 projects
15 and represents 802 square miles of land that we
16 wouldn't have otherwise without implementing
17 the plan. It represents flood damages reduced
18 by about \$150 billion over the fifty year
19 period.

20 So we'll take a little bit of a closer
21 look in the western, central, and eastern part
22 of the state. We'll start with west. You'll
23 see green areas here, those are marsh creation
24 projects. There are a number of different
25 project types, again, that I will get a chance

1 to look at. And part of it documents
2 hydrologic restoration projects and structural
3 protection projects, ridge restoration
4 projects, shoreline protection projects, and so
5 forth. And you'll see many of those same types
6 of projects across the coast.

7 As we move into the central part of the
8 coast you do. But you're starting to pick up
9 some of the barrier island projects as you move
10 over here. Also the Atchafalaya River. And of
11 course it's in this area where we start to
12 include some of the sediment diversion
13 projects.

14 And then as you move further to the east
15 toward the eastern part of the state you see
16 more of this. Certainly the Mississippi River
17 is over in this neck of the woods, and is a
18 tool that we believe is a cornerstone for
19 helping to restore our coast in the
20 Pontchartrain (inaudible).

21 So a little closer look at the non-
22 structural projects that we mentioned. There
23 were thirty-two of those that were selected as
24 part of this project. Roughly there's an
25 estimate of 26,000 structures that might be

1 included as part of this program at a cost of
2 about \$6.1 billion over the next fifty years.
3 So I would just highlight that the number of
4 structures is a very rough, kind of a high
5 level planning estimate. And certainly that
6 number needs to be refined. And as we move
7 into implementing any of these projects our
8 first call, without a doubt, would be to the
9 President Brister or the local community and to
10 help develop that program and how it might be
11 implemented.

12 In terms of funding by project type in the
13 plan, you can see the breakdown here. About
14 twenty-five, as I mentioned \$25 billion for
15 risk reduction projects, and you can see the
16 breakdown there between the structural
17 protection and non-structural protection
18 projects. And you can see the project types on
19 the other side of the slide there for
20 restoration. One of the things I want to point
21 out, this is one of the things we heard between
22 the 2012 plan and now, is that we need, again,
23 you know, we have a sense of urgency. And
24 certainly we believe we do. We need to get
25 projects on the ground now, we need to dredge,

1 we need to dredge, we need to dredge. And I
2 would say that we are and we plan to. If you
3 look at the dollar figure associated with
4 dredging projects versus others such as the
5 sediment diversion projects, it's the single
6 largest expenditure as part of this draft plan.

7 So we're going to look at some of the
8 outcomes of the plan in terms of what the, what
9 the landscape might actually look like with the
10 plan in place. We do this with a little bit of
11 a time lapse. Look here. If you look at the
12 top, right-hand corner of the slide there's a
13 cover and there will either be a red X or a
14 green check. So if you see a slide with red X
15 that means a future without action, or a future
16 without the plan in place. If you see that
17 green check, of course, that means what the
18 future might look like with the coastal plan,
19 what it might look like with the plan in place.

20 Well, we're first going to look at year
21 thirty. Again, this is a future without
22 action. Red is land loss, green is going to be
23 land gained or land maintained. But
24 essentially it is land that otherwise would not
25 be there but for the, but for the plan in

1 place. And so we see with the plan in place
2 what the landscape might look like at the year
3 thirty time period.

4 Look out at year fifty as well. So here's
5 year fifty without the plan in place. And year
6 fifty with the plan in place. And, again, you
7 can see the green spots showing up on the map
8 in addition to - or more of that green showing
9 up in addition to what was in the previous
10 maps.

11 So what does that mean in terms of
12 absolute numbers? Well, what it means is that
13 we think at the end of fifty years we'll have
14 802 square miles of land that we wouldn't have
15 otherwise without implementing the, the Master
16 Plan. So it's 802 acres at the end of fifty
17 years.

18 So we'll look at some flood depths and how
19 this changing landscape affects those flood
20 depths. Obviously this is something that is
21 immensely important to us. And this is really
22 where the loss in landscape translates to how
23 it affects us at home in terms of what those
24 flood depths are. So, again, this is twenty-
25 five year, excuse me, at year twenty-five for a

1 hundred year event. That is an event that has
2 a one percent chance of happening in any given
3 year. This is without the plan. The scale you
4 see here may be a little hard to see. But the
5 blues are one to three feet, the greens are
6 four to six feet, the yellows are seven to nine
7 feet, the orange color is ten to twelve feet,
8 red is thirteen to fifteen feet, and purple is
9 over fifteen feet. This is, these are flood
10 depths at year twenty-five, twenty-five years
11 from eventually now with a hundred year event
12 without the plan in place.

13 And then we look at the depths with the
14 plan in place. And I know it's hard to see the
15 difference between those two and so we are
16 going to show you the difference on the map.
17 And the take home message here is that the
18 greens and blues, essentially, on this map are
19 reduced flood depths as a result of
20 implementing the plan. So those greens and
21 blues are essentially good things, those are
22 good things on this map.

23 So we'll look at the same thing for the
24 fifty year time frame. This is without the
25 plan in place. Then fifty years with the plan

1 in place. And then we'll look at those
2 difference maps again and see, again, the
3 greens and blues on the map which are reduced
4 flood depths as a result of implementing the
5 Master Plan projects.

6 So, again, let's talk about absolute
7 numbers. What does that mean? The way we
8 measure reduced risk is through expected annual
9 damages. And so you see out at year fifty we
10 think that with the plan in place we will
11 reduce expected annual damages by about \$8.3
12 billion. It's important to note that's an
13 annual number so that's the number at year
14 fifty. And I mentioned the \$150 billion
15 earlier. If you look at the cumulative amount
16 of damages over the fifty year period of the
17 Master Plan implementation, that's, that's
18 reflective of roughly that \$150 billion of
19 reduced damages. Again, for the entire plan
20 it's about at 3:1 return on investment.

21 So what does the plan deliver? First of
22 all we've got a lot of good projects in this
23 plan. In roughly 120, you can see the
24 breakdown of those projects listed there. I
25 didn't touch on it in great detail but we do

1 benefit the ecosystem. So in terms of impacts
2 to fish and wildlife, and vegetation, and so
3 forth, by and large, implementing the plan, the
4 future with the plan in place is, is better
5 than it is without the plan in place where most
6 of those resources are concerned.

7 Again, we mentioned earlier that we
8 reduced risks to the tune of about \$8.3 billion
9 out at year fifty. And we know that we build
10 and maintain land with this plan. Again, to
11 the tune of about 802 square miles of land out
12 at that fifty years. And we know that this
13 plan gives us time to prepare and adapt. So as
14 was mentioned earlier, those red maps are not
15 real pleasant, they're not, they're not very
16 exciting, they're not things that we tend to
17 look forward to. But if there's a, you know,
18 some good news associated with this, again, we
19 do know that we can create a significant amount
20 of land of the next fifty years. And, you
21 know, based on the predictions that have been
22 made in developing this plan, things don't tend
23 to get sort of really bad, if you will, until
24 you get out into that longer time period.

25 So we've got time to adjust to that if

1 those predictions are, in fact, come true. And
2 we have time to adjust to them if they aren't.
3 And so, again, the key here is to identify
4 those investments that the state can make that
5 are sort of the no-brainer investments. Things
6 that we know we can do right now that can be
7 robust over that perhaps dire, or perhaps good
8 future looking forward, and that can do the
9 most good for our coast.

10 And then lastly I'll mention that I think
11 we can provide some economic development
12 opportunities for our coast which is really,
13 really important. Not only is a healthier,
14 more sustainable coast, you know, invite that
15 sort of investment and invite that development,
16 but we're really at the tip of the spear in
17 Louisiana in terms of dealing with these kind
18 of issues. Coastal land loss is not anything
19 that is new to Louisiana and certainly our land
20 has been sinking for ages. And so we've been
21 dealing with these issues for a long time. So
22 if some of these predictions hold true many of
23 the other parts of the country are going to be
24 dealing with them in a similar manner that we
25 are. We're doing it first. We're developing

1 methods to, to adapt to those changes and to
2 deal with these issues before many other parts
3 of the country are. And we think that's an
4 exportable commodity and, frankly, something
5 that we're leading the country in. And so
6 that's something that could be a good thing.

7 In terms of how to get more information.
8 I hope you were able to access all the
9 information you wanted tonight. Certainly if
10 you didn't and you want to really dive into
11 things our website is a tremendous source of
12 information. Coastal.la.gov. The links that
13 you see listed over on the right-hand side of
14 your screen there, are - there's more
15 information there than you care to shake a
16 stick at. There's over 6,000 pages of
17 documentation. If you want to know how we
18 figured a project might affect juvenile brown
19 shrimp, or traditional fishing communities, or
20 whatever, you can find it in these documents.
21 And so I would encourage you to go to our
22 website and take a look at those if you're
23 interested in those things or if you happen to
24 suffer from insomnia.

25 In terms of fact sheets, we have these

1 available as well. This is something new for
2 2017. Here, of course, is an example of the
3 St. Tammany Parish fact sheet, and we have this
4 for all of our coastal parishes. If you're
5 interested just in what's going on in your
6 neighborhood, in your parish, in your neck of
7 the woods, you can go to these fact sheets,
8 take a look at vital stats in terms of what the
9 future might hold for your parish without the
10 Master Plan. And then the flip side shows the
11 number of projects we intend to build, where
12 they are, and what the future might hold with
13 the projects on the landscape within that
14 parish.

15 And we've got simpler fact sheets for each
16 project. If you're just interested in looking
17 up some details about an individual project you
18 can do that as well in these. And all of them
19 are available on our website. And another
20 thing that is available on our website is a
21 Master Plan data viewer. And that was
22 available here tonight, so hopefully you had a
23 chance to look at that. This is a really great
24 tool, I think. It's an interactive tool. You
25 can go into this viewer, you can type in your

1 address and assess - it will tell you what
2 your estimated flood risk is today, what it
3 might be in the future without the plan in
4 place. You can see the impact of projects on
5 the ground, or not being on the ground as well.
6 So this is a really neat tool. I hope it is
7 something that you will find useful.

8 In terms of our process from now to the
9 final plan. The final draft plan was released
10 back on January third, we are on the twenty-
11 fifth now in these public hearings. The public
12 comment period lasts through March twenty-sixth
13 so we've got a lot of time to hear public
14 comments. Certainly we'll hear many tonight.
15 But if you speak tonight and you forget to add
16 something there's a number of venues for you to
17 be able to comment. Nick will get into those
18 here in just a minute. But most of those can
19 be found on the website as well.

20 In terms of how we will be presenting our
21 final plan. And certainly we will be
22 incorporating, contemplating, and considering
23 the public comment that we hear. Ultimately we
24 will incorporate as much of that into the final
25 plan. Then it will be presented to our board,

1 the Coastal Restoration Board on April
2 nineteenth. And then the final plan will be
3 submitted to the legislature on April twenty-
4 fifth if approved by the board. And then the
5 legislature will have a chance to vote as well
6 to approve it or disapprove it.

7 This is the flier that was used for the
8 public hearing. And with that, I want to open
9 it up to the public comment period and I'll
10 call Nick back up here. I want to add one
11 thing before we get started, I guess. And
12 that's something that Mr. Bradberry alluded to
13 earlier, is that we recognize this isn't a
14 perfect process, this isn't a perfect plan.
15 There are a lot of good things in this plan and
16 there are a lot of good things that aren't in
17 this plan. And so we want to hear from you.
18 We want to hear what you think is good and we
19 want to hear what you think is maybe not so
20 good. I think it's important for folks to
21 remember that first thing that I said, we want
22 to hear what you think is good as part of this
23 plan because as we're making deliberations, you
24 know, as we're getting drawn toward a final
25 plan, as changes are made, you know, it's going

1 to affect, it's going to affect the chess
2 pieces, essentially, on the board. And so it's
3 not only important for us to see, perhaps,
4 those things you might like to see that aren't
5 in the plan, but also hear from you in terms of
6 what you think, you know, is good.

7 I appreciate your time. I'll be quiet now
8 and let Nick get to it.

9 MR. SPEYRER:

10 Thank you. All right. So now it's going
11 to be our turn to hear from you. We're about
12 to start our public comment period. The public
13 comments we hear tonight are certainly of
14 critical importance and we look forward to
15 hearing from you. But if you are unable to
16 provide public comments tonight or would like
17 to provide more detailed comments, you
18 certainly have that opportunity and that option
19 between now and March twenty-sixth. Best way
20 to go figure out how to do it after this
21 meeting is to go to our website coastal.la.gov
22 and you'll see to the options. And those
23 options include sending us an e-mail to
24 masterplan@la.gov, there's an online form
25 through the website that you can submit your

1 public comments, and then you can also provide
2 hand written comments and then mail those in to
3 our office. All of those avenues, public
4 comments will be weighted equally. And then I
5 will let you know every comment we receive
6 tonight, we are not just taking good notes and
7 thinking about - we also have a court reporter
8 here that will document each and everyone of
9 the public comments we hear tonight. All of
10 the public comments received through these
11 formal channels will then get documented in the
12 appendix for outreach and engagement, Appendix
13 G. And we will synthesize and summarize what
14 we heard and what we did with the public
15 comments during this public comment period.

16 As far as tonight goes, you will see it on
17 the slide. We are going to ask you to please
18 respect a three minute time limit. Zach has
19 joined me here, he'll keep time, and he'll let
20 you know when you get to a minute and when your
21 time is up. We just ask you to wrap your
22 comments up at that time. And what I will do
23 is, if you are planning to speak tonight -
24 I've got a stack of cards, but certainly if you
25 haven't been able to fill out a form and you

1 are so inclined to do so now, raise your hand.
2 We've got a few folks around that can pass a
3 card out. We can get you to fill those out.
4 They will bring them up to me and then your
5 name will get called during the meeting as
6 well.

7 So with that let's go ahead and get
8 started with our public comments. We will
9 start with Sean Turner. And Sean, we would ask
10 you to please come here. Sean, state your
11 name, whatever you do, if you're representing a
12 specific organization we would ask you to do
13 so. And then on deck following Mr. Turner will
14 be Harold Schoeffler.

15 MR. TURNER:

16 Hi, I am Sean Turner of Vanishing Paradise
17 Pro Staff. I am thirteen years old and I've
18 been coming to these meetings since I was nine.
19 Yeah, quite a long time. I have fished the
20 Louisiana coast from Biloxi Marsh, down to
21 Venice, over to Cocodrie, and all the way to
22 Big Lake. I have seen islands disappear. I
23 have seen projects built up. There has been a
24 lot of work done but there is still a lot much
25 left to do. My friend, Mr. Paul Salvant, the

1 bug man, asked me to tell you not to give up on
2 Grand Isle. He just dumped \$16,000.00 worth of
3 sand on his lot on the bay side of the island
4 because it keeps sinking, but he is not giving
5 up. He wants his grandkids to fish and crab
6 the beach fifty years from now.

7 We are glad to see these big diversions
8 finally and ready to roll. I have - I really
9 look forward to seeing work start along the
10 Mississippi River, reintroduction into the
11 Maurepas Swamp project. Like I said, I love
12 salt water fishing, but I do not want to do it
13 in my back yard in Ascension Parish. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. SPEYRER:

16 Thank you. Harold. Then on deck will be
17 Chris Macaluso.

18 MR. SCHOEFFLER:

19 Harold Schoeffler from Lafayette, Chairman
20 of the Cajun Group of the Sierra Club. I am a
21 duck hunter, a fisherman. I have been very
22 involved in the coastal zone all my life. I
23 spent the day in the marsh yesterday. I have a
24 couple of concerns. What an awesome task when
25 I look at Louisiana and those of us who lived

1 it when it was, you had clouds of ducks and
2 clouds of geese, and if you pull the trawl more
3 than fifteen minutes you would sink the boat.
4 And I have watched all these changes. The
5 tarpon disappearing, rabbits and deer from the
6 marsh. And we don't have clouds of ducks
7 anymore. So a long list of impacts that's
8 occurring. Shrimping industry has just almost
9 disappeared completely. What an impact.

10 So what a daunting task, and I commend
11 everyone who is working on it. It is certainly
12 a tough situation. One of the big concerns we
13 have is public/private. Our coastal zone is
14 privately owned, the only state in the country
15 the coastal marshes are privately owned. And
16 those private land owners are invariably a
17 partner in the decision making process and what
18 happens on their land, as they should be. The
19 question is, can you spend public money on
20 private land? I don't know if you can answer
21 that in the affirmative.

22 And the next is, these private land owners
23 have posted signs everywhere. The waters are
24 posted. People are getting arrested in natural
25 waters, in the bays and so forth. It seems

1 that the public is facing trespass signs, but
2 the public dollars that would enhance their
3 properties are not faced with the trespass
4 signs. So I have a real problem with that.

5 The other big issue is this is of an
6 enormous undertaking to protect a vital part of
7 our country. It certainly should be subject to
8 the National Environmental Policy Act. There
9 are many players in this game that are not at
10 the table, shrimpers who are heavily impacted.
11 We take our public lands like our wildlife
12 reserve. Marsh Island has thirty-nine dams on
13 it, Rockefeller has eighty-five percent of
14 their properties totally removed from tidal
15 exchange, and you can go to (inaudible) and you
16 can go to Sabine Beach, Cameron, those areas.
17 The White Lake, Grand Lake reservoir is totally
18 controlled, so we have controlled waters.
19 That's is a super negative in terms of marsh
20 land loss. When you look at a aerial of
21 Rockefeller, and you see all of the square
22 lakes, the good lord didn't make one square
23 lake. That is man's intervention in the wrong
24 way.

25 So another part of this should be looking

1 at how we manage those public resources. White
2 Lake, should it be subject to tidal exchange?
3 Bring these things into this whole process of
4 marsh restoration. Thank you.

5 MR. SPEYRER:

6 Thank you, Mr. Harold. Chris Macaluso,
7 and then up next will be Allison DeJong.

8 MR. MACALUSO:

9 Thank you, Nick. And thank you Bren, and
10 Johnny, and everybody for putting this together
11 for the CPRA staff. I've been there. It is a
12 daunting task to, you know, spend this much
13 time away from your family and come out here in
14 the public, but it is part of the process and
15 we really appreciate it.

16 I've got a couple. First off, I am the
17 marine fisheries director for the Theodore
18 Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Between
19 the release of the last plan and this plan, my
20 organization, working with several other sport
21 fishing organizations and conservation groups,
22 put together a host of workshops to talk about
23 the kind of projects we wanted to see come from
24 the BP settlements, and you know, this plan
25 contains a number of those. So, thank you, I

1 know you guys were listening.

2 I have got a - one concern I would like
3 to bring up. And certainly I will be
4 submitting written comments on behalf of our
5 organization and hopefully some of our
6 partners. But one concern I do have is, you
7 know, I know that flooding in St. Tammany,
8 Tangipahoa, St. John, St. James is an enormous
9 concern. I know a lot of that comes from Lake
10 Pontchartrain. One of the ways that this plan
11 recommends addressing some of that flooding is
12 by establishing weirs and gates across Chef
13 Pass and across the Rigolets. I fish Lake
14 Pontchartrain a tremendous amount. It is an
15 incredibly productive fishery and estuary
16 producing an enormous amount of blue crabs,
17 white shrimp, mullet, menhaden, and all of
18 those things are important, not just for the
19 fish in this estuary but beyond, in the Breton
20 Sound, Mississippi Sound and some of those
21 marshes.

22 I just want you guys to be aware. I know
23 in reading the description of those projects
24 that there is thought given to make sure that
25 those tidal exchanges continue to take place.

1 Cutting off that tidal exchange, I think, would
2 be very detrimental to the fisheries production
3 of this ecosystem. So, just keep in mind. I
4 know those projects are not right around the
5 corner, but just be conscience of the fact that
6 we have to make sure that we get the tidal
7 exchanges to continue to take place here.

8 One other thing I wanted to bring up. One
9 of the groups I work with called me and said
10 every time he reads a newspaper article about
11 the Coastal Master Plan it says that fishermen
12 are against diversions. Fishermen are not
13 against diversions. I work with - some
14 fishermen may be, but I work with the biggest
15 sport fishing organizations in the world, and
16 none of them are against diversions. In fact,
17 they are for diversions. And there is
18 tremendous benefit in fresh water fisheries and
19 salt water fisheries. The fisheries production
20 by limiting saltwater intrusion and bring back
21 the grass of submerged aquatic vegetation, and
22 we see it in this basin right here.

23 The fishing in the Lake Pontchartrain
24 basin right, now after a year of inundation
25 with fresh water. The salt and fresh water

1 fishing from a recreational fishing perspective
2 - I am not sure I have seen it any better and
3 I have been fishing out here almost two
4 decades. So this fishing is tremendous and a
5 lot of that is thanks to the interaction of
6 fresh and saltwater, and the re-establishment
7 of establishing the natural barriers to keep
8 the salt water from coming in too far. So
9 those are my comments. I will submit more in
10 writing, but thank you very much.

11 MR. SPEYRER:

12 Thank you, Chris. Allison. And then up
13 next will be Stephen Champagne.

14 MS. DEJONG:

15 Hi, good evening. My name is Allison
16 DeJong. I am the senior water manager at
17 Propeller in New Orleans where we support small
18 businesses and entrepreneurs in the water and
19 coastal space. Just want to echo thanks to
20 CPRA and Chairman Bradberry and everybody for
21 putting this together. What a daunting task,
22 indeed, to prioritize all the stuff.

23 I want to thank you for prioritizing the
24 diversions in particular. We agree that those
25 are very much needed and have the best chance

1 at building the most land over the long haul.

2 And we support front-loading those as well.

3 But I do want to echo one thing that you
4 mentioned, which was local procurement. I
5 think that this is a really important issue for
6 maximizing the knowledge and benefits that we
7 get out of the plan. If you look at the - in
8 the back of the plan at who developed it. It's
9 like a who's who of Louisiana scientists and
10 citizens. I am so proud that everyone in our
11 state - all of our brilliant people here
12 worked on it to make it such a wonderful
13 document, and to implement it the best we can
14 in the most innovative and cost-effective ways.
15 I think we really need to focus on making sure
16 that our local small businesses who can compete
17 on technical quals are part of the engineering
18 design and construction of all these projects.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. SPEYRER:

21 Thank you, Allison. Stephen. And then up
22 next will be Alfred Moses.

23 MR. CHAMPAGNE:

24 Hi. I am Stephen Champagne, I am from New
25 Orleans. But tonight I represent the Lake

1 Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum. We are
2 here to announce a coalition that has formed
3 between the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime
4 Museum and the Tchefuncte Basin Coalition as
5 well as the city of Madisonville to build,
6 restore a peninsula that formally protected the
7 mouth of the Tchefuncte River from the east
8 bank across the front of the river, as well as
9 to restore the property around the old light
10 house, which is a pretty significant landmark
11 to most of the people that are familiar with
12 that area. We are excited about our project.
13 We are going to be expanding it more and we are
14 going to be putting out a letter of formal
15 comment explaining exactly what we are going to
16 be doing. And I've got John here from
17 Tchefuncte River.

18 MR. AMMERMAN:

19 From the Maritime Museum. But the
20 lighthouse was rebuilt after the Civil War in
21 1868. And it's a national treasure so we have
22 to protect it. So we have a designed a
23 project, fully permitted, for a bulkhead around
24 the perimeter, a breakwater, and a pier. We
25 want to take tourists from the museum up on the

1 river down to the lighthouse, but we have to
2 protect that thing first. So, in conjunction
3 with the Tchefuncte River Foundation, that is
4 another 5013C, they want to protect the mouth
5 of the river with a breakwater and redirect it
6 over to the lighthouse where it used to, the
7 river used to turn.

8 So in conjunction with the town of
9 Madisonville we are looking forward to helping
10 maybe bring some of these projects to the west
11 side of the parish. Under your Coastal Master
12 Plan there seems to be only one, Augusta
13 Island. Might be a void of vital projects on
14 that side. Maybe because of population, I am
15 not sure. But certainly the town of
16 Madisonville was inundated with flood waters up
17 the river in Isaac because that barrier was no
18 longer there. So it was a lot of properties
19 that flooded that never flooded before. Mayor,
20 you want to say something?

21 MAYOR PELLOAT:

22 I just want to say that the two
23 organizations that are really joining now
24 forces to try to protect that western part of
25 the parish on the north shore of St. Tammany

1 Parish is certainly doing an excellent job and
2 we will submit something to you in writing so
3 that you can further investigate or look at
4 possibly giving us some assistance. Thank You.

5 MR. SPEYRER:

6 Thank you. Can you state your name?

7 MR. AMMERMAN:

8 John Ammerman.

9 MR. SPEYRER:

10 Thank you, John.

11 MR. CHAMPAGNE:

12 Just one last comment with the few seconds
13 that is left. What is interesting about this
14 project. This is a restoration of a
15 significant peninsula that was there and has
16 been decimated in the last fifty years because
17 people actually cut down the trees that used to
18 grow there. So we want to make that push to
19 restore that property.

20 MR. SPEYRER:

21 I thought for a second there we might get
22 a request for nine minutes. But I certainly
23 appreciate you respecting time here tonight.
24 Alfred, you're next. And then David
25 Gegenheimer, you are on deck.

1 MR. MOSES:

2 I am Alfred Moses from St. Bernard. I was
3 looking at all the stuff you've been doing. It
4 looks like you are doing a pretty good job at
5 it, as best you can. The Dutch been doing it
6 since the 1600's. but what we need to do is on
7 this - filling up those - in the marsh land
8 where they drilled - dug all those canals and
9 stuff. We need to fill those. I would
10 recommend maybe taking Christmas trees, which
11 you already are doing, but you just can't get
12 enough of them. But if you made it, you know,
13 like in, like in - let people know that you
14 really want them. And every time you got one
15 of those canals that is near your - where the
16 silt and your fresh water is being poured into
17 that area, if you would fill those canals up
18 then that silt and the water would pack those
19 up and it would fill quicker. And also, once
20 you got it filled like that, and it is fresh
21 water, then you need to start planting trees.
22 And I am talking about like, if it is really
23 nicely fresh and high enough - it don't have
24 to be too high for pines to grow. They're
25 fast. Cypress trees are nice, but they're

1 slow, and in thirty year's time you will have
2 pretty good tree out of that.

3 On the outside edges, and I was talking to
4 a man over here about the mangrove. That is
5 like the Florida Mangrove. That really holds
6 together the land real well from the splash
7 coming up on to it. You were saying that there
8 is a problem - that maybe it might get too
9 cold for them. Well, they are sitting in water
10 already that only gets down to, you know, no
11 matter how cold it get it ain't going to get
12 down to that freezing.

13 Also, on the barbarian island thing. I
14 was thinking if you could maybe talk with some
15 of these energy companies that do wind turbine,
16 turbine winds. And maybe you could lease on
17 the backsides of the barrier islands they set
18 their wind turbines up on the backside, and
19 maybe even spots on the marsh land between.
20 That way might be a way to get your money that
21 you are talking about. The trees would be
22 good, too, because the timber sells. And that
23 is about the main thing that I am thinking of.
24 You know, trees, and lumber, and wind turbine
25 as way to get your money.

1 MR. SPEYRER:

2 Thank you, Mr. Moses. Appreciate it.
3 David. And then next up, Ms. Bonnie Peyrout.

4 MR. GEGENHEIMER:

5 My name is David Gegenheimer. August 29,
6 2005. Katrina. Everybody that lived in this
7 area remembers it. I lived in Braithwaite,
8 Louisiana at the time and I had seven feet of
9 water in my home. It stayed for quite awhile.
10 But it wasn't that August twenty-ninth, it was
11 August 29, 2012, when a tropical storm by the
12 name of Isaac put twelve and a half feet of
13 water in my house, and flooded a lot of people
14 in here that lived along the lake. Why? The
15 effects of the Caenarvon Diversion. Caenarvon
16 Diversion, maximum flow 7,500 C.F.S. Never ran
17 at that strength. Anything over 5,000 put
18 water outside the hurricane protection levees
19 so the parish wouldn't allow it.

20 The thing very seldom ran, but what did it
21 do? It brought in vines, specifically a little
22 yellow - the locals call it pea vine. It
23 grows a pod of peas, and it grows over the top
24 of the native grasses and shades them out, they
25 die. The (inaudible) that have a twelve to

1 eight inch root base. I've seen it grow
2 over the top of gum bushes twelve feet tall and
3 kill a whole ridge of them.

4 Empirical evidence, scientist don't like
5 to look at that. But here I have a study that
6 was done by University of Boston Earth Sciences
7 Center, Pontchartrain Institute for
8 Environmental Studies, University of New
9 Orleans, and two different Corps of Engineers
10 offices, and all I am going to read is the
11 first paragraph. "During the 2005 hurricane
12 season the storm surge and wave field
13 associated with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
14 eroded 527 square kilometers of wetlands within
15 the Louisiana coastal plane. Low salinity
16 wetlands were preferentially eroded while high
17 salinity wetlands remained robust and hardly
18 unchanged." Which means that the water, the
19 storm surge, it hits the outside, it hits the
20 first land. That land holds up better than the
21 land inshore.

22 Now nobody - I grew up in Houma. Nobody
23 loves the natural progression of hard woods, to
24 cypress swamp, fresh, intermediate marsh than I
25 do. And we certainly need cypress trees. We

1 can't wait for cypress trees, how are we going
2 to wait for all the years it is going to take
3 for these sediment diversions to build land. I
4 don't doubt that they will, but the mid Breton
5 at 35,000 C.F.S., the mid Barataria over
6 50,000. You know, they'll create land, but far
7 less than is washed away by the simple flow of
8 the water. And then the unattended
9 consequences of this pea vine that comes in and
10 smothers everything out.

11 I am not a stakeholder. I have no stake
12 in oyster fisheries, shrimp, crab, you know,
13 and I believe that we have to do what we have
14 to do. Some people, you know, are going to be
15 adversely impacted. But the mid Barataria was
16 originally talked about at \$350 million, now
17 it's over \$800 million. By the time - you
18 know - fast track. It might be fast track but
19 it will still be years. It will be well over a
20 billion dollars. If it does, not even
21 proportionately, to the wetlands in upper
22 Barataria what Caernarvon did to the Caernarvon
23 and Delacroix estuary. You know, then - I
24 might be dead by then, but I will be telling
25 all of y'all I told you so. Thank you.

1 MR. SPEYRER:

2 Thank you for your comment, sir. Bonnie.
3 She left. Rosa Herrin. And on deck Chris
4 McLindon.

5 MS. HERRIN:

6 Hi. How are you. I am Rosa Herrin from
7 Orleans Parish representing Oxford America
8 today. I just have three very specific asks
9 for CPRA for the master plan. Number one is to
10 provide incentives for small businesses to
11 benefit from contracting opportunities when the
12 big projects are implemented but also for small
13 scale projects. Our second ask is to also
14 provide incentives for community development,
15 the community level approaches to elevation and
16 relocation in order to maintain the character
17 of our coastal communities. And the third one
18 in regards to non-structural is to make sure
19 that for every eighty cents of the dollar that
20 is spent on structural and restoration, twenty
21 cents should go to non-structural.

22 We see a decrease in the 2017 Master Plan
23 where now there is only twelve percent of the
24 money allocated for non-structural projects
25 whereas the 2012 Master Plan had twenty percent

1 of the money for non-structurals. We would
2 like to go back to the twenty percent, and we
3 would also like for CPRA to pass a resolution
4 allocating a portion of GOMESA monies for non-
5 structural and to ensure that those monies are
6 actually spent on that in the future. Thank
7 you.

8 MR. SPEYRER:

9 Thank you, Rosa. Chris. And then Harvey
10 Stern will be next.

11 MR. MCLINDON:

12 Hi. I am Chris McLindon. I live here in
13 Mandeville and I represent the New Orleans
14 Geological Society. The society is celebrating
15 its seventy-fifth year this year and we are
16 engaged in outreach. And our main effort
17 lately is trying to get the - ensure that the
18 science of geology and earth sciences are
19 incorporated into public projects such as the
20 Coastal Master Plan. And so I really, given
21 three minutes, I just want to address a couple
22 of things here that have to do with the
23 Northshore, that is the importance of
24 understanding geological faults and improving
25 our ability to measure subsidence. And in the

1 case here the geological faults appear to be
2 the main driver of subsidence.

3 So most people are surprised to find that
4 Louisiana has as many geological faults as
5 California does. We just have a much poorer
6 understanding of where they are. The one thing
7 that the New Orleans Geological Society is
8 doing is trying to improve that. We are
9 sponsoring research programs at the University
10 of New Orleans, LSU, Tulane, and UL where we
11 currently have nine graduate level research
12 projects, they're using seismic data to map
13 faults and we expect a good group of research
14 to be coming out in the next few years.

15 Ultimately we hope this will be impactful
16 to the 2022 master plan. Obviously it is not
17 going to affect anything now, but I want to
18 make public comment now. With regard to the
19 Northshore, if you were to drive out on the
20 Causeway from the Northshore about seven miles
21 and jump off you would find a sand bar on the
22 bottom of the lake. That is a beach ridge.
23 That was the Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain
24 about two thousand years ago. There is a
25 recognized archeological site on that bar.

1 That was the edge of the lake, that's where
2 people lived.

3 Over two thousand years the Northshore of
4 Lake Pontchartrain has progressed northward by
5 seven miles. That is due to subsidence, that
6 is due to subsidence due to geological faults.
7 There are geological faults recognized along
8 the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. If you
9 were to drive out Lake Road in Lacombe, pay
10 attention, when you cross the trace you will
11 noticed that you drop down. Not only is that
12 elevation lower but that side of the fault is
13 subsiding faster than the other side. So we
14 need to pay attention to where those faults
15 are, and more importantly we need to improve
16 our measurement capabilities for subsidence.

17 Right now we have nine, I am sorry, twelve
18 stations that measure subsidence in south
19 Louisiana. If you compare that to weather
20 stations, there are two hundred weather
21 stations that collect data. So you are tasked
22 with trying to forecast the impacts of
23 subsidence using twelve stations, that's very
24 much like trying to do a weather forecast with
25 twelve weather stations. So I really encourage

1 CPRA to put some investment into increasing the
2 ability to measure subsidence. Thank you very
3 much.

4 MR. SPEYRER:

5 Thank you, Chris. Harvey. Up next will
6 be Cynthia Duet.

7 MR. STERN:

8 Hello again. Harvey Stern with the New
9 Orleans Sierra Club. I just wanted to
10 elaborate on some comments that I ran out of
11 time for the last time, I hope I can get them
12 in this time. First, I wanted to quickly
13 repeat our request, the Sierra Club of New
14 Orleans request, that a full scale
15 environmental impact statement be completed for
16 the proposed gates across the Chef Menteur and
17 Rigolets before this project is considered for
18 inclusion in your Master Plan at a proposed
19 cost of nearly \$2.5 billion.

20 Inclusion in the plan at this time amounts
21 to promoting induced development on the north
22 shore of Lake Pontchartrain. In this regard
23 the proposed ring levee construction around
24 Slidell must also be assessed for its induced
25 development impact. Quoting from your own

1 plan, "Induced development occurs when the
2 construction of structural risk reduction
3 projects, for example levees, unintentionally
4 encourages development in flood hazard areas as
5 these projects can provide a false sense of
6 protection. Effective land use plans can
7 direct development away from high hazard areas
8 and to help preserve the natural functions of
9 flood plains and other critical areas." This
10 is from your own plan.

11 These observations expressed in your
12 attachment E1, which is not in here
13 incidentally, but is online, attachment E1 of
14 the draft plan. Not least among them is that
15 the levees and similar structures encourage
16 unwise induced development in flood plains, and
17 that effective land use plans that recognize
18 the inherent dangers of induced development can
19 have a significant role in retaining the
20 natural functions of flood plains including
21 retention of well and habitat. These kinds of
22 comments are the reasons that I give you a big
23 thumbs up for attachment E1. It is an
24 attachment in the appendix, but it needs to be
25 given as much validity as what's in the body of

1 the plan.

2 Attachment E1 has several words to the
3 wise in the form of policy recommendations
4 which if taken to heart can only strengthen
5 your draft plan. Specifically, A, "The state
6 statute should be revised to require parishes
7 and municipalities to develop Master Plan and
8 land use plans that address sea level rise,
9 subsidence, flood risk and land loss." That
10 again is your direct quote. I think that quick
11 brush should lobby state legislators regarding
12 this important recommended revision. B, "DNR
13 should revise the fast land exemption from
14 coastal use permits specifically to require
15 coastal use permits for properties that are
16 projected to be five feet above sea level in
17 the next fifty years as well as properties
18 newly stricken by levees." Again, this is the
19 induced development issue. C, and this again
20 is a direct quoted as is in appendix E, it's in
21 your plan. "Prohibit development in wetlands
22 and other environmentally sensitive areas and
23 avoid development that would require new
24 infrastructure in coastal areas."

25 Now contradicting what I've just said are

1 several pending joint core permit applications
2 that highlight the need to take these, that is
3 your own recommendations, seriously. Not far
4 from here, near Covington, adjacent to Highway
5 10-95 is a proposed business park and
6 residential development that would destroy
7 nearly fifteen acres of forest and pine
8 wetlands. This is in the heart of the St.
9 Tammany Parish non-structural risk reduction
10 project proposed in your own plan.

11 Perhaps the most blatant example of unwise
12 development in the coastal flood plain is the
13 existing chemical waste management hazardous
14 waste landfill near Bayou Chopique in Calcasieu
15 Parish less than thirty miles from the Gulf of
16 Mexico. That is about the distance between
17 Metairie and Mandeville, we're not talking
18 about a great distance. Twenty-nine acres of
19 jurisdictional wetlands and water bottoms will
20 be lost from the expansion of this land fill if
21 permitted. The applicant had previously
22 purchased mitigation bank credits to compensate
23 for lost wetlands, but it so happens that this
24 hazardous waste landfill is in the vicinity of
25 no less than twelve proposed hydrologic

1 modification projects listed in your
2 comprehensive draft Master Plan. Can we see
3 what is wrong with this picture?

4 MR. SPEYRER:

5 Mr. Stern, if we could please ask you to
6 wrap it up.

7 MR. STERN:

8 okay. In conclusion, in all these cases
9 the applicant has requested and based on many
10 hundreds of previous similar applications will
11 receive permission for offsite mitigation
12 through mitigation banks. In conclusion, your
13 own recommendations in attachment E1 recommend
14 avoidance of wetlands contrary to what is
15 likely to be granted in the above examples.
16 Mitigation banks have a mixed record at best
17 when it comes to preserving or reviving coastal
18 wetlands. We need to start thinking about our
19 force of wetlands as a largely non-renewable
20 resource who's value as both wildlife habitat
21 and effective storm buffers has proven it's
22 self time and again. Again, avoidance of
23 development in wetlands must be the policy, not
24 offsite mitigation when it comes to core and
25 coastal use permits. Please give your own

1 recommendations in attachment E1 as much
2 attention and effort as the structural risk
3 reduction projects outlined in the rest of your
4 plan. Thank you for the extra time.

5 MR. SPEYRER:

6 Thank you, Mr. Stern. And as mentioned we
7 certainly encourage you to submit public
8 comments formally in writing as well so we
9 could have those. Cynthia. And then up next
10 Mr. Ken Ragus.

11 MS. DUET:

12 Hi. Good evening. I am Cynthia Duet, the
13 Deputy Director for Audubon in Louisiana. I
14 also am the policy lead with the Mississippi
15 River Delta Coalition representing several,
16 many NGOs nationally and locally. First of all
17 I would just like to thank you all for not only
18 the recent public outreach that's been really a
19 great success. I have been to several of these
20 meetings and some in the prior two months, and
21 they have just been fantastic, but also for the
22 exhaustive, tireless work in the last two years
23 on the framework development team, all the
24 focus groups, all the many community and other
25 legislative engagements that you all have

1 pulled together. It has been - it has been a
2 really massive effort and I was around in 2012
3 and I can say that with confidence. So we
4 really appreciate that.

5 Secondly, amendment to the diversions in
6 this plan is very strong. And it's a welcome
7 signal, and much appreciated by our group.
8 Particularly considering we are in the first
9 year of this new administration, the commitment
10 seems as strong or stronger than ever. And we
11 look forward to working with you all moving
12 forward. We would love to see dirt turned on a
13 large scale sediment diversion by the time or
14 before the next Master Plan in 2022. So with
15 the new federal dashboard in place, and all of
16 your continued work, we really, really
17 appreciate all that that's is going on.

18 So there is some daunting, daunting
19 relative sea rise figures and maps that go
20 along with this plan. And I am sure that it
21 frightens a lot of the citizens that you deal
22 with, and the two million that live in the
23 coastal area. But we would just encourage you
24 to keep on trucking, keep on building,
25 implement this land and don't let anything stop

1 you. Make that commitment to the citizens that
2 you will do the best you can even though it may
3 not be restoring the coast to a specific time
4 period back in the fifties, sixties, seventies,
5 or otherwise. Keep moving forward.

6 One of the ways to do that we would like
7 to help you with is funding. Funding is the
8 absolute key. So moving forward here from
9 today, while the BP dollars to be expended on
10 recovery are very, very important they're
11 certainly not state recurring revenue, federal
12 annually recurring revenue, and we would look
13 forward to helping you to look for new sources
14 of funding, bonding capabilities and
15 capacities, and other such schemes to make sure
16 that this plan can be implemented in the near
17 future. One way that it might help you save a
18 few dollars today is if perhaps the legislature
19 and also the, you know, administration would
20 consider stopping the major budget sweeps right
21 now, the five percent budget sweeps. I
22 understand that there is a fiscal crisis,
23 completely understand we have a problem. But
24 the five percent draw downs during the mid-year
25 budget cycle sweeps during deficit cycles, it's

1 killing the program in my opinion in terms of
2 taking away those dollars that may only be used
3 for overhead costs. And we want you to
4 implement this program and we don't want you to
5 have fiscal problems while you are trying to do
6 it. So look forward to helping, and look
7 forward to next session, and thank you so much
8 for your time. We appreciate all your work.

9 MR. SPEYRER:

10 Thank you, Cynthia. Mr. Ken. Rebecca
11 Triche, you are next.

12 MR. RAGAS:

13 Hi. My name is Ken Ragus. I am from
14 Buras, South Plaquemines Parish. I was born
15 there in 1943 and lived there until 2005. I
16 was one of the original foundations of the Save
17 Louisiana Coalition which has about a thousand
18 person membership who are against river
19 diversions and are in favor of pipeline
20 dredging and restoring portions of Plaquemines
21 Parish which have been devastated by various
22 means, oil companies, whatever. And, you know,
23 I know all these guys on CPRA. They are
24 friends of mine, I don't have nothing against
25 them, I love them all. But we can't wait fifty

1 years, you know.

2 So, you know, I am not going to - my
3 family and my future is not going to be
4 determined by the National Wildlife Federation,
5 Environmental Defense Fund, the Sierra Club,
6 the Water Institute of the Gulf. They don't
7 care about my family or my culture. So I have
8 been involved in this for about twenty-six
9 years after the Breaux Act was passed in 1990.
10 I was active in CPRA, I still am active in
11 that. Actually way back then I was in favor of
12 diversions. I mean I could, you know, I could
13 give you data. I have a process engineering
14 background and was in a crew boat business in
15 Venice for twenty years, and I, you know, I
16 love science, I love the river, I love math. I
17 don't like computer models and I don't like
18 virtual reality. Thank you.

19 MR. SPEYRER:

20 Thank you, Mr. Ragas. Rebecca. Douglas
21 Lloyd, you are next.

22 MS. TRICHE:

23 Hi. I am Rebecca Triche, I am the
24 executive director for Louisiana Wildlife
25 Federation. We have long been active in

1 coastal restoration, promoting it, talking
2 about it, engaging others such as National
3 Wildlife Federation, of which we are an
4 affiliate, on MRGO must go coalition from the
5 very early days. So we have seen the evolution
6 of the plan and we applaud the work that has
7 been put into it and it's evident in your
8 presentation the complexity and the adaptive
9 approach that you taken to it for the update.

10 So we believe a large ecosystem approach
11 is important. We are excited to see the
12 commitment to sediment diversions, as well. In
13 particular, a large diversion of fresh water
14 into Maurepas Swamp, and that is a project that
15 we are looking forward to seeing coming online,
16 it has a big benefit. And that whole area
17 which is in this basin is sinking. It's a
18 coastal forest that is threatened, it's public
19 lands. It has all of the, I think, examples of
20 the problems that are happening to Louisiana,
21 and it's creeping closer to our citizens, our
22 fellow folks who don't realize how close they
23 are to the coast. So we are excited to see
24 those kinds of projects come in as well as the
25 smaller view.

1 We do ask that - it has already been
2 mentioned, but, you know, to include in design
3 the interplay. You know, leaking levees, locks
4 for fisheries, you know, we really do need that
5 tidal exchange as well as the abundance of
6 habitat created to keep the fisheries that we
7 depend on, that we have come to utilize. And
8 that's important going into the future in
9 design. To follow up on Cynthia Duet, you
10 know, I want to point out to all of us here, we
11 don't have enough money that we can envision to
12 implement this plan and all of us could help
13 with that. We can all continue to talk about
14 how important it is and we can support ways
15 that the funding can be brought forward. We
16 are going to need all avenues. And we are
17 going to need help from the national level,
18 state, and local. And so we need to be talking
19 about that and be engaged ourselves, each of us
20 here. We are here to listen what other people
21 are commenting here, on behalf of Louisiana
22 Wildlife Federation. And we so much want to
23 help the success of the state, and for all of
24 our sportsmen and the people that depend on it.
25 So thank you.

1 MR. SPEYRER:

2 Thank you, Rebecca. Douglas Lloyd is next
3 and then Daniel Rector, you are on deck.

4 MR. LLOYD:

5 Thank you very much for the opportunity to
6 address you. I certainly appreciate you
7 choosing St. Tammany Parish as a venue. Long
8 term St. Tammany resident. I always enjoyed
9 living here, but I find myself spending an
10 inordinate amount of time over the last forty
11 years on the big island in Washington D.C.
12 surrounded by the sea of reality. And I would
13 just like you to know that irrespective of the
14 fact that we are all on board here there is a
15 lot of donor burnout in our capitol. And when
16 it comes to Louisiana and money there are some
17 folks whose eyes glaze over in a hurry. So
18 there is going to be a need for a lot of self-
19 help and heavy lifting when it comes to our
20 plan.

21 I think you really hit some really dynamic
22 good things with this plan. I have written a
23 lot of strategic plans, been involved with
24 program management in all different kinds of
25 levels, and the planning process incredibly

1 important. Falling in love with a particular
2 plan, whether it is 2012 or 2017, not so
3 important. I am an engineer. I love those
4 little details, and the minutia, and the
5 tactics, and everything that go along with it
6 and all the data. It is wonderful, but I even
7 got caught paying attention in an economics
8 class when I was going to school and one of the
9 things that hit me between the eyes was Moore's
10 Law. Every twenty-one years - I don't care
11 what you deal with, whether it is a gallon of
12 gasoline or a pair of pants, it's going to
13 double. So whatever projections we got now in
14 terms of cost, it's going to cost more, it's
15 going to cost a lot more.

16 And in that respect I have spent a lot of
17 time working for the Department of Defense. My
18 comments are only my own, but worked a long
19 time ago for a little guy, Commandant in the
20 Marine Corps, name was Crulack. He is -
21 turned out to be an absolute savant when it
22 came to money. He said that vision without
23 resources is hallucination. And I just would
24 like to follow up on the last couple of
25 speakers. Especially what Ms. Cynthia said and

1 some others that funding. Funding is going to
2 be absolutely critical. There is a lot of
3 inherent strengths in Louisiana when it comes
4 to solving some of our own problems, especially
5 when it relates to things that are in the
6 maritime and wetland environment.

7 We didn't get this way over night and we
8 won't get healthy again over night. Having
9 those projects that are identified in the plan
10 ready to go so that when you've got year of
11 execution money you can hit the ground running
12 and meet everyone's expectations when it comes
13 to finishing that project, and declaring
14 victory, and putting that green checkmark in
15 your box. That is going to be incredibly
16 important. Lag time and getting those projects
17 done - there is not a chance.

18 The other thing I would encourage you is
19 - this has got to be a whole government
20 approach. The parishes - parishes are going
21 to be up to this to their eyeballs, too. There
22 is no deferring this to the state, deferring to
23 the federal government, so I encourage - I
24 will be providing some written comments, and I
25 really , really want to thank you for being

1 here tonight. I know how difficult this has
2 been. Thank you very much.

3 MR. SPEYRER:

4 Thank you. Daniel Rector. And if you
5 have any more sheets, this will be my last one.
6 Go ahead and pass them in and we will get you
7 called up next. Daniel.

8 MR. RECTOR:

9 Hi. Thank you. So my name is Daniel
10 Rector and I have been studying delta, and
11 coastal systems, and alluvial systems for about
12 thirty-five years. My family has been here
13 since the 1700s. And I wasn't going to get up
14 and speak but I feel like I have to because I
15 haven't heard anything mentioned about the
16 biggest loss of wetlands and the reason for it.
17 And I want to touch on something that the
18 senator had said earlier about fighting nature
19 because that is what we have been doing here
20 for a long time. Delta systems are good for
21 about 700 years, and in 1973 if the Corps of
22 Engineers hadn't have stopped it per the
23 government, the Mississippi River would have
24 taken a right turn at old river diversion,
25 which I am sure you are all aware of. The cost

1 to keep that structure in place, the cost to
2 keep the river dredged - there is about
3 sixteen feet of gradient from there, about an
4 hour north of Baton Rouge all the way to the
5 shelf.

6 Louisiana is built by sediment. From
7 about the second half, the bottom half of
8 Louisiana, it's all sediment. It's all brought
9 here by the Mississippi River mostly. And
10 there is two things that happened to it. Since
11 the 1973 this is what has been happening to the
12 land. Some of it gets caught up in dams
13 somewhere between Minnesota and the Gulf. You
14 can look at any dam that is on the Mississippi
15 River and it looks like a - basically a curve,
16 and then the other thing that's happening to
17 the land, and this is where most of it is
18 going, it's falling off the continental shelf.
19 That is why it is so deep at the mouth of the
20 river.

21 What the Mississippi River wants to do is
22 flow through the Atchafalaya River. It wants
23 to build new land. I am working on getting a
24 map and I will submit that map that will show
25 what land would be here had we allowed the

1 Mississippi River to do what it wanted to do in
2 1973. Nothing even comes close to that.

3 These diversion projects - things that
4 are on the table. They are all wrong. That is
5 the wrong question. We can't fight nature.
6 This is what I know about it because I have
7 been studying it for a long time. Whatever
8 generation finally allows the Mississippi River
9 to do what it wants to do, whether it's a year
10 from now, five years from now, or a hundred
11 years from now will be looked at as a smart
12 generation. And if we allow the Mississippi
13 River to do what it wants to do and start
14 planning for it, building new things, coastal
15 fisheries will boom.

16 I get so mad when I see billion dollar
17 investments going on between New Orleans and
18 Baton Rouge and above Baton Rouge. That is
19 ridiculous for the politicians to keep allowing
20 that to happen. That's not what the river
21 wants to do. Look at the bulk of land that
22 Plaquemines Parish is. It's on its seventh
23 delta right now. We can't compete with that,
24 that's so much land. Look at the cost of
25 dredging. You have already said that is the

1 biggest cost you have. That's because we are
2 trying to keep the Mississippi River from doing
3 something it doesn't want to do. It is over
4 with. It wants to flow through the Atchafalaya
5 River. We need to start planning for that.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. SPEYRER:

8 Thank you. Mark Gagliano.

9 MR. GAGLIANO:

10 Good evening. I, too, wasn't going to
11 stand up and say anything but many of you know
12 my father Sherwood Gagliano. He originally
13 planned to be here tonight and couldn't so I
14 thought I would stand up. I first wanted to
15 thank you guys again. I am a local resident, I
16 live in Covington. I lived, I guess, for
17 twelve years in Madisonville right across the
18 street from Mr. Pelloat and his sister Jackie.

19 The last storm was a little bit of an eye
20 opener. Water came right up to our door step
21 and that was kind of my queue. I had a young
22 daughter. We work for CPRA. I just personally
23 finished working on your St. Bernard Living
24 Shoreline project. If I had two things that I
25 wanted to say tonight it would be one, Chris

1 McLindon's comments on the faults, as many of
2 you know my father has been working on that
3 with Chris for quite a long time. As many of
4 you know also I have lived this my whole life.
5 I still remember the day my father brought me
6 in the living room when I was a small child and
7 he said, "This is where our coast was going to
8 be in twenty or thirty years." Well, I am
9 almost fifty years old and I am seeing that
10 come to fruition.

11 You know, one of my science teachers in
12 the eighth grade, when my father produced a lot
13 of these documents publicly, said he was a
14 whack-o. Well, I stand here today and we're
15 looking at these maps and it's an eye opener.
16 But I also wanted to encourage y'all, including
17 with the faulting, I think it is a very, very
18 serious issue. You know, before we spend this
19 kind of money creating these large restoration
20 projects, which I am in favor of, I think you
21 guys are doing an excellent job and the process
22 about how you are doing it is outstanding. But
23 lets make sure they don't drop off into the -
24 you know, something that we are going to spend
25 a lot of money on could disappear.

1 Second, I have heard several speakers
2 reiterate this, but we are a small business.
3 We keep our funding here and our money here in
4 Louisiana, but a lot of national firms have
5 moved in because they see these big dollars.
6 Please just remember the small companies such
7 as ourselves, we employ a lot of people in
8 the state. And also please if you could
9 continue to include smaller projects. Not
10 every one of the companies in the state is a
11 Fortune 500 and can submit the kind of
12 qualifications that I know eye pop you guys,
13 25,000 employees. We really need that to stay
14 alive. Smaller projects, shoreline protection,
15 let's protect the land we have. Thank You.

16 MR. SPEYRER:

17 Thanks, Mark. Certainly send our best to
18 your dad, Mark, as well. We miss having him
19 here tonight. Are there any other public
20 comments? If anyone else like to step up to
21 the mic now you are certainly free to do so.
22 Well, as I said we certainly appreciate it.
23 Today is not the only opportunity to provide
24 public comments, you've got until March twenty-
25 sixth.

1 For those of you that want to sit tight we
2 are going to move into our Annual Plan
3 presentation which won't be nearly as long as
4 Bren's. Jason is like Speed Racer when he gets
5 up here. So he will go through the Annual Plan
6 presentation and then we will take public
7 comment on that. So if some of you are leaving
8 we would just ask you to please expedite the
9 room, that way we can move into the next
10 presentation for the those that are interested
11 in sticking around. And thank you to those who
12 are leaving. And thank you to those that are
13 leaving, we certainly appreciate your time.

14 We'll get started with the Annual Plan
15 presentation in one minute. Grab some king
16 cake and a sandwich for the road if you haven't
17 already done so. And speaking of, for those of
18 you still here, I was remiss to say it
19 earlier, Restore or Retreat, a non-profit based
20 in the Lafourche Parish area. as well as the
21 Greater New Orleans Foundation were generous
22 enough to provide both drinks and snacks for us
23 here tonight. So we appreciate their support.
24 It makes for a better meeting when everyone has
25 a little caffeine and sugar.

1 All right. With that we are going to go
2 ahead and get started. We would ask if anybody
3 that's sticking around and wants to chat, if
4 you don't mind walking through those doors so
5 we can respect the rest of the folks that are
6 here. So with that we are going to now shift
7 gears to draft fiscal year 2018 Annual Plan.
8 And Jason Lanclos, Deputy Director of CPRA will
9 walk you through it. Jason. And folks, if you
10 could please leave the room, we would ask you
11 respectfully to please leave the room so we can
12 get on with this presentation.

13 MR. LANCLOS:

14 Good evening, everybody. Thanks for
15 having us here. I have enjoyed the public
16 comments and I am going to try and keep our
17 Annual Plan presentation very brief. But I am
18 going to just run through a couple of slides
19 very quickly just to kind of give you a general
20 overview of how we spend our money.

21 A little background on the Annual Plan.
22 So a couple of things that I would like for you
23 to get out of it before you leave here tonight.
24 Bren did a tremendous job, and has done
25 historically on giving you an overview of the

1 Master Plan. What the Master Plan does is work
2 directly in conjunction with our Annual Plan.
3 So the Master Plan lays out the priorities of
4 the agency, the Annual Plan is actually where
5 the rubber hits the road and describes exactly
6 which projects that we are going to be focusing
7 on not only the next fiscal year, but the two
8 years beyond that. So it gives you a three
9 year overview from fiscal year 2018, 2019, and
10 2020.

11 So if you are curious you can really dive
12 into a lot of details in Appendix B and C.
13 That is where we list all of our projects and
14 you have a lot of details on phase, whether
15 they are in construction. I would also
16 encourage you to view, we have another viewer
17 called CMS, which is the coastal monitoring.
18 It's, it's a - you can log in to our website
19 and go to the link, and it provides just a
20 wealth of information on projects and where we
21 are in terms of construction and overview of
22 where we are.

23 So just a quick look in terms of where we
24 are. Obviously we are here in Mandeville
25 tonight. Glad to be here. This plan, and also

1 with the Master Plan, is going to be going
2 through the legislature just like it does. So
3 it has to go through committees, has to get
4 approved by the House, has to get approved by
5 the Senate. So every, every project that we
6 are submitting in here, and you will see some
7 of the numbers in just a minute, has to go
8 through the legislature. So we have been doing
9 a tremendous amount of work here in the last
10 several weeks just to meet with the legislators
11 to make sure that folks understand and are
12 aware of where we are focusing on these
13 projects, what projects we will be focused on,
14 etc.

15 So just a couple of quick points. We do
16 like to highlight a lot of the work that we
17 have done over the past year. These are just a
18 few projects to look at. The Caminada
19 Headlands project, the phase two portion of
20 this project was the largest project,
21 restoration project, that CPRA has ever entered
22 in our whole agency's time period. So it's
23 about \$140 million just in phase two, with
24 phase one over \$200 million. The Shell Island
25 West project which is funded with NERDA early

1 restoration dollars. This is a picture in the
2 middle of the long distance sediment pipeline,
3 Bayou Dupont, phase three. The Living
4 Shoreline project that Mr. Gagliano referred to
5 which is in St. Bernard Parish. And then the
6 Amite Hydrologic Restoration Project is there
7 as well. So that's a smaller project, about a
8 \$4 million project, but a tremendous amount of
9 benefit.

10 So just a quick look ahead. Obviously you
11 have heard about the Master Plan here tonight,
12 but one thing that we do want to mention is
13 that - what are we doing? So what are we
14 focusing on in the next year? We've had a lot
15 of different diversified funding streams that
16 we have been very fortunate to have. Some of
17 those like the SeaApp program, and the Coastal
18 Impact Assistance program provided almost \$497
19 million to the state and the parishes for the
20 implementation of these projects. Great
21 program, but it did end at the end of December.
22 So those projects have all come to a close on
23 the construction side. The CDBG program which
24 is funneled through the state that we helped to
25 implement through the parishes and also through

1 us. That was another great funding stream, but
2 that program is going to come to a close.

3 So what have we been doing? Bren's group
4 has been tremendously busy over the last
5 several years. We knew that a settlement and a
6 consent decree was going to be signed so the
7 planning division was very, very busy trying to
8 get the Master Plan ready, but also to plan for
9 projects that we could have ready to go when
10 those oil spill dollars did come in. So what
11 you are going to see in the numbers that I am
12 going to show you in just a few minutes is the
13 focus on the work that those guys did in the
14 planning phase. You are now starting to see a
15 tremendous amount of uptake in the engineering
16 design phase in our program, which is a direct
17 result of anticipating those oil spill dollars
18 coming in. I won't bore you with a lot of
19 tables - you can go to the executive summary
20 table one or table two to look at our revenues
21 and expenditures. This just provides you just
22 a general breakdown of how we get our money,
23 where the revenue sources come from.

24 I won't bore you with a lot of the
25 details, but just to give you a quick couple of

1 highlights. Our funding is extremely complex.
2 We get money form a lot of different sources
3 but we have a very limited amount of funds that
4 come directly from the state mineral revenues.
5 Those mineral revenues that we get from the
6 state have seen a dramatic decrease from about
7 \$30 million over the last several years. We
8 are down to \$14 million. And although that
9 doesn't sound like a lot our budget for those
10 expenditures have been cut in half, and what it
11 does is it constrains us on a lot of these
12 grant-based funding programs to go out and
13 front money to get reimbursed. So when that
14 gets cut the programmatic expenditures that we
15 can partner with on different parishes with
16 Ducks Unlimited and a lot of other foundations.
17 We're very limited in the amount of funds that
18 we have that we can provide assistance to levee
19 districts as well. So what that does, again,
20 just to give you that broad overview to go from
21 thirty to fourteen has been a significant
22 impact on our finances, but we also have been
23 very fortunate to have some of these other
24 funding streams.

25 Just a note here without leaving the table

1 up for too long. The oil spill revenues and a
2 lot of these other sources - a lot of folks
3 look at us and say, CPRA you have a tremendous
4 amount of money, why aren't you going out and
5 building these projects, why can't you transfer
6 funding from oil spill dollars and go and build
7 a levee or a protection project. The grant-
8 based program and the funds that we are getting
9 in from the oil spill are very restrictive.
10 They are going to a specific injury that
11 occurred in a certain area. That is not to say
12 that the funding and restoring some of these
13 other funding streams can't be applied toward
14 other types of projects. But again, it is
15 complex funds. We have to manage those funds,
16 and a lot of the funding streams that we have
17 available have to go to certain types of
18 projects. So just for example, the NFWF
19 funding that I am going to talk about in just a
20 minute, those funds that we get from the
21 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have to
22 go to barrier islands and diversions. So just
23 to give you kind of a broad overview.

24 So this is our table of expenditures. So
25 fiscal year 2018, this is a slide that I often

1 talk about for a long time and I am not going
2 to do it tonight. One of the things that we
3 are very proud of over the last several years,
4 and I have given this presentation quite a bit,
5 is the green portion of this graph. That green
6 portion has gone down a little bit, but of that
7 percentage fifty-six percent is still in
8 construction. The reason why it has gone down
9 is because we have a tremendous amount of
10 uptick in projects that are in engineering
11 design that have come out of the planning
12 phase, for oil spill projects, and shifted
13 toward planning. But still, a large portion of
14 our operating budget, and expenditures, and
15 revenues for fiscal year 18 is going toward
16 building and constructing projects.

17 Our group is specifically responsible for
18 implementing projects and we take a lot of
19 pride in moving as many projects as we can into
20 construction as quickly as we can. So we have
21 a lot of projects that are going into
22 engineering design. You'll see a budget of
23 about \$123 million there. And the other thing
24 that I want to highlight is that our operation
25 budget is only about five percent. We are a

1 very lean agency, we only have about 170 folks,
2 so when you look at the amount of work that we
3 are implementing it is very close to what the
4 DOTD in the state government would implement,
5 but we are doing it with a lot fewer people and
6 we are very proud of that.

7 So in terms of major funding sources. Our
8 state mineral resources that I mentioned
9 earlier that's gone from thirty to fourteen
10 million. But the Gulf of Mexico Energy
11 Security Act, that revenue is expected to come
12 in in federal fiscal year 2018, which is
13 actually CPRA's fiscal year 2019. So it's \$176
14 million total that's coming into the state. Of
15 that the thirty-six million goes to the
16 individual parishes. They have a very complex
17 formula that if you want to stay up late at
18 night and read about it you can see how it is
19 calculated, but we are monitoring that very
20 closely. We are looking at probably a slight
21 reduction in the hundred forty million just
22 because of the amount of oil leases that have
23 decreased over the last several years. But,
24 again, it has still been a funding stream that
25 we put a tremendous amount of merit in to

1 really continue to carry our mission forward
2 with that revenue stream. So again, GOMESA.

3 Some of the other funding sources that I
4 mentioned, the National Fish and Wildlife
5 Foundation, that \$245 million grant is a very
6 large boost for us to advance to diversion
7 projects, the mid-Barataria and mid-diversion.
8 So we have a tremendous amount of work going on
9 in engineering design. We have a whole group
10 at CPRA that is working specifically on
11 advancing those diversions. We have a
12 tremendous amount of resources dedicated to it.

13 This is the first plan for the NERDA
14 restoration - went out in January and we
15 actually have a plan that is going out with
16 that lists, six projects for engineering design
17 which total to about \$22 million and then also
18 the Restore Act. The plan that is out for
19 public review that encompasses about \$812
20 million worth of projects. And then the QUIPRA
21 Program that provides about another \$80 million
22 worth of revenue for us that we partner with a
23 lot of other federal agencies to implement and
24 build projects. This has been a tremendous
25 revenue program for us.

1 CPRA in its infancy, the \$80 million or
2 the \$60 million that we got from QUIPRA in 2008
3 and 2009 used to be our main source of revenue.
4 So you can see that over the last several years
5 we have grown from implementing about \$100
6 million in projects to about
7 \$600 or \$700 million worth of projects.

8 So moving forward, a couple of things.
9 This is just an excerpt of one of the oil spill
10 projects in our plan. It just kind of gives
11 you an overview of where those projects are. I
12 would encourage all of you, I know you have
13 been here for a very long period of time, but
14 look at the Annual Plan. It's very similar to
15 what we are doing in the Master Plan. It's a
16 draft plan, it's out for public comment if you
17 have comments about what's in it, what type of
18 projects we are focusing on. Take a look at
19 it. It is a quick read, you know, it is a bit
20 of a lighter read, but there is a lot of
21 information in it.

22 So again, we're grateful, we are very
23 thankful to be here tonight. Thanks for
24 staying around. I know that it has been a long
25 night for everybody but we appreciate you being

1 here and we look forward to continuing to work
2 in this area and build and implement projects.
3 So have a good night. Thank you.

4 MR. SPEYRER:

5 Thank you, Jason. As you will see up on
6 the screen we are going to open up the floor
7 for public comments. I don't have any cards
8 but if anyone would like to provide public
9 comments just walk on up to the mic. If there
10 are no formal public comments here in person
11 you have got these other options in which you
12 are able to provide public comments, we
13 certainly would love to hear from you. There
14 are still a few more pieces of cake. There is
15 a few sandwiches in the back that you certainly
16 can make yourself welcome to. And once again
17 on behalf of everybody from CPRA, we certainly
18 appreciate you taking the time to be with
19 tonight. We look forward to working with you
20 in the future. Thank you.

21 (The public hearing concluded at 7:23 p.m.)

22

23

24

25

1 R E P O R T E R S P A G E

2 I, Tricia Gregory, Certified Court
3 Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana,
4 the Officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the
5 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, before whom
6 this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby state
7 on the record:

8 That due to the interaction in the
9 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding,
10 dashes (--) have been used to indicate pauses,
11 changes in thought and/or talk overs; that same
12 is the proper method for a Court Reporter's
13 transcription of proceeding, and that the
14 dashes (--) do not indicate that words or
15 phrases have been left out of this transcript.

16 Also, any words and/or names which could
17 not be verified through reference material have
18 been denoted with the phrase "(inaudible)."

19

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Tricia Gregory, C.C.R. #2015008

24

25

1 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

2 I, the undersigned reporter, do hereby
3 certify that the above and foregoing is a true
4 and correct transcription of the stenomask tape
5 of the proceedings had herein, taken down by me
6 and transcribed under my supervision, to the
7 best of my ability and understanding, at the
8 time and place hereinbefore noted, in the
9 above-entitled cause.

10 I further certify that the witnesses were
11 duly sworn in by me in my capacity as a
12 Certified Court Reporter pursuant to the
13 provision of R. S. 37:2551 et seq. in and for
14 the State of Louisiana; that I am not of
15 counsel nor related to any of the counsel of
16 any of the parties, nor in the employ of any of
17 the parties, and that I have no interest in the
18 outcome of this action.

19 I further certify that my license is in
20 good standing as a Court Reporter in and for
21 the State of Louisiana.

22

23

24

Tricia Gregory (#2015008)

25

Certified Court Reporter

	\$8.3 (2) 43:11;44:8	101:25;103:12	802 (4) 37:15;41:14,16; 44:11	addressing (1) 57:11
#	\$80 (2) 104:21;105:1	2019 (2) 96:9;103:13		adjacent (1) 76:4
#2015008 (1) 107:23	\$800 (1) 68:17	2020 (1) 96:10	A	adjust (2) 44:25;45:2
\$	\$812 (1) 104:19	2022 (2) 71:16;79:14	ability (4) 12:20;26:12; 70:25;73:2	administration (2) 79:9;80:19
\$100 (2) 19:22;105:5	1	209 (5) 8:14,17,23;22:22; 28:24	able (15) 5:14,25;24:9;26:5, 19;27:4;32:17;33:18, 25;34:6;36:24;46:8; 48:17;51:25;106:12	advance (2) 24:14;104:6
\$123 (1) 102:23	1,000 (1) 5:23	2107 (1) 25:10	above (3) 75:16;77:15;90:18	advancing (1) 104:11
\$14 (1) 100:8	10-95 (1) 76:5	25,000 (1) 93:13	absolute (4) 41:12;43:6;80:8; 86:21	adversely (1) 68:15
\$140 (1) 97:23	120 (5) 8:24;9:20;21:3; 37:14;43:23	26,000 (1) 38:25	absolutely (1) 87:2	Advisory (1) 13:25
\$150 (8) 8:18,21;22:22; 29:3,8;37:18;43:14, 18	150 (4) 29:6;33:15;34:20; 35:14	28 (1) 107:4	abundance (1) 84:5	aerial (1) 55:20
\$16,000.00 (1) 53:2	1600's (1) 64:6	282 (1) 21:8	accept (1) 4:24	affect (9) 26:12;29:21; 30:10;32:13;34:11; 46:18;50:1,1;71:17
\$176 (1) 103:13	170 (1) 103:1	29 (2) 66:5,11	access (1) 46:8	affected (1) 30:16
\$18 (1) 12:22	1700s (1) 88:13	3	acquisitions (1) 28:19	affects (2) 41:19,23
\$19 (1) 12:22	18 (1) 102:15	3:1 (1) 43:20	acres (4) 21:8;41:16;76:7, 18	affiliate (1) 83:4
\$2.5 (1) 73:19	1868 (1) 61:21	35,000 (1) 68:5	across (12) 5:25;6:8;12:1; 21:18;29:22;31:17; 38:6;57:12,13;61:8; 73:16;91:17	affirmative (1) 54:21
\$20 (1) 20:24	1932 (1) 18:24	36,000 (1) 21:7	Act (5) 10:1;55:8;82:9; 103:11;104:18	again (43) 9:17;20:6,12; 21:10;22:8;23:9; 25:15;27:9;29:6; 30:10,13;31:21; 33:12;35:12;36:5,12; 37:25;39:22;40:21; 41:6,24;43:2,2,6,19; 44:7,10,18;45:3; 73:8;75:10,18,19; 77:22,22;87:8;91:15; 100:19;101:14; 103:24;104:2; 105:22;106:16
\$200 (1) 97:24	1943 (1) 81:15	5	action (2) 40:15,22	against (5) 58:12,13,16;81:18, 24
\$22 (1) 104:17	1973 (3) 88:21;89:11;90:2	5,000 (1) 66:17	active (3) 82:10,10,25	agencies (1) 104:23
\$245 (1) 104:5	1990 (1) 82:9	50,000 (1) 68:6	activities (1) 27:16	agency (2) 96:4;103:1
\$25 (3) 35:22,22;39:14	2	50/50 (2) 35:22;36:4	actually (8) 25:10;40:9;63:17; 70:6;82:11;96:4; 103:13;104:15	agency's (1) 97:22
\$30 (2) 10:12;100:7	2,000 (1) 18:25	500 (1) 93:11	adapt (2) 44:13;46:1	agenda (1) 4:16
\$350 (1) 68:16	20,000 (1) 5:24	5013C (1) 62:4	adaptive (1) 83:8	ages (1) 45:20
\$4 (1) 98:8	2005 (3) 66:6;67:11;81:15	527 (1) 67:14	add (2) 48:15;49:10	ago (4) 22:6;33:12;71:24; 86:19
\$497 (1) 98:18	2008 (1) 105:2	6	additional (3) 23:25;41:8,9	agree (1) 59:24
\$50 (6) 8:16,22;9:23;10:2; 29:10;35:9	2009 (1) 105:3	6,000 (1) 46:16	address (4) 48:1;70:21;75:8; 85:6	agricultural (1)
\$6.1 (1) 39:2	2012 (11) 11:7;24:17,20,21; 25:2;35:9;39:22; 66:11;69:25;79:2; 86:2	7		
\$60 (1) 105:2	2017 (8) 4:23;25:15,18; 28:12;36:8;47:2; 69:22;86:2	7,500 (1) 66:16		
\$600 (1) 105:7	2018 (5) 5:10;95:7;96:9;	7:23 (1) 106:21		
\$660 (1) 22:6		700 (1) 88:21		
\$7 (1) 10:5		8		
\$700 (1) 105:7				

<p>32:13 ahead (7) 4:3;28:16;36:18; 52:7;88:6;95:2; 98:10 ain't (1) 65:11 Alfred (3) 60:22;63:24;64:2 alive (1) 93:14 Allison (4) 56:7;59:12,15; 60:21 allocated (1) 69:24 allocating (1) 70:4 allow (2) 66:19;90:12 allowed (1) 89:25 allowing (1) 90:19 allows (2) 32:17;90:8 alluded (2) 35:6;49:12 alluvial (1) 88:11 almost (5) 18:25;54:8;59:3; 92:9;98:18 along (6) 19:12;53:9;66:14; 72:7;79:20;86:5 alter (1) 11:6 although (2) 28:2;100:8 always (2) 33:2;85:8 amendment (1) 79:5 America (1) 69:7 Amite (1) 98:6 AMMERMAN (3) 61:18;63:7,8 among (1) 74:14 amount (22) 18:23;19:21; 20:21;24:2;35:10; 43:15;44:19;57:14, 16;85:10;97:9;98:8; 99:15;100:3,17; 101:4;102:9;103:2, 22,25;104:8,12 amounts (1) 73:20 analysis (1)</p>	<p>35:24 and/or (2) 107:11,16 Andrea (1) 18:2 announce (1) 61:2 Annual (17) 5:12;16:13,14,18; 22:4;43:8,11,13; 94:2,5,14;95:7,17, 21;96:2,4;105:14 annually (1) 80:12 anticipate (1) 5:6 anticipating (1) 99:17 anymore (1) 54:7 appear (1) 71:1 Appendix (6) 26:10;51:12,12; 74:24;75:20;96:12 applaud (1) 83:6 applicant (2) 76:21;77:9 applications (2) 76:1;77:10 applied (1) 101:13 appreciate (16) 15:16;17:6;18:11; 50:7;56:15;63:23; 66:2;79:4,17;81:8; 85:6;93:22;94:13,23; 105:25;106:18 appreciated (1) 79:7 appreciation (1) 15:25 approach (6) 14:19;36:9,19; 83:9,10;87:20 approaches (1) 69:15 appropriate (3) 23:22,22;28:20 approve (2) 14:3;49:6 approved (4) 21:9;49:4;97:4,4 April (2) 49:1,3 aquatic (1) 58:21 arbitrary (1) 35:23 archeological (1) 71:25 area (13)</p>	<p>6:9;8:8;13:20; 19:24;38:11;61:12; 64:17;66:7;79:23; 83:16;94:20;101:11; 106:2 areas (7) 37:23;55:16;74:4, 7,9;75:22,24 around (16) 4:13;9:2;16:12; 26:17;29:24;30:12; 34:6;52:2;58:4;61:9, 23;73:23;79:2; 94:11;95:3;105:24 arrested (1) 54:24 article (1) 58:10 Ascension (1) 53:13 assess (1) 48:1 assessed (1) 73:24 assessment (1) 30:9 assistance (3) 63:4;98:18;100:18 associated (8) 8:19;18:19;20:2, 24;27:11;40:3; 44:18;67:13 assumption (1) 23:24 assumptions (1) 14:11 assure (1) 12:19 Atchafalaya (3) 38:10;89:22;91:4 attachment (7) 74:12,13,23,24; 75:2;77:13;78:1 attend (1) 5:23 attention (4) 72:10,14;78:2; 86:7 Audubon (1) 78:13 August (3) 66:5,10,11 Augusta (1) 62:12 Authority (1) 18:14 available (7) 31:23,24;47:1,19, 20,22;101:17 avenues (2) 51:3;84:16 avoid (1) 75:23</p>	<p>avoidance (2) 77:14,22 aware (5) 18:20;23:14; 57:22;88:25;97:12 away (4) 56:13;68:7;74:7; 81:2 awesome (1) 53:24 awhile (1) 66:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back (11) 8:1;10:25;48:10; 49:10;53:13;58:20; 60:8;70:2;80:4; 82:11;106:15 background (2) 82:14;95:21 backside (1) 65:18 backsides (1) 65:17 bad (1) 44:23 bank (2) 61:8;76:22 banks (2) 77:12,16 bar (2) 71:21,25 Barataria (3) 68:5,15,22 barbarian (1) 65:13 barrier (6) 21:5,11;38:9; 62:17;65:17;101:22 barriers (1) 59:7 base (1) 67:1 based (4) 44:21;77:9;94:19; 101:8 basically (4) 12:11,14;31:18; 89:15 basin (6) 58:22,24;61:1,3,4; 83:17 basis (1) 16:4 Baton (3) 89:4;90:18,18 bay (1) 53:3 Bayou (4) 21:23;22:1;76:14; 98:3</p>	<p>bays (1) 54:25 beach (3) 53:6;55:16;71:22 becomes (1) 31:13 began (1) 25:2 begin (1) 27:6 behalf (3) 57:4;84:21;106:17 behind (3) 14:9,9;24:24 believes (1) 23:8 benefit (6) 36:2;44:1;58:18; 69:11;83:16;98:9 benefits (4) 37:3,4,9;60:6 benefitted (1) 21:7 Bernard (4) 13:17;64:2;91:23; 98:5 best (12) 4:14;5:13;12:20; 27:18;33:1;50:19; 59:25;60:13;64:5; 77:16;80:2;93:17 better (14) 14:25;15:4,9;19:3; 23:15;24:5,21,22; 27:2,3;44:4;59:2; 67:20;94:24 beyond (2) 57:19;96:8 big (10) 22:13;52:22;53:7; 54:12;55:5;69:12; 74:22;83:16;85:11; 93:5 biggest (3) 58:14;88:16;91:1 billion (27) 8:16,18,22,22; 9:23;10:3,5,10,13; 12:23;20:24;22:22; 29:3,8,10;35:9,23; 37:18;39:2,14;43:12, 14,18;44:8;68:20; 73:19;90:16 Biloxi (1) 52:20 bit (15) 6:21;7:2;25:9,25; 26:1;29:12;31:6; 33:12;37:13,20; 40:10;91:19;102:4,6; 105:19 blatant (1) 76:11</p>
--	--	--	--	--

blue (1) 57:16	57:19;68:4		80:15	47:23;49:5;59:25; 87:17
blues (4) 42:5,18,21;43:3	Brett (1) 18:2	C	capitol (1) 85:15	change (3) 11:5;15:9;29:24
board (5) 48:25;49:1,4;50:2; 85:14	brief (1) 95:17	Caenarvon (3) 66:15,15;68:22	card (3) 10:23;11:12;52:3	changes (12) 9:8,12,14;11:8; 23:16,18,20;24:10; 46:1;49:25;54:4; 107:11
boat (2) 54:3;82:14	briefly (1) 36:7	Caernarvon (1) 68:22	cards (2) 51:24;106:7	changing (1) 41:19
body (1) 74:25	brilliant (1) 60:11	caffeine (1) 94:25	care (4) 13:13;46:15;82:7; 86:10	channels (1) 51:11
bonding (1) 80:14	bring (6) 52:4;56:3;57:3; 58:8,20;62:10	Cajun (1) 53:20	carry (1) 104:1	character (1) 69:16
Bonfouca (1) 21:23	Brister (2) 7:6;39:9	cake (2) 94:16;106:14	case (2) 20:13;71:1	Charles (1) 19:21
Bonnie (2) 66:3;69:2	broad (2) 100:20;101:23	Calcasieu (1) 76:14	cases (1) 77:8	chat (1) 95:3
book (1) 22:14	brought (4) 66:21;84:15;89:8; 92:5	calculated (1) 103:19	caught (2) 86:7;89:12	check (2) 40:14,17
boom (1) 90:15	brown (1) 46:18	California (1) 71:5	Causeway (1) 71:20	checkmark (1) 87:14
boost (1) 104:6	brush (1) 75:11	call (8) 4:17;15:14;26:10; 28:9;30:25;39:8; 49:10;66:22	CCR (1) 107:23	chef (2) 57:12;73:16
bore (2) 99:18,24	budget (7) 80:20,21,25;100:9; 102:14,22,25	called (4) 52:5;58:9;88:7; 96:17	CDBG (1) 98:23	chemical (1) 76:13
born (1) 81:14	buffers (1) 77:21	calls (2) 25:11,15	celebrating (1) 70:14	chess (1) 50:1
Boston (1) 67:6	bug (1) 53:1	came (2) 86:22;91:20	Center (1) 67:7	child (1) 92:6
both (2) 77:20;94:22	build (13) 21:5;24:5;27:13; 30:3,24;44:9;47:11; 61:5;68:3;89:23; 101:6;104:24;106:2	Cameron (1) 55:16	central (2) 37:21;38:7	children (1) 37:7
bottom (2) 71:22;89:7	building (7) 14:23;24:7;60:1; 79:24;90:14;101:5; 102:16	Caminada (1) 97:18	cents (2) 69:19,21	choir (1) 19:7
bottoms (1) 76:19	built (3) 24:25;52:23;89:6	can (88) 5:13;7:5;8:21,23; 9:24;10:11;15:13,13; 17:24;19:3,9,23; 20:13,19;21:17;23:3, 19;24:13,22;27:19; 29:8;30:22,23;31:14; 32:7,12,18;37:7; 39:13,15,18;41:7; 43:23;44:19;45:4,6, 6,8,11;46:20;47:7, 18,25,25;48:4,18; 50:25;51:1;52:2,3; 54:19,20;55:15,16; 60:13,16;63:3,6; 64:5;73:11;74:5,6, 18;75:4;77:2;79:3; 80:2,16;84:11,13,14, 15;87:11;89:14; 93:11;94:9;95:5,11; 96:11,18;99:19; 100:15,18;102:19, 20;103:18;105:4; 106:16	certain (3) 18:3;101:11,17	choosing (1) 85:7
box (1) 87:15	bulk (1) 90:21	canals (3) 64:8,15,17	certainly (42) 4:4,5;5:16;20:4; 22:3;23:17;24:15; 25:18;27:19;28:3; 32:22,25;34:22; 35:14;37:2;38:16; 39:5,24;45:19;46:9; 48:14,21;50:13,18; 51:24;54:11;55:7; 57:3;62:15;63:1,22; 67:25;78:7;80:11; 85:6;93:17,21,22; 94:13;106:13,15,17	Chopique (1) 76:14
BP (7) 9:24;10:3;11:23; 12:21;26:22;56:24; 80:9	bulkhead (1) 61:23	capabilities (2) 72:16;80:14	Center (1) 67:7	Chris (9) 53:17;56:6;59:12; 69:3;70:9,12;73:5; 91:25;92:3
Bradberry (12) 4:18;6:3,5;15:17; 17:5,15;22:5,23; 26:18;28:25;49:12; 59:20	bullets (1) 23:13	capacities (1)	central (2) 37:21;38:7	Christmas (1) 64:10
Braithwaite (1) 66:7	Buras (1) 81:14		certified (1) 107:2	citizens (11) 4:10;18:18;22:11; 27:10;31:12;32:7; 36:20;60:10;79:21; 80:1;83:21
branding (1) 4:21	burnout (1) 85:15		CFS (2) 66:16;68:5	city (1) 61:5
breakdown (4) 39:13,16;43:24; 99:22	bushes (1) 67:2		Chairman (5) 4:17;6:3;17:5; 53:19;59:20	Civil (2) 61:20;107:5
breakwater (2) 61:24;62:5	business (4) 15:20;76:5;82:14; 93:2		challenge (1) 9:22	clarity (1) 26:19
Breaux (1) 82:9	businesses (4) 28:18;59:18; 60:16;69:10		challenging (1) 14:10	class (1) 86:8
Bren (6) 4:19;9:13;16:7; 17:2;56:9;95:24	busy (3) 17:18;99:4,7		Champagne (4) 59:13;60:23,24; 63:11	close (7) 5:23;10:5;83:22; 90:2;98:22;99:2; 103:3
Bren's (2) 94:4;99:3			chance (7) 37:11,25;42:2;	closely (1)
Breton (2)				

<p>103:20 closer (4) 37:14,20;38:21; 83:21 closing (1) 10:21 clouds (3) 54:1,2,6 Club (4) 53:20;73:9,13; 82:5 CMS (1) 96:17 coalition (5) 61:2,4;78:15; 81:17;83:4 coast (28) 9:11;11:19;12:1; 18:17;19:10;21:18; 22:7,11;23:9,15,20; 26:7;27:25;28:1; 29:22;31:12;35:15; 36:19;38:6,8,19; 45:9,12,14;52:20; 80:3;83:23;92:7 coastal (55) 4:6,9,23;6:9; 11:17;13:18;17:11; 18:13,23;19:12,18; 20:4,14;21:2,6,8,8; 22:12,18;23:3;26:3; 27:10,13,15,20;32:6, 23;34:11;37:9; 40:18;45:18;47:4; 49:1;53:22;54:13,15; 58:11;59:19;62:11; 67:15;69:17;70:20; 75:14,15,24;76:12; 77:17,25;79:23;83:1, 18;88:11;90:14; 96:17;98:17 Coastallagov (2) 46:12;50:21 Cocodrie (1) 52:21 cold (2) 65:9,11 collect (1) 72:21 color (1) 42:7 comfortable (2) 14:11;15:7 coming (15) 7:10;10:2;11:21; 12:22;20:16;26:20, 24;29:5;52:18;59:8; 65:7;71:14;83:15; 99:18;103:14 Commandant (1) 86:19 commend (1) 54:10</p>	<p>comment (21) 5:7,15,19;7:25; 8:4;11:9,14;34:5; 48:12,17,23;49:9; 50:12;51:5,15;61:15; 63:12;69:2;71:18; 94:7;105:16 commenting (1) 84:21 comments (42) 4:11,25;5:1,6,11; 6:13,16;10:25;11:2, 11;15:19;16:11; 17:6;33:7;48:14; 50:13,16,17;51:1,2,4, 9,10,15,22;52:8; 57:4;59:9;73:10; 74:22;78:8;86:18; 87:24;92:1;93:20,24; 95:16;105:17;106:7, 9,10,12 commerce (1) 19:15 commercial (1) 27:16 Commission (1) 13:25 commitment (3) 79:9;80:1;83:12 committed (1) 11:23 Committee (2) 14:3,4 committees (1) 97:3 commodity (1) 46:4 communities (11) 9:5;26:3,6;30:12; 32:14,15,24;33:3,10; 46:19;69:17 community (6) 32:10;33:23;39:9; 69:14,15;78:24 companies (4) 65:15;81:22;93:6, 10 compare (1) 72:19 compensate (1) 76:22 compete (2) 60:16;90:23 completed (1) 73:15 completely (2) 54:9;80:23 complex (3) 100:1;101:15; 103:16 complexity (1) 83:8 comprehensive (3)</p>	<p>18:16;24:14;77:2 computer (1) 82:17 concern (3) 57:2,6,9 concerned (1) 44:6 concerns (3) 4:11;53:24;54:12 conclude (1) 5:12 concluded (1) 106:21 conclusion (2) 77:8,12 condition (2) 36:14,15 conditions (1) 36:10 confidence (1) 79:3 confident (1) 14:21 conjunction (4) 26:24;62:2,8;96:2 conscience (1) 58:5 consent (1) 99:6 consequences (1) 68:9 Conservation (2) 56:18,21 conservative (1) 36:9 consider (3) 21:21;25:14;80:20 consideration (2) 8:15;25:18 considered (2) 9:2;73:17 considering (2) 48:22;79:8 constrained (1) 31:7 constrains (1) 100:11 constraint (5) 31:5;35:5,7,12,16 constraints (1) 31:25 constructed (3) 21:9,12,17 constructing (1) 102:16 construction (10) 21:12,25;60:18; 73:23;74:2;96:15,21; 98:23;102:8,20 contains (1) 56:25 contemplating (1) 48:22</p>	<p>continental (1) 89:18 continue (8) 14:22,24;34:16; 57:25;58:7;84:13; 93:9;104:1 continued (1) 79:16 continuing (1) 106:1 contracting (1) 69:11 contractors (1) 12:24 contradicting (1) 75:25 contrary (1) 77:14 controlled (2) 55:18,18 conversations (3) 4:9;5:17;33:24 coordinate (1) 34:2 core (2) 76:1;77:24 corner (2) 40:12;58:5 cornerstone (1) 38:18 Corps (3) 67:9;86:20;88:21 cost (9) 39:1;73:19;86:14, 14,15;88:25;89:1; 90:24;91:1 cost- (1) 36:1 cost-effective (1) 60:14 costs (1) 81:3 country (6) 20:1;45:23;46:3,5; 54:14;55:7 couple (11) 17:17;29:16; 53:24;56:16;70:21; 86:24;95:18,22; 97:15;99:25;105:8 course (11) 15:13;19:4,25; 20:22;22:14;24:9; 27:23;30:1;38:11; 40:17;47:2 court (3) 51:7;107:2,12 cover (1) 40:13 Covington (2) 76:4;91:16 CPRA (23) 4:18,21;5:9;6:4;</p>	<p>10:14;13:22,24; 17:18;33:22;56:11; 59:20;69:9;70:3; 73:1;81:23;82:10; 91:22;95:8;97:21; 101:3;104:10;105:1; 106:17 CPRA's (1) 103:13 crab (2) 53:5;68:12 crabs (1) 57:16 Create (3) 12:24;44:19;68:6 created (1) 84:6 creating (1) 92:19 creation (1) 37:23 credits (1) 76:22 creeping (1) 83:21 crew (1) 82:14 crisis (4) 18:21,21;22:19; 80:22 critical (3) 50:14;74:9;87:2 cross (1) 72:10 crowd (2) 17:8,8 Crulack (1) 86:20 cubic (1) 21:4 cultural (1) 27:18 culture (1) 82:7 cumulative (1) 43:15 curious (1) 96:11 currently (1) 71:11 curve (1) 89:15 cut (3) 63:17;100:10,14 Cutting (1) 58:1 cycle (2) 27:6;80:25 cycles (1) 80:25 Cynthia (6) 73:6;78:9,12; 81:10;84:9;86:25</p>
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Cypress (4) 64:25;67:24,25; 68:1	decisions (2) 22:16;32:7	deserve (1) 31:12	96:2;100:4	80:9,18;81:2;93:5; 98:1;99:10,17;101:6
D	deck (5) 52:13;53:16; 63:25;69:3;85:3	design (8) 60:18;84:2,9; 99:16;102:11,22; 104:9,16	Director (5) 5:8;56:17;78:13; 82:24;95:8	Don (2) 6:25;7:1
dad (1) 93:18	declaring (1) 87:13	designed (1) 61:22	dirt (3) 21:19;22:3;79:12	Donahue (2) 6:23;13:13
daily (1) 31:8	decrease (2) 69:22;100:6	desires (1) 7:4	disappear (2) 52:22;92:25	donation (1) 11:24
dam (1) 89:14	decreased (1) 103:23	destroy (1) 76:6	disappeared (1) 54:9	donations (1) 12:22
damages (5) 37:17;43:9,11,16, 19	decree (1) 99:6	detail (4) 26:1,17;29:12; 43:25	disappearing (1) 54:5	done (20) 5:20;6:19;8:25; 9:1;11:7;12:7,9,16; 13:22;14:15;17:22; 20:22;27:2;33:22; 52:24;67:6;87:17; 94:17;95:24;97:17
dams (2) 55:12;89:12	dedicated (1) 104:12	detailed (1) 50:17	disapprove (1) 49:6	donor (1) 85:15
dangers (1) 74:18	dedication (1) 17:10	details (5) 47:17;86:4;96:12, 14;99:25	discourse (1) 107:9	door (1) 91:20
Daniel (4) 85:3;88:4,7,9	deep (1) 89:19	determined (1) 82:4	discuss (4) 25:25;26:11;34:7, 8	doors (1) 95:4
dashboard (1) 79:15	deepening (1) 20:3	detrimental (1) 58:2	discussed (1) 33:12	DOTD (1) 103:4
dashes (2) 107:10,14	deer (1) 54:5	devastated (1) 81:21	discussions (2) 12:13;34:14	double (1) 86:13
data (5) 47:21;71:12; 72:21;82:13;86:6	Defense (2) 82:5;86:17	develop (5) 23:21;24:19;25:4; 39:10;75:7	distance (3) 76:16,18;98:2	doubt (2) 39:8;68:4
daughter (1) 91:22	deferring (2) 87:22,22	developed (1) 60:8	distribution (1) 21:18	Douglas (2) 82:20;85:2
daunting (6) 18:9;54:10;56:12; 59:21;79:18,18	deficit (2) 31:17;80:25	developing (6) 17:20;18:15;28:6; 33:17;44:22;45:25	districts (1) 100:19	down (15) 4:10;5:3;20:16; 21:21;29:9;37:12; 52:20;62:1;63:17; 65:10,12;72:11; 100:8;102:6,8
David (3) 63:24;66:3,5	define (1) 28:16	development (18) 35:7;45:11,15; 69:14;73:21,25;74:1, 4,7,16,18;75:19,21, 23;76:6,12;77:23; 78:23	dive (2) 46:10;96:11	downs (1) 80:24
day (6) 9:14;23:5,16,17; 53:23;92:5	defined (1) 107:4	developmental (1) 33:16	diversified (1) 98:15	draft (16) 4:23;5:10;11:1; 20:11;25:5;28:12; 30:22;33:6;34:23; 40:6;48:9;74:14; 75:5;77:2;95:7; 105:16
days (1) 83:5	DeJong (3) 56:7;59:14,16	die (2) 29:24;66:25	diversion (9) 38:12;40:5;66:15, 16;79:13;83:13; 88:24;90:3;104:6	draw (1) 80:24
DC (2) 20:15;85:11	Delacroix (1) 68:23	difference (3) 42:15,16;43:2	diversions (13) 53:7;58:12,13,16, 17;59:24;68:3;79:5; 81:19;82:12;83:12; 101:22;104:11	drawn (1) 49:24
dead (1) 68:24	deliberations (1) 49:23	differences (1) 24:16	division (1) 99:7	dredge (4) 21:4;39:25;40:1,1
deal (3) 46:2;79:21;86:11	deliver (1) 43:21	different (9) 19:10;22:21; 32:20;37:24;67:9; 85:24;98:15;100:2, 15	DNR (1) 75:12	dredged (2) 21:5;89:2
dealing (3) 45:17,21,24	Delta (4) 78:15;88:10,20; 90:23	difficult (2) 14:21;88:1	document (4) 18:8;22:14;51:8; 60:13	dredging (3) 40:4;81:20;90:25
debt (1) 18:4	Department (1) 86:17	dinner (2) 34:6,7	documentation (1) 46:17	drilled (1) 64:8
decade (3) 20:23;21:10;24:1	depend (2) 84:7,24	dire (3) 36:10,14;45:7	documented (1) 51:11	drinks (1) 94:22
decades (1) 59:4	depending (1) 22:20	direct (4) 74:7;75:10,20; 99:16	documents (4) 25:25;38:1;46:20; 92:13	drive (2)
December (1) 98:21	deposit (1) 30:3	directly (2)	dollar (4) 24:4;40:3;69:19; 90:16	
decided (1) 7:17	depths (7) 41:18,20,24;42:10, 13,19;43:4		dollars (20) 11:23,24,25;23:8; 35:5,20,25;36:3,17; 37:6;55:2;68:20;	
decimated (1) 63:16	Deputy (3) 5:8;78:13;95:8			
decision (5) 11:5;30:25;32:3; 35:4;54:17	describes (1) 96:5			
	description (1) 57:23			

71:19;72:9 driver (1) 71:2 drivers (3) 30:20,25;32:3 drop (2) 72:11;92:23 dry (1) 25:1 duck (1) 53:21 ducks (3) 54:1,6;100:16 due (4) 72:5,6,6;107:8 Duet (4) 73:6;78:11,12; 84:9 dug (1) 64:8 dumped (1) 53:2 Dupont (1) 98:3 during (6) 5:15;51:15;52:5; 67:11;80:24,25 Dutch (1) 64:5 dynamic (4) 9:12,16;23:16; 85:21	ecosystems (1) 18:18 edge (1) 72:1 edges (1) 65:3 effective (5) 33:23;34:13;74:6, 17;77:21 effects (1) 66:15 effort (3) 70:16;78:2;79:2 eight (1) 10:5 eighteen (1) 67:1 eighth (1) 92:12 eighty (1) 69:19 eighty-five (1) 55:13 eighty-nine (2) 8:25;9:4 either (3) 17:24;31:24;40:13 elaborate (1) 73:10 elected (3) 6:16;7:8;13:23 elevation (3) 28:17;69:15;72:12 else (2) 7:7;93:20 e-mail (1) 50:23 embarrass (1) 17:23 emphasis (1) 26:2 Empirical (1) 67:4 employee (1) 93:7 employees (1) 93:13 enable (1) 23:1 enables (1) 24:13 encompasses (1) 104:19 encourage (14) 10:22;11:10; 26:13;28:3;46:21; 72:25;74:15;78:7; 79:23;87:18,23; 92:16;96:16;105:12 encourages (1) 74:4 end (5) 23:5;41:13,16;	98:21,21 Energy (4) 10:1;19:25;65:15; 103:10 enforcing (1) 18:16 engaged (2) 70:16;84:19 engagement (4) 7:19;26:16;34:25; 51:12 engagements (1) 78:25 engaging (1) 83:2 engineer (3) 14:6;15:21;86:3 engineering (8) 24:24;60:17; 82:13;99:15;102:10, 22;104:9,16 Engineers (2) 67:9;88:22 enhance (1) 55:2 enjoyed (2) 85:8;95:15 enormous (3) 55:6;57:8,16 enough (6) 11:2,3;64:12,23; 84:11;94:22 ensure (3) 37:7;70:5,17 entered (1) 97:21 entire (1) 43:19 entities (1) 11:20 entity (1) 18:14 entrepreneurs (1) 59:18 environment (1) 87:6 environmental (6) 30:15;32:11;55:8; 67:8;73:15;82:5 environmentally (1) 75:22 envision (1) 84:11 equally (1) 51:4 erode (1) 30:2 eroded (2) 67:14,16 Especially (2) 86:25;87:4 essentially (4) 40:24;42:18,21;	50:2 establishing (3) 12:13;57:12;59:7 estimate (3) 29:2;38:25;39:5 estimated (1) 48:2 estuary (3) 57:15,19;68:23 etc (1) 97:14 evaluate (2) 24:23;29:13 evaluated (2) 25:17;28:11 even (11) 9:24,25;14:7; 21:12;23:17;35:14; 65:19;68:20;80:2; 86:6;90:2 evening (6) 4:4;37:13;59:15; 78:12;91:10;95:14 event (4) 17:19;42:1,1,11 eventually (1) 42:11 everybody (8) 8:12;18:3;56:10; 59:20;66:6;95:14; 105:25;106:17 everyone (6) 4:2;13:10;51:8; 54:11;60:10;94:24 everyone's (1) 87:12 everywhere (1) 54:23 evidence (1) 67:4 evident (1) 83:7 evolution (1) 83:5 exactly (2) 61:15;96:5 example (6) 20:15;36:1;47:2; 74:3;76:11;101:18 examples (3) 19:20;77:15;83:19 excellent (2) 63:1;92:21 excerpt (1) 105:9 exchange (4) 55:15;56:2;58:1; 84:5 exchanges (2) 57:25;58:7 excited (10) 4:7;6:11,12;11:10; 15:5,12;17:12;61:12;	83:11,23 exciting (1) 44:16 excuse (1) 41:25 execution (1) 87:11 Executive (3) 5:8;82:24;99:19 emption (1) 75:13 exhaustive (2) 21:16;78:22 existing (1) 76:13 expanded (1) 26:15 expanding (1) 61:13 expansion (1) 76:20 expect (1) 71:13 expectations (1) 87:12 expected (3) 43:8,11;103:11 expedite (1) 94:8 expend (1) 35:19 expended (2) 36:17;80:9 expending (2) 35:25;36:2 expenditure (1) 40:6 expenditures (5) 99:21;100:10,14; 101:24;102:14 experience (2) 36:15,16 experiencing (1) 37:8 explaining (1) 61:15 exportable (1) 46:4 expressed (1) 74:11 extend (1) 27:18 extent (1) 27:24 extra (1) 78:4 extremely (3) 19:6;23:15;100:1 eye (5) 8:13;11:16;91:19; 92:15;93:12 eyeballs (1) 87:21
E				
E1 (6) 74:12,13,23;75:2; 77:13;78:1 earlier (11) 7:5;22:23;28:25; 35:5;43:15;44:7,14; 49:13;88:18;94:19; 103:9 early (2) 83:5;97:25 Earth (2) 67:6;70:18 east (2) 38:14;61:7 eastern (2) 37:21;38:15 easy (1) 14:17 echo (2) 59:19;60:3 economic (3) 20:2,8;45:11 economics (1) 86:7 economy (1) 19:18 ecosystem (3) 44:1;58:3;83:10				

eyes (2) 85:17;86:9	5:21	finally (2) 53:8;90:8	42:9,19;43:4;48:2; 62:16;74:4,9,16,20; 75:9;76:12	93:11
F	feedback (4) 4:11;15:15;33:18; 34:14	Finance (1) 14:4	flooded (3) 62:19,19;66:13	forty (2) 85:10;103:21
Facebook (1) 5:21	feel (6) 7:18;8:8,8,22; 15:6;88:14	finances (1) 100:22	flooding (3) 27:10;57:7,11	forward (23) 14:23;15:14;24:9; 34:18,22;44:17;45:8; 50:14;53:9;62:9; 79:11,12;80:5,8,13; 81:6,7;83:15;84:15; 104:1;105:8;106:1, 19
faced (1) 55:3	feels (1) 6:22	find (10) 9:23,23;10:12,19; 14:5;46:20;48:7; 71:3,21;85:9	flood-proofing (1) 28:18	found (1) 48:19
facing (3) 17:11;18:21;55:1	feet (11) 42:5,6,7,7,8,9; 66:8,12;67:2;75:16; 89:3	finding (1) 10:18	floods (1) 27:11	Foundation (4) 62:3;94:21; 101:21;104:5
fact (10) 7:20;21:22;45:1; 46:25;47:3,7,15; 58:5,16;85:14	fellow (1) 83:22	finished (1) 91:23	floor (2) 17:3;106:6	foundations (2) 81:16;100:16
factored (1) 31:25	few (11) 6:19;13:7;19:19; 52:2;63:12;71:14; 80:18;97:18;99:12; 106:14,15	finishing (1) 87:13	Florida (1) 65:5	four (7) 5:24;6:7;7:15,18, 22;17:16;42:6
factors (2) 30:16;32:4	fewer (1) 103:5	firms (1) 93:4	flow (4) 66:16;68:7;89:22; 91:4	fourth (5) 5:20;6:7;7:15,20; 17:15
fair (4) 12:3,12,18;13:1	field (1) 67:12	First (21) 4:3;23:10;24:17; 26:8;27:14;33:11; 36:7;39:8;40:20; 43:21;45:25;49:21; 56:16;62:2;67:11,20; 73:12;78:16;79:8; 91:14;104:13	focus (5) 16:17;25:21; 60:15;78:24;99:13	Fourchon (1) 19:24
Falconer (1) 7:7	fifteen (4) 42:8,9;54:3;76:7	fiscal (10) 5:10;80:22;81:5; 95:7;96:7,9;101:25; 102:15;103:12,13	focused (2) 13:5;97:13	fourteen (2) 100:21;103:9
Falling (2) 86:1;89:18	fifth (2) 48:11;49:4	fish (8) 30:5;32:16;44:2; 53:5;57:13,19; 101:21;104:4	focusing (4) 96:6;97:12;98:14; 105:18	frame (1) 42:24
false (1) 74:5	fifties (1) 80:4	fished (1) 52:19	folks (10) 18:11;49:20;52:2; 83:22;85:17;95:5,9; 97:11;101:2;103:1	framework (2) 9:16;78:23
familiar (2) 28:22;61:11	fifty (26) 8:18;10:10,13; 23:22;35:11;37:2,18; 39:2;41:4,5,6,13,16; 42:24,25;43:9,14,16; 44:9,12,20;53:6; 63:16;75:17;81:25; 92:9	fisheries (10) 19:14;56:17;58:2, 18,19,19;68:12;84:4, 6;90:15	force (1) 77:19	frankly (4) 22:16;36:18;37:8; 46:4
family (4) 56:13;82:3,7; 88:12	fifty-four (1) 28:14	fisherman (1) 53:21	forces (1) 62:24	free (1) 93:21
fantastic (2) 4:7;78:21	fifty-six (1) 102:7	fishermen (3) 58:11,12,14	forecast (2) 72:22,24	freezing (1) 65:12
far (6) 6:9;21:24;51:16; 59:8;68:6;76:3	fight (1) 90:5	fishery (1) 57:15	forest (2) 76:7;83:18	fresh (10) 31:23;58:18,25,25; 59:6;64:16,20,23; 67:24;83:13
farther (1) 24:4	fighting (3) 14:17;20:5;88:18	fishing (11) 20:19;32:14; 46:19;53:12;56:21; 58:15,23;59:1,1,3,4	force (1) 77:19	friend (2) 20:16;52:25
fast (4) 64:25;68:18,18; 75:13	figure (3) 35:9;40:3;50:20	fished (1) 52:19	forces (1) 62:24	friends (1) 81:24
faster (1) 72:13	figured (1) 46:18	fisher (1) 53:21	forecast (2) 72:22,24	frightens (1) 79:21
father (4) 91:12;92:2,5,12	figures (1) 79:19	fishermen (3) 58:11,12,14	forest (2) 76:7;83:18	front (3) 9:22;61:8;100:13
fault (1) 72:12	fill (8) 10:23;11:11; 51:25;52:3;64:9,17, 19;76:20	fishery (1) 57:15	form (5) 50:24;51:25;75:3; 76:15;100:2	front-loading (1) 60:2
faulting (1) 92:17	filled (1) 64:20	fishery (1) 57:15	formal (6) 5:15;7:23;34:4; 51:11;61:14;106:10	fruition (1) 92:10
faults (8) 70:24;71:1,4,13; 72:6,7,14;92:1	filling (1) 64:7	flip (1) 47:10	formally (2) 61:6;78:8	full (1) 73:14
favor (3) 81:19;82:11;92:20	final (8) 5:19;33:7;48:9,9, 21,24;49:2,24	flood (20) 13:18;25:21; 28:22,23;30:23; 37:17;41:18,19,24;	formed (1) 61:2	fully (1) 61:23
federal (6) 79:15;80:11; 87:23;103:12; 104:23;107:5			formula (1) 103:17	functions (2) 74:8,20
Federation (4) 82:4,25;83:3; 84:22			forth (8) 8:10;19:16;21:7; 25:1;26:23;38:5; 44:3;54:25	
feed (1)			fortunate (2) 98:16;100:23	
			Fortune (1)	

<p>Fund (1) 82:5</p> <p>fundamental (2) 13:3;31:18</p> <p>fundamentally (1) 16:22</p> <p>funded (1) 97:25</p> <p>funding (28) 26:18,20;27:5; 31:7,8;35:5,18; 39:12;80:7,7,14; 84:15;87:1,1;93:3; 98:15;99:1;100:1,12, 24;101:6,12,13,16, 19;103:7,24;104:3</p> <p>funds (6) 100:3,17;101:8,15, 15,20</p> <p>funneled (1) 98:24</p> <p>further (2) 38:14;63:3</p> <p>future (21) 19:1;22:4;34:17, 23;36:6,15;37:4; 40:15,15,18,21;44:4; 45:8;47:9,12;48:3; 70:6;80:17;82:3; 84:8;106:20</p>	<p>geology (1) 70:18</p> <p>gets (6) 12:7,9;65:10; 89:12;94:4;100:14</p> <p>given (5) 42:2;57:24;70:20; 74:25;102:4</p> <p>gives (3) 44:13;96:8;105:10</p> <p>giving (4) 34:4;53:4;63:4; 95:25</p> <p>glad (3) 17:9;53:7;96:25</p> <p>glaze (1) 85:17</p> <p>goals (1) 12:13</p> <p>goes (2) 51:16;103:15</p> <p>GOMESA (5) 9:25;10:6;26:23; 70:4;104:2</p> <p>good (44) 4:4;6:6,10,10;9:1; 15:10,22,24;17:7; 23:3,9,12,14,23; 31:14;34:14;35:15; 36:25;42:21,22; 43:22;44:18;45:7,9; 46:6;49:15,16,18,20, 22;50:6;51:6;55:22; 59:15;64:4;65:2,22; 71:13;78:12;85:22; 88:20;91:10;95:14; 106:3</p> <p>government (4) 87:19,23;88:23; 103:4</p> <p>governor (3) 11:15,17,17</p> <p>governor's (1) 13:25</p> <p>Grab (1) 94:15</p> <p>grade (1) 92:12</p> <p>gradient (1) 89:3</p> <p>graduate (1) 71:11</p> <p>Grand (2) 53:2;55:17</p> <p>grandchildren (1) 37:8</p> <p>grandkids (1) 53:5</p> <p>grant (1) 104:5</p> <p>grant- (1) 101:7</p> <p>grant-based (1)</p>	<p>100:12</p> <p>granted (1) 77:15</p> <p>graph (1) 102:5</p> <p>grass (1) 58:21</p> <p>grasses (1) 66:24</p> <p>grateful (1) 105:22</p> <p>gratitude (1) 18:5</p> <p>great (9) 13:10;14:14; 15:11;43:25;47:23; 76:18;78:19;98:20; 99:1</p> <p>Greater (1) 94:21</p> <p>green (11) 19:4;36:12;37:23; 40:14,17,22;41:7,8; 87:14;102:5,5</p> <p>greens (4) 42:5,18,20;43:3</p> <p>Gregory (2) 107:2,23</p> <p>grew (1) 67:22</p> <p>ground (7) 12:17;21:1;37:3; 39:25;48:5,5;87:11</p> <p>group (8) 32:10,11;53:20; 71:13;79:7;99:3; 102:17;104:9</p> <p>groups (5) 9:5,18;56:21;58:9; 78:24</p> <p>grow (3) 63:18;64:24;67:1</p> <p>grown (1) 105:5</p> <p>grows (2) 66:23,23</p> <p>guess (2) 49:11;91:16</p> <p>Gulf (5) 10:1;76:15;82:6; 89:13;103:10</p> <p>guy (1) 86:19</p> <p>guys (9) 7:4;15:2;57:1,22; 81:23;91:15;92:21; 93:12;99:13</p>	<p>74:21;77:20;84:6</p> <p>habitats (1) 27:15</p> <p>hair (1) 7:2</p> <p>half (5) 34:21;66:12;89:7, 7;100:10</p> <p>hallucination (1) 86:23</p> <p>hand (4) 17:24;18:1;51:2; 52:1</p> <p>happen (2) 46:23;90:20</p> <p>happened (1) 89:10</p> <p>happening (4) 42:2;83:20;89:11, 16</p> <p>happens (5) 29:23,25;30:4; 54:18;76:23</p> <p>happy (6) 5:16;8:12;9:4,6,19, 21</p> <p>hard (7) 7:4;13:4;22:16; 24:18;42:4,14;67:23</p> <p>hardly (1) 67:17</p> <p>harness (1) 27:12</p> <p>Harold (4) 52:14;53:16,19; 56:6</p> <p>Harvey (3) 70:9;73:5,8</p> <p>haul (1) 60:1</p> <p>hazard (2) 74:4,7</p> <p>hazardous (2) 76:13,24</p> <p>head (1) 4:20</p> <p>Headlands (1) 97:19</p> <p>healthier (1) 45:13</p> <p>healthy (2) 37:9;87:8</p> <p>hear (23) 4:10;6:12,14;9:13; 11:11;13:14;15:1,2; 16:10,25;33:8;48:13, 14,23;49:17,18,19, 22;50:5,11,13;51:9; 106:13</p> <p>heard (5) 39:21;51:14; 88:15;93:1;98:11</p> <p>hearing (4)</p>	<p>15:14;49:8;50:15; 106:21</p> <p>hearings (1) 48:11</p> <p>heart (2) 75:4;76:8</p> <p>heavily (1) 55:10</p> <p>heavy (1) 85:19</p> <p>heck (1) 17:8</p> <p>heights (1) 30:11</p> <p>Hello (1) 73:8</p> <p>help (13) 14:5;18:17;22:10; 27:17;30:3;39:10; 74:8;80:7,17;84:12, 17,23;85:19</p> <p>helped (2) 27:13;98:24</p> <p>helping (7) 10:19;18:5,7; 38:19;62:9;80:13; 81:6</p> <p>hereby (1) 107:6</p> <p>here's (1) 41:4</p> <p>heritage (2) 27:18,19</p> <p>Herrin (3) 69:3,5,6</p> <p>hesitate (1) 11:9</p> <p>Hewitt (5) 6:18;11:13;13:7,9; 17:6</p> <p>Hi (9) 52:16;59:15; 60:24;69:6;70:12; 78:12;81:13;82:23; 88:9</p> <p>high (5) 39:4;64:23,24; 67:16;74:7</p> <p>highlight (4) 39:3;76:2;97:16; 102:24</p> <p>highlighted (1) 26:9</p> <p>highlights (1) 100:1</p> <p>Highway (1) 76:4</p> <p>historically (1) 95:25</p> <p>history (1) 14:20</p> <p>hit (3) 85:21;86:9;87:11</p>
G				
<p>Gagliano (4) 91:8,9,12;98:4</p> <p>gained (2) 19:5;40:23</p> <p>gallon (1) 86:11</p> <p>game (2) 36:18;55:9</p> <p>gasoline (1) 86:12</p> <p>gates (3) 28:23;57:12;73:16</p> <p>gears (1) 95:7</p> <p>geese (1) 54:2</p> <p>Gegenheimer (3) 63:25;66:4,5</p> <p>general (4) 27:4;34:11;95:19; 99:22</p> <p>generation (2) 90:8,12</p> <p>generous (1) 94:21</p> <p>gentlemen (1) 12:11</p> <p>Geological (7) 70:14,24;71:1,4,7; 72:6,7</p>	<p>government (4) 87:19,23;88:23; 103:4</p> <p>governor (3) 11:15,17,17</p> <p>governor's (1) 13:25</p> <p>Grab (1) 94:15</p> <p>grade (1) 92:12</p> <p>gradient (1) 89:3</p> <p>graduate (1) 71:11</p> <p>Grand (2) 53:2;55:17</p> <p>grandchildren (1) 37:8</p> <p>grandkids (1) 53:5</p> <p>grant (1) 104:5</p> <p>grant- (1) 101:7</p> <p>grant-based (1)</p>	<p>group (8) 32:10,11;53:20; 71:13;79:7;99:3; 102:17;104:9</p> <p>groups (5) 9:5,18;56:21;58:9; 78:24</p> <p>grow (3) 63:18;64:24;67:1</p> <p>grown (1) 105:5</p> <p>grows (2) 66:23,23</p> <p>guess (2) 49:11;91:16</p> <p>Gulf (5) 10:1;76:15;82:6; 89:13;103:10</p> <p>guy (1) 86:19</p> <p>guys (9) 7:4;15:2;57:1,22; 81:23;91:15;92:21; 93:12;99:13</p>	<p>hard (7) 7:4;13:4;22:16; 24:18;42:4,14;67:23</p> <p>hardly (1) 67:17</p> <p>harness (1) 27:12</p> <p>Harold (4) 52:14;53:16,19; 56:6</p> <p>Harvey (3) 70:9;73:5,8</p> <p>haul (1) 60:1</p> <p>hazard (2) 74:4,7</p> <p>hazardous (2) 76:13,24</p> <p>head (1) 4:20</p> <p>Headlands (1) 97:19</p> <p>healthier (1) 45:13</p> <p>healthy (2) 37:9;87:8</p> <p>hear (23) 4:10;6:12,14;9:13; 11:11;13:14;15:1,2; 16:10,25;33:8;48:13, 14,23;49:17,18,19, 22;50:5,11,13;51:9; 106:13</p> <p>heard (5) 39:21;51:14; 88:15;93:1;98:11</p> <p>hearing (4)</p>	<p>hereby (1) 107:6</p> <p>here's (1) 41:4</p> <p>heritage (2) 27:18,19</p> <p>Herrin (3) 69:3,5,6</p> <p>hesitate (1) 11:9</p> <p>Hewitt (5) 6:18;11:13;13:7,9; 17:6</p> <p>Hi (9) 52:16;59:15; 60:24;69:6;70:12; 78:12;81:13;82:23; 88:9</p> <p>high (5) 39:4;64:23,24; 67:16;74:7</p> <p>highlight (4) 39:3;76:2;97:16; 102:24</p> <p>highlighted (1) 26:9</p> <p>highlights (1) 100:1</p> <p>Highway (1) 76:4</p> <p>historically (1) 95:25</p> <p>history (1) 14:20</p> <p>hit (3) 85:21;86:9;87:11</p>
H				
	<p>Haase (3) 4:19;16:7;17:4</p> <p>habitat (3)</p>			

<p>hits (3) 67:19,19;96:5</p> <p>hold (4) 7:16;45:22;47:9,12</p> <p>holding (1) 6:8</p> <p>holds (2) 65:5;67:20</p> <p>home (3) 41:23;42:17;66:9</p> <p>homes (2) 26:12;28:18</p> <p>hope (7) 35:13,14;37:11;46:8;48:6;71:15;73:11</p> <p>hopefully (6) 4:13;20:12;23:2;37:9;47:22;57:5</p> <p>host (1) 56:22</p> <p>Houma (1) 67:22</p> <p>hour (2) 9:14;89:4</p> <p>house (3) 61:10;66:13;97:4</p> <p>hundred (8) 8:6;18:24;28:13;42:1,11;72:20;90:10;103:21</p> <p>hundreds (1) 77:10</p> <p>hunter (1) 53:21</p> <p>hurricane (2) 66:18;67:11</p> <p>hurricanes (3) 18:19;27:11;67:13</p> <p>hurry (1) 85:17</p> <p>hydrologic (3) 38:2;76:25;98:6</p>	<p>37:4;41:21</p> <p>impact (10) 19:23;20:2,8;30:20;48:4;54:9;73:15,25;98:18;100:22</p> <p>impacted (2) 55:10;68:15</p> <p>impactful (1) 71:15</p> <p>impacts (3) 44:1;54:7;72:22</p> <p>implement (12) 24:20;26:21;31:10,21;60:13;79:25;81:4;84:12;98:25;103:4;104:23;106:2</p> <p>implementation (2) 43:17;98:20</p> <p>implemented (4) 29:1;39:11;69:12;80:16</p> <p>implementing (13) 18:16;22:8;24:3;33:17;37:16;39:7;41:15;42:20;43:4;44:3;102:18;103:3;105:5</p> <p>importance (3) 16:5;50:14;70:23</p> <p>important (32) 4:6;13:11,19,20;19:6,9,25;20:18;24:11;27:15,21;30:1,6,13;32:6;36:21;37:4;41:21;43:12;45:13;49:20;50:3;57:18;60:5;75:12;80:10;83:11;84:8,14;86:1,3;87:16</p> <p>importantly (2) 6:12;72:15</p> <p>improve (4) 24:10,11;71:8;72:15</p> <p>improvements (1) 25:3</p> <p>improving (1) 70:24</p> <p>Inaudible (6) 25:16;35:18;38:20;55:15;66:25;107:18</p> <p>incentives (2) 69:10,14</p> <p>inch (1) 67:1</p> <p>incidentally (1) 74:13</p> <p>inclined (1) 52:1</p> <p>include (4)</p>	<p>38:12;50:23;84:2;93:9</p> <p>included (1) 39:1</p> <p>including (3) 10:17;74:20;92:16</p> <p>inclusion (4) 28:12;30:21;73:18,20</p> <p>incorporate (2) 24:8;48:24</p> <p>incorporated (3) 25:3,8;70:19</p> <p>incorporates (1) 33:7</p> <p>incorporating (1) 48:22</p> <p>increase (1) 26:2</p> <p>increased (2) 25:21;33:11</p> <p>increasing (1) 73:1</p> <p>incredibly (3) 57:15;85:25;87:15</p> <p>indeed (5) 18:7;20:10;31:8;35:8;59:22</p> <p>indicate (2) 107:10,14</p> <p>indicated (1) 12:4</p> <p>individual (2) 47:17;103:16</p> <p>induced (6) 73:21,24;74:1,16,18;75:19</p> <p>indulge (1) 17:13</p> <p>industry (1) 54:8</p> <p>infancy (1) 105:1</p> <p>information (8) 20:11;25:9;46:7,9,12,15;96:20;105:21</p> <p>infrastructure (1) 75:24</p> <p>inherent (2) 74:18;87:3</p> <p>injury (1) 101:10</p> <p>ink (1) 25:1</p> <p>innovative (1) 60:14</p> <p>inordinate (1) 85:10</p> <p>input (2) 8:2;13:12</p> <p>inshore (1) 67:21</p> <p>insomnia (1)</p>	<p>46:24</p> <p>Institute (2) 67:7;82:6</p> <p>insure (1) 26:12</p> <p>integrated (2) 24:14;29:17</p> <p>intend (1) 47:11</p> <p>intent (1) 22:3</p> <p>interaction (2) 59:5;107:8</p> <p>interactive (1) 47:24</p> <p>interest (1) 17:10</p> <p>interested (5) 7:11;46:23;47:5,16;94:10</p> <p>interesting (1) 63:13</p> <p>interject (1) 31:4</p> <p>intermediate (1) 67:24</p> <p>interplay (1) 84:3</p> <p>intertwined (1) 27:20</p> <p>interval (1) 9:10</p> <p>intervention (1) 55:23</p> <p>into (38) 9:11;14:23;15:24;17:12;18:12;24:8;25:19;26:16;29:11,15;30:12;31:25;34:17;35:1,11;37:10;38:7;39:7;44:24;46:10;47:25;48:17,24;53:10;56:3;64:16;70:19;73:1;83:7,14;84:8;92:23;94:2,9;96:12;102:19,21;103:14</p> <p>intricately (1) 27:19</p> <p>introduce (1) 6:3</p> <p>intrusion (1) 58:20</p> <p>inundated (1) 62:16</p> <p>inundation (1) 58:24</p> <p>invariably (1) 54:16</p> <p>invest (1) 23:8</p> <p>invested (1) 20:25</p>	<p>investigate (1) 63:3</p> <p>investing (1) 19:18</p> <p>investment (5) 19:21;22:7;43:20;45:15;73:1</p> <p>investments (3) 45:4,5;90:17</p> <p>invite (2) 45:14,15</p> <p>involved (4) 13:21;53:22;82:8;85:23</p> <p>irrespective (1) 85:13</p> <p>Isaac (2) 62:17;66:12</p> <p>Island (8) 22:1;38:9;53:3;55:12;62:13;65:13;85:11;97:24</p> <p>islands (5) 21:6,11;52:22;65:17;101:22</p> <p>Isle (1) 53:2</p> <p>issue (4) 55:5;60:5;75:19;92:18</p> <p>issues (9) 17:11;26:11;31:19;34:8,11,15;45:18,21;46:2</p>
J				
<p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>idea (1) 26:25</p> <p>ideas (2) 25:8;28:9</p> <p>identified (2) 10:8;87:9</p> <p>identify (2) 10:11;45:3</p> <p>illustrate (1) 16:4</p> <p>imagine (1) 17:19</p> <p>immense (2) 18:22;20:10</p> <p>immensely (5) 19:25;30:1,13;</p>	<p>improvements (1) 25:3</p> <p>improving (1) 70:24</p> <p>Inaudible (6) 25:16;35:18;38:20;55:15;66:25;107:18</p> <p>incentives (2) 69:10,14</p> <p>inch (1) 67:1</p> <p>incidentally (1) 74:13</p> <p>inclined (1) 52:1</p> <p>include (4)</p>	<p>infrastructure (1) 75:24</p> <p>inherent (2) 74:18;87:3</p> <p>injury (1) 101:10</p> <p>ink (1) 25:1</p> <p>innovative (1) 60:14</p> <p>inordinate (1) 85:10</p> <p>input (2) 8:2;13:12</p> <p>inshore (1) 67:21</p> <p>insomnia (1)</p>	<p>intricately (1) 27:19</p> <p>introduce (1) 6:3</p> <p>intrusion (1) 58:20</p> <p>inundated (1) 62:16</p> <p>inundation (1) 58:24</p> <p>invariably (1) 54:16</p> <p>invest (1) 23:8</p> <p>invested (1) 20:25</p>	<p>Jack (1) 6:22</p> <p>Jackie (1) 91:18</p> <p>James (1) 57:8</p> <p>January (2) 48:10;104:14</p> <p>Jason (5) 5:7;94:4;95:8,9;106:5</p> <p>Jean (1) 6:23</p> <p>job (5) 12:4;63:1;64:4;92:21;95:24</p> <p>jobs (2) 12:25;19:24</p> <p>John (4) 57:8;61:16;63:8,10</p> <p>Johnny (4) 4:18;6:3;12:5;56:10</p> <p>joined (1) 51:19</p>

<p>joining (1) 62:23</p> <p>joint (1) 76:1</p> <p>jump (2) 18:12;71:21</p> <p>jurisdictional (1) 76:19</p> <p>juvenile (1) 46:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <hr/> <p>Katrina (2) 66:6;67:13</p> <p>keep (15) 12:23;13:2;51:19; 58:3;59:7;79:24,24; 80:5;84:6;89:1,2; 90:19;91:2;93:3; 95:16</p> <p>keeps (1) 53:4</p> <p>Ken (3) 78:10;81:10,13</p> <p>key (3) 35:4;45:3;80:8</p> <p>kill (1) 67:3</p> <p>killing (1) 81:1</p> <p>kilometers (1) 67:14</p> <p>kind (16) 26:21;28:4,23; 30:4;32:3,16;33:10; 39:4;45:17;56:23; 91:21;92:19;93:11; 95:19;101:23;105:10</p> <p>kinds (4) 34:15;74:21; 83:24;85:24</p> <p>king (1) 94:15</p> <p>knew (1) 99:5</p> <p>knowledge (2) 24:8;60:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <hr/> <p>Lacombe (1) 72:9</p> <p>ladies (1) 12:10</p> <p>Lafayette (1) 53:19</p> <p>Lafourche (1) 94:20</p> <p>Lag (1) 87:16</p> <p>laid (1) 12:12</p>	<p>Lake (20) 19:20;22:1;52:22; 55:17,17,23;56:2; 57:9,13;58:23;60:25; 61:3;66:14;71:22,23; 72:1,4,8,9;73:22</p> <p>lakes (1) 55:22</p> <p>Lanclos (3) 5:8;95:8,13</p> <p>land (48) 19:3,4,5;22:18; 26:3,5,11;30:24; 31:19;37:15;40:22, 23,23,24;41:14; 44:10,11,20;45:18, 19;54:16,18,20,22; 55:20;60:1;64:7; 65:6,19;67:20,20,21; 68:3,6;74:6,17;75:8, 9,13;76:20;79:25; 89:12,17,23,25; 90:21,24;93:15</p> <p>landfill (2) 76:14,24</p> <p>landmark (1) 61:10</p> <p>lands (2) 55:11;83:19</p> <p>landscape (7) 23:18;26:10;40:9; 41:2,19,22;47:13</p> <p>lapse (1) 40:11</p> <p>large (7) 44:3;79:13;83:10, 13;92:19;102:13; 104:6</p> <p>largely (1) 77:19</p> <p>largest (2) 40:6;97:20</p> <p>last (26) 4:14;11:7;17:16, 17;18:10,24;20:23; 21:10;24:1,6;34:20; 56:19;63:12,16; 73:11;78:22;85:10; 86:24;88:5;91:19; 97:9;99:4;100:7; 102:3;103:23;105:4</p> <p>lastly (2) 34:18;45:10</p> <p>lasts (1) 48:12</p> <p>late (1) 103:17</p> <p>lately (1) 70:17</p> <p>later (3) 27:3,4,7</p> <p>law (4) 7:16;16:23;23:11;</p>	<p>86:10</p> <p>lays (1) 96:3</p> <p>lead (1) 78:14</p> <p>leadership (1) 15:11</p> <p>leading (1) 46:5</p> <p>leads (1) 33:6</p> <p>leaking (1) 84:3</p> <p>lean (1) 103:1</p> <p>learn (1) 15:9</p> <p>learned (4) 24:2,3,4,5</p> <p>learnings (1) 14:23</p> <p>lease (1) 65:16</p> <p>leases (1) 103:22</p> <p>least (3) 9:2;19:11;74:14</p> <p>leave (4) 18:4;95:10,11,23</p> <p>leaves (1) 8:25</p> <p>leaving (4) 94:7,12,13;100:25</p> <p>left (5) 4:20;52:25;63:13; 69:3;107:15</p> <p>left-hand (2) 29:18;33:25</p> <p>legislative (1) 78:25</p> <p>legislator (1) 12:7</p> <p>legislators (3) 16:3;75:11;97:10</p> <p>legislature (5) 49:3,5;80:18;97:2, 8</p> <p>less (5) 10:12;36:16;68:7; 76:15,25</p> <p>lets (1) 92:23</p> <p>letter (1) 61:14</p> <p>levee (3) 73:23;100:18; 101:7</p> <p>levees (8) 21:9;28:22;30:4; 66:18;74:3,15;75:18; 84:3</p> <p>level (7) 7:20;39:5;69:15;</p>	<p>71:11;75:8,16;84:17</p> <p>levels (1) 85:25</p> <p>life (3) 8:19;53:22;92:4</p> <p>lifting (1) 85:19</p> <p>light (1) 61:9</p> <p>lighter (1) 105:20</p> <p>lighthouse (3) 61:20;62:1,6</p> <p>lightly (1) 15:19</p> <p>likely (1) 77:15</p> <p>limit (2) 5:1;51:18</p> <p>limitations (1) 31:15</p> <p>limited (2) 100:3,17</p> <p>limiting (1) 58:20</p> <p>link (1) 96:19</p> <p>links (1) 46:12</p> <p>list (5) 21:16;23:5,6;54:7; 96:13</p> <p>listed (12) 20:7;24:17;27:9; 28:24;29:18;30:17; 31:1;32:8;33:24; 43:24;46:13;77:1</p> <p>listen (6) 7:24,25;8:5,6; 10:24;84:20</p> <p>listening (1) 57:1</p> <p>lists (1) 104:16</p> <p>little (24) 6:20;7:2;10:4,11; 14:20;25:9,25;26:16, 19;29:11;31:6; 34:18;37:13,20; 38:21;40:10;42:4; 66:21;86:4,19;91:19; 94:25;95:21;102:6</p> <p>live (9) 5:21;19:12;26:6; 27:22;28:5,5;70:12; 79:22;91:16</p> <p>lived (8) 53:25;66:6,7,14; 72:2;81:15;91:16; 92:4</p> <p>lives (1) 31:8</p> <p>living (4)</p>	<p>85:9;91:23;92:6; 98:3</p> <p>Lloyd (3) 82:21;85:2,4</p> <p>lobby (1) 75:11</p> <p>local (6) 12:8;39:9;60:4,16; 84:18;91:15</p> <p>locally (1) 78:16</p> <p>locals (1) 66:22</p> <p>locks (1) 84:3</p> <p>log (1) 96:18</p> <p>logical (2) 11:3;14:19</p> <p>long (17) 16:9;45:21;52:19; 54:7;60:1;82:25; 85:7;86:18;88:20; 90:7;92:3;94:3;98:2; 101:1;102:1;105:13, 24</p> <p>longer (3) 24:6;44:24;62:18</p> <p>look (62) 8:13;11:15;12:5; 15:14;19:2,20;20:2; 24:18;25:24;26:14; 30:10;32:17,18; 37:12,14,21;38:1,21; 40:3,7,9,11,11,18,19, 20;41:2,4,18;42:13, 23;43:1,15;44:17; 46:22;47:8,23;50:14; 53:9,25;55:20;60:7; 63:3;67:5;79:11; 80:12,13;81:6,6; 89:14;90:21,24; 96:23;97:18;98:10; 99:20;101:3;103:2; 105:14,18;106:1,19</p> <p>looked (2) 35:24;90:11</p> <p>looking (9) 14:18;45:8;47:16; 55:25;62:9;64:3; 83:15;92:15;103:20</p> <p>looks (2) 64:4;89:15</p> <p>lord (1) 55:22</p> <p>loss (11) 19:4;22:18;26:4, 11;31:19;40:22; 41:22;45:18;55:20; 75:9;88:16</p> <p>losses (1) 19:3</p> <p>lost (5)</p>
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<p>18:22,25;22:1; 76:20,23 lot (47) 11:21;13:21,24; 14:7;15:23;19:2; 22:13;43:22;48:13; 49:15,16;52:24,24; 53:3;57:9;59:5; 62:18;66:13;79:21; 85:15,18,23;86:15, 16;87:2;92:12,25; 93:4,7;96:12,14; 97:16;98:14;99:18, 24;100:2,9,11,16; 101:2,2,16;102:18, 21;103:5;104:23; 105:20 Louisiana (38) 4:6,10;5:25;12:24, 24,25;13:3;17:11; 18:15,21;19:8,12,16; 20:5,14;23:4;27:14; 31:17;45:17,19; 52:20;53:25;60:9; 66:8;67:15;71:4; 72:19;78:13;81:17; 82:24;83:20;84:21; 85:16;87:3;89:6,8; 93:4;107:3 Louisiana's (1) 27:25 love (9) 53:11;79:12; 81:25;82:16,16,16; 86:1,3;106:13 loves (1) 67:23 Low (1) 67:15 lower (1) 72:12 LSU (1) 71:10 lumber (1) 65:24</p>	<p>40:23 major (2) 80:20;103:7 makes (2) 14:21;94:24 making (5) 11:23;20:13; 49:23;54:17;60:15 man (2) 53:1;65:4 manage (2) 56:1;101:15 management (2) 76:13;85:24 manager (1) 59:16 mandated (1) 18:15 Mandeville (5) 4:14;7:1;70:13; 76:17;96:24 Mandy (2) 17:25,25 mangrove (2) 65:4,5 manner (1) 45:24 man's (1) 55:23 many (22) 10:17;18:10,10; 25:2,17,19;27:22; 34:24,24;38:5;45:22; 46:2;48:14;55:9; 71:4;77:9;78:16,24; 91:11;92:1,3;102:19 map (10) 28:10;37:11;41:7; 42:16,18,22;43:3; 71:12;89:24,24 maps (7) 19:4;36:12;41:10; 43:2;44:14;79:19; 92:15 March (3) 48:12;50:19;93:24 marine (2) 56:17;86:20 Maritime (4) 61:1,3,19;87:6 Mark (3) 91:8;93:17,18 marsh (10) 37:23;52:20; 53:23;54:6;55:12,19; 56:4;64:7;65:19; 67:24 marshes (3) 21:6;54:15;57:21 massive (1) 79:2 Master (35) 4:23;6:13;8:15;</p>	<p>16:15;20:11;22:12, 25;23:7;28:6;29:6; 34:9;36:8;41:15; 43:5,17;47:10,21; 58:11;62:11;69:9,22, 25;70:20;71:16; 73:18;75:7;77:2; 79:14;96:1,1,3;97:1; 98:11;99:8;105:15 masterplan@lagov (1) 50:24 material (2) 21:4;107:17 math (1) 82:16 matter (3) 21:22;31:24;65:11 Maurepas (2) 53:11;83:14 maximizing (1) 60:6 maximum (1) 66:16 may (5) 17:14;42:4;58:14; 80:2;81:2 maybe (10) 7:23;10:5;49:19; 62:10,14;64:10;65:8, 14,16,19 Mayor (4) 6:24,25;62:19,21 McLindon (3) 69:4;70:11,12 McLindon's (1) 92:1 mean (4) 9:9;41:11;43:7; 82:12 meaningful (1) 34:13 means (9) 22:15;26:5,6;29:7; 40:15,17;41:12; 67:18;81:22 measure (4) 43:8;70:25;72:18; 73:2 measured (1) 32:7 measurement (1) 72:16 meet (2) 87:12;97:10 meeting (8) 5:16,21;7:20;8:2; 18:5;50:21;52:5; 94:24 meetings (10) 5:24;6:8;7:15,17, 22;17:16,23;34:2; 52:18;78:20 Melanie (1)</p>	<p>17:25 membership (1) 81:18 menhaden (1) 57:17 Menteur (1) 73:16 mention (2) 45:10;98:12 mentioned (21) 17:15;22:5,23; 23:25;26:18;28:8,25; 32:2;35:4,17;38:22; 39:14;43:14;44:7,14; 60:4;78:6;84:2; 88:15;103:8;104:4 merit (1) 103:25 message (3) 13:3;15:1;42:17 Metairie (1) 76:17 method (1) 107:12 methodology (1) 22:15 methods (1) 46:1 metrics (4) 32:8,10,11,17 Mexico (3) 10:1;76:16;103:10 mic (4) 8:3;10:22;93:21; 106:9 mid (3) 68:4,5,15 mid-Barataria (1) 104:7 mid-diversion (1) 104:7 middle (1) 98:2 Midwest (1) 20:17 mid-year (1) 80:24 might (25) 7:8;10:8;17:18; 22:20;24:25;28:19; 29:5;38:25;39:10; 40:9,18,19;41:2; 46:18;47:9,12;48:3; 50:4;62:13;63:21; 65:8,20;68:18,24; 80:17 miles (9) 18:25;21:8,10; 37:15;41:14;44:11; 71:20;72:5;76:15 million (26) 19:11,23;21:4; 22:6;68:16,17;79:22;</p>	<p>97:23,24;98:8,19; 100:7,8;102:23; 103:10,14,15,21; 104:5,17,20,21; 105:1,2,6,7 mind (2) 58:3;95:4 mine (1) 81:24 mineral (5) 11:24,25;100:4,5; 103:8 Minnesota (1) 89:13 minute (10) 4:22;5:3;9:14; 36:13;48:18;51:18, 20;94:15;97:7; 101:20 minutes (6) 5:1;16:9;54:3; 63:22;70:21;99:12 minutia (1) 86:4 miss (1) 93:18 mission (2) 13:1;104:1 Mississippi (13) 20:3;38:16;53:10; 57:20;78:14;88:23; 89:9,14,21;90:1,8, 12;91:2 mitigation (5) 76:22;77:11,12,16, 24 mixed (1) 77:16 model (2) 30:9;34:15 models (5) 14:24;29:15,17; 30:19;82:17 modification (1) 77:1 moment (2) 17:14;22:6 money (34) 9:25;10:1,4,6,19, 19;11:19,21;12:20, 21;13:2;14:5;16:19; 27:2,2;29:4;31:10; 54:19;65:20,25; 69:24;70:1;84:11; 85:16;86:22;87:11; 92:19,25;93:3;95:20; 99:22;100:2,13; 101:4 monies (2) 70:4,5 monitoring (3) 5:2;96:17;103:19 month (1)</p>
M				
<p>Macaluso (3) 53:17;56:6,8 mad (1) 90:16 Madisonville (5) 6:23;61:5;62:9,16; 91:17 mail (1) 51:2 main (4) 65:23;70:16;71:2; 105:3 maintain (3) 30:24;44:10;69:16 maintained (1)</p>	<p>marshes (3) 21:6;54:15;57:21 massive (1) 79:2 Master (35) 4:23;6:13;8:15;</p>	<p>measure (4) 43:8;70:25;72:18; 73:2 measured (1) 32:7 measurement (1) 72:16 meet (2) 87:12;97:10 meeting (8) 5:16,21;7:20;8:2; 18:5;50:21;52:5; 94:24 meetings (10) 5:24;6:8;7:15,17, 22;17:16,23;34:2; 52:18;78:20 Melanie (1)</p>	<p>might (25) 7:8;10:8;17:18; 22:20;24:25;28:19; 29:5;38:25;39:10; 40:9,18,19;41:2; 46:18;47:9,12;48:3; 50:4;62:13;63:21; 65:8,20;68:18,24; 80:17 miles (9) 18:25;21:8,10; 37:15;41:14;44:11; 71:20;72:5;76:15 million (26) 19:11,23;21:4; 22:6;68:16,17;79:22;</p>	<p>money (34) 9:25;10:1,4,6,19, 19;11:19,21;12:20, 21;13:2;14:5;16:19; 27:2,2;29:4;31:10; 54:19;65:20,25; 69:24;70:1;84:11; 85:16;86:22;87:11; 92:19,25;93:3;95:20; 99:22;100:2,13; 101:4 monies (2) 70:4,5 monitoring (3) 5:2;96:17;103:19 month (1)</p>

9:15 months (1) 78:20 monumental (1) 14:15 Moore's (1) 86:9 more (31) 5:24;6:11,15,15; 11:14;15:9;16:14; 19:11;26:1,17;28:22; 29:9,11;34:24;35:14, 15,15;38:16;41:8; 45:14;46:7,14;50:17; 54:2;59:9;61:13; 72:15;86:14,15;88:5; 106:14 Moses (4) 60:22;64:1,2;66:2 most (18) 13:15;21:15,16; 23:3,9;31:7,14,17; 34:9;44:5;45:9; 48:18;60:1,14;61:11; 71:3;76:11;89:17 mostly (1) 89:9 mother (1) 14:17 mouth (3) 61:7;62:4;89:19 move (12) 14:22;24:9;27:5; 30:2;34:22,22;38:7, 9,14;39:6;94:2,9 moved (2) 34:18;93:5 moves (1) 29:22 moving (5) 79:11;80:5,8; 102:19;105:8 MRGO (1) 83:4 much (26) 16:19;17:2,5,24; 20:25;22:21;28:21; 30:22,23;48:24; 52:24;56:12;59:10, 25;71:5;72:24;73:3; 74:25;78:1;79:7; 81:7;84:22;85:5; 88:2;90:24;91:6 mullet (1) 57:17 mum (1) 67:2 municipalities (1) 75:7 Museum (4) 61:1,4,19,25 must (3) 73:24;77:23;83:4	myself (2) 14:11;85:9 N name (9) 52:5,11;59:15; 63:6;66:5,12;81:13; 86:20;88:9 names (1) 107:16 nation (2) 19:17;20:9 national (9) 19:8;55:8;61:21; 82:4;83:2;84:17; 93:4;101:21;104:4 nationally (1) 78:16 native (1) 66:24 natural (7) 27:13;31:16; 54:24;59:7;67:23; 74:8,20 nature (4) 14:17;26:13; 88:18;90:5 near (4) 64:15;76:4,14; 80:16 nearly (3) 73:19;76:7;94:3 neat (1) 48:6 necessarily (1) 23:21 neck (2) 38:17;47:6 need (29) 7:1;10:11;11:15; 12:5;31:21;32:23; 33:4;37:3;39:22,24, 25;40:1,1;60:15; 64:6,9,21;67:25; 72:14,15;76:2;77:18; 84:4,16,17,18;85:18; 91:5;93:13 needed (1) 59:25 needing (1) 27:1 needs (2) 39:6;74:24 negative (1) 55:19 neighborhood (1) 47:6 NERDA (2) 97:25;104:13 new (22) 25:8,11;28:9,9; 45:19;47:1;59:17;	60:24;67:8;70:13; 71:7,10;73:8,13; 75:23;79:9,15;80:13; 89:23;90:14,17; 94:21 newly (2) 13:22;75:18 news (2) 36:25;44:18 newspaper (1) 58:10 next (30) 9:11;10:13;15:7; 16:17,20;17:1;29:5; 35:11;39:2;44:20; 54:22;56:7;59:13; 60:22;63:24;66:3; 70:10;71:14;73:5; 75:17;78:9;79:14; 81:7,11;82:21;85:2; 88:7;94:9;96:7; 98:14 NFWF (1) 101:18 NGO (2) 7:21;34:1 NGOs (1) 78:16 nice (1) 64:25 nicely (1) 64:23 Nick (5) 18:2;48:17;49:10; 50:8;56:9 night (5) 87:7,8;103:18; 105:25;106:3 nine (5) 42:6;52:18;63:22; 71:11;72:17 nineth (1) 49:2 Nobody (2) 67:22,22 no-brainer (1) 45:5 non- (2) 38:21;70:4 none (1) 58:16 non-profit (1) 94:19 non-renewable (1) 77:19 non-structural (8) 25:23;28:15,16; 39:17;69:18,21,24; 76:9 non-structurals (1) 70:1 north (4) 62:25;72:8;73:21;	89:4 Northshore (7) 4:5;21:25;70:23; 71:19,20,23;72:3 northward (1) 72:4 note (2) 43:12;100:25 notes (1) 51:6 noticed (1) 72:11 number (11) 5:6;19:10;37:24; 39:3,6;43:13,13; 47:11;48:16;56:25; 69:9 numbers (6) 20:20;33:13; 41:12;43:7;97:7; 99:11 nutrients (1) 31:23 O objectives (1) 27:8 obligated (1) 16:23 observations (1) 74:11 Obviously (4) 41:20;71:16; 96:24;98:10 occurred (2) 24:1;101:11 occurring (1) 54:8 occurs (1) 74:1 off (7) 4:3;7:21;56:16; 58:1;71:21;89:18; 92:23 office (2) 15:14;51:3 Officer (1) 107:4 offices (1) 67:10 official (1) 7:8 officials (1) 6:17 offsite (2) 77:11,24 often (1) 101:25 oil (9) 81:22;99:10,17; 101:1,6,9;102:12; 103:22;105:9	old (4) 52:17;61:9;88:24; 92:9 once (2) 64:19;106:16 one (48) 5:3,19;8:5;11:14; 12:2;26:17;27:22; 28:13;29:1;30:22; 33:4,5,10,20;36:24; 39:20,21;42:2,5; 49:10;54:12;55:22; 57:2,6,10;58:8,8; 60:3;62:12;63:12; 64:14;69:9,17;71:6; 80:6,17;81:16;86:8; 88:5;91:25;92:11; 93:10;94:15;97:24; 98:12;99:20;102:2; 105:9 one-on-one (1) 16:4 ones (2) 22:24,25 online (3) 50:24;74:13;83:15 only (18) 8:24;10:14;18:5; 45:13;50:3;54:14; 62:12;65:10;69:23; 72:11;75:4;78:17; 81:2;86:18;93:23; 96:7;102:25;103:1 open (3) 16:2;49:8;106:6 opener (2) 91:20;92:15 opening (1) 4:19 operate (1) 12:15 operates (1) 12:10 operating (1) 102:14 operation (1) 102:24 opinion (2) 16:1;81:1 opportunities (5) 33:15;34:20,25; 45:12;69:11 opportunity (5) 14:1;34:5;50:18; 85:5;93:23 optimal (1) 22:19 option (1) 50:18 options (3) 50:22,23;106:11 orange (1) 42:7
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<p>order (2) 26:21;69:16</p> <p>organization (3) 52:12;56:20;57:5</p> <p>organizations (3) 56:21;58:15;62:23</p> <p>organized (2) 18:7;30:18</p> <p>organizing (1) 17:19</p> <p>original (1) 81:16</p> <p>originally (2) 68:16;91:12</p> <p>Orleans (12) 13:18;59:17; 60:25;67:9;69:7; 70:13;71:7,10;73:9, 14;90:17;94:21</p> <p>others (7) 5:5;10:17;15:4; 18:6;40:4;83:2;87:1</p> <p>otherwise (4) 37:16;40:24; 41:15;80:5</p> <p>ours (1) 32:4</p> <p>ourselves (2) 84:19;93:7</p> <p>out (44) 7:10;8:5;10:23; 11:12;12:12;14:12; 18:4;33:14,20;36:3; 39:21;41:4;43:9; 44:9,11,24;50:20; 51:25;52:3,3;56:13; 59:3;60:7,16;61:14; 65:2;66:24;68:10; 71:14,19;72:9;73:10; 84:10;86:21;95:23; 96:3;100:12;101:4; 102:11;104:14,15, 18;105:16;107:15</p> <p>outcomes (2) 35:2;40:8</p> <p>outlined (1) 78:3</p> <p>outlines (1) 22:6</p> <p>outlook (1) 16:18</p> <p>output (1) 32:18</p> <p>outputs (1) 30:18</p> <p>outreach (5) 26:15;33:11; 51:12;70:16;78:18</p> <p>outside (3) 65:3;66:18;67:19</p> <p>outstanding (1) 92:22</p> <p>over (50)</p>	<p>4:22;10:5;12:6; 17:17;18:9,23;19:22; 20:23;21:7,10;24:1; 29:5;30:14,17;33:14, 24;34:20;35:11; 37:18;38:10,17;39:2; 42:9;43:16;45:7; 46:13,16;52:21;60:1; 62:6;65:4;66:17,23; 67:2;68:5,17,19; 72:3;85:10,17;87:7, 8;91:3;97:17,24; 99:4;100:7;102:3; 103:23;105:4</p> <p>overall (1) 35:5</p> <p>overhead (1) 81:3</p> <p>overs (1) 107:11</p> <p>overview (7) 95:20,25;96:9,21; 100:20;101:23; 105:11</p> <p>owe (1) 18:4</p> <p>own (8) 73:25;74:10;76:3, 10;77:13,25;86:18; 87:4</p> <p>owned (2) 54:14,15</p> <p>owners (2) 54:16,22</p> <p>Oxford (1) 69:7</p> <p>Oyster (2) 22:1;68:12</p> <p>oysters (1) 32:15</p>	<p>98:5</p> <p>parishes (8) 47:4;75:6;87:20, 20;98:19,25;100:15; 103:16</p> <p>park (1) 76:5</p> <p>part (23) 4:6;13:11,17;14:1; 15:12;20:11;25:15; 27:23;31:9;36:8; 37:21;38:1,7,15,24; 39:1;40:6;49:22; 55:6,25;56:14;60:17; 62:24</p> <p>particular (3) 59:24;83:13;86:1</p> <p>particularly (2) 16:3;79:8</p> <p>partner (4) 34:1;54:17; 100:15;104:22</p> <p>partners (2) 34:1;57:6</p> <p>Partnership (1) 56:18</p> <p>parts (5) 4:8;13:16;33:11; 45:23;46:2</p> <p>pass (4) 52:2;57:13;70:3; 88:6</p> <p>passed (1) 82:9</p> <p>past (1) 97:17</p> <p>Pat (1) 7:6</p> <p>Paul (1) 52:25</p> <p>pauses (1) 107:10</p> <p>pay (2) 72:9,14</p> <p>paying (1) 86:7</p> <p>pea (2) 66:22;68:9</p> <p>peas (1) 66:23</p> <p>Pelloat (3) 6:23;62:21;91:18</p> <p>pending (1) 76:1</p> <p>peninsula (2) 61:6;63:15</p> <p>people (23) 5:23,25;7:12,24; 9:3,5;13:20;19:12; 26:6,10;54:24;60:11; 61:11;63:17;64:13; 66:13;68:14;71:3; 72:2;84:20,24,93;7;</p>	<p>103:5</p> <p>per (1) 88:22</p> <p>percent (10) 8:6;42:2;55:13; 69:23,25;70:2;80:21, 24;102:7,25</p> <p>percentage (1) 102:7</p> <p>perfect (4) 25:13;33:1;49:14, 14</p> <p>perhaps (7) 33:3;34:10;45:7,7; 50:3;76:11;80:18</p> <p>perimeter (1) 61:24</p> <p>period (14) 5:7,15;11:9;37:19; 41:3;43:16;44:24; 48:12;49:9;50:12; 51:15;80:4;97:22; 105:13</p> <p>permission (1) 77:11</p> <p>permit (1) 76:1</p> <p>permits (3) 75:14,15;77:25</p> <p>permitted (2) 61:23;76:21</p> <p>person (2) 81:18;106:10</p> <p>personal (1) 17:14</p> <p>personally (1) 91:22</p> <p>perspective (2) 22:20;59:1</p> <p>Peyrout (1) 66:3</p> <p>phase (8) 96:14;97:19,23,24; 98:3;99:14,16; 102:12</p> <p>phrase (1) 107:18</p> <p>phrases (1) 107:15</p> <p>pick (1) 38:8</p> <p>picture (2) 77:3;98:1</p> <p>piece (5) 24:11;30:7,8; 32:22;33:9</p> <p>pieces (5) 29:16;32:20; 33:20;50:2;106:14</p> <p>pier (1) 61:24</p> <p>piggyback (1) 7:21</p>	<p>pine (1) 76:7</p> <p>pin (1) 64:24</p> <p>pipeline (2) 81:19;98:2</p> <p>place (26) 5:22;23:16;26:8; 27:14;28:2,4,5; 40:10,16,19;41:1,1,5, 6;42:12,14,25;43:1, 10;44:4,5;48:4; 57:25;58:7;79:15; 89:1</p> <p>plain (1) 76:12</p> <p>plains (3) 74:9,16,20</p> <p>Plan (186) 4:23;5:12,18;6:13, 21;8:9,9,10,11,16,16, 20;9:8,10;10:15; 11:1,6,7,7;14:4,12; 15:7,10;16:5,13,14, 15,18;17:20;18:17; 20:12;22:5,12,25; 23:7,10,11,21,22; 24:12,14,16,17,20; 25:2,5,10,18,19,22; 26:21;27:8;28:6,12; 29:6,21;30:22;31:4, 5,9;32:13,18,19; 33:6,7,16,17;34:9, 23;35:2,2,8,13,17,20; 36:8,13,14,22;37:2, 10,17;39:13,22;40:2, 6,8,10,16,18,19,25; 41:1,5,6,16;42:3,12, 14,20,25,25;43:5,10, 17,19,21,23;44:3,4,5, 10,13,22;47:10,21; 48:3,9,9,21,25;49:2, 14,15,17,23,25;50:5; 56:19,19,24;57:10; 58:11;60:7,8;62:12; 69:9,22,25;70:20; 71:16;73:18,20;74:1, 10,14;75:1,5,7,21; 76:10;77:2;78:4; 79:6,14,20;80:16; 83:6;84:12;85:20,22; 86:2;87:9;94:2,5,14; 95:7,17,21;96:1,1,2, 3,4,25;97:1;98:11; 99:8,8;104:13,15,18; 105:10,14,15,16</p> <p>plane (1) 67:15</p> <p>planned (1) 91:13</p> <p>planning (12) 27:5;30:19;36:10; 39:5;51:23;85:25;</p>
---	---	---	---	--

<p>90:14;91:5;99:7,14; 102:11,13 plans (4) 74:6,17;75:8; 85:23 planting (1) 64:21 Plaquemines (4) 13:17;81:14,20; 90:22 players (1) 55:9 pleasant (1) 44:15 please (12) 4:2,25;5:5;51:17; 52:10;77:5,25;93:6, 8;94:8;95:10,11 pleasure (1) 4:4 plus (1) 18:24 pm (1) 106:21 pod (1) 66:23 point (6) 5:10;29:2;33:14, 20;39:20;84:10 points (2) 35:4;97:15 Policy (4) 55:8;75:3;77:23; 78:14 politicians (1) 90:19 Pontchartrain (11) 38:20;57:10,14; 58:23;61:1,3;67:7; 71:23;72:4,8;73:22 poorer (1) 71:5 pop (1) 93:12 population (1) 62:14 port (2) 19:20,24 portion (5) 70:4;97:19;102:5, 6,13 portions (1) 81:20 position (1) 16:1 positives (1) 4:12 possible (1) 27:25 possibly (1) 63:4 posted (2) 54:23,24</p>	<p>potential (1) 28:12 poured (1) 64:16 preaching (1) 19:7 predictions (5) 19:1;36:23;44:21; 45:1,22 predictive (1) 19:15 preferentially (1) 67:16 prepare (1) 44:13 present (1) 7:23 presentation (13) 4:22;5:9;16:8; 17:1;22:5;83:8;94:3, 6,10,15;95:12,17; 102:4 presentations (1) 6:1 presented (1) 48:25 presenting (1) 48:20 preserve (4) 27:17,17,24;74:8 preserving (1) 77:17 President (3) 7:5;12:8;39:9 pretty (7) 17:18;33:21; 36:10,14;61:10;64:4; 65:2 previous (2) 41:9;77:10 previously (1) 76:21 price (1) 29:2 pride (1) 102:19 primarily (1) 25:24 primary (3) 30:20,25;32:3 prior (1) 78:20 priorities (2) 12:14;96:3 prioritize (1) 59:22 prioritizing (2) 10:16;59:23 private (3) 54:16,20,22 privately (2) 54:14,15 privilege (1)</p>	<p>17:14 Pro (1) 52:17 probably (6) 10:6,11;15:5; 16:12;23:23;103:20 probing (1) 15:22 problem (4) 31:18;55:4;65:8; 80:23 problems (3) 81:5;83:20;87:4 Procedure (1) 107:5 proceeding (2) 107:9,13 process (18) 9:16;12:19;13:12; 23:1;25:4;28:7;29:7; 32:1,25;33:16;48:8; 49:14;54:17;56:3,14; 82:13;85:25;92:21 processes (1) 27:13 procurement (1) 60:4 produce (1) 33:1 produced (1) 92:12 producing (1) 57:16 product (2) 7:3,3 production (5) 19:14,15;20:1; 58:2,19 productive (1) 57:15 program (15) 25:24;39:1,10; 81:1,4;85:24;98:17, 18,21,23;99:2,16; 101:8;104:21,25 programmatic (1) 100:14 programs (2) 71:9;100:12 progressed (1) 72:4 progression (1) 67:23 Prohibit (1) 75:21 project (34) 9:9;12:5,9;21:24; 30:21;31:22,25; 37:25;38:24;39:12, 18;46:18;47:16,17; 53:11;61:12,23; 63:14;73:17;76:10; 83:14;87:13;91:24;</p>	<p>97:5,19,20,20,21,25; 98:4,6,7,8;101:7 projected (1) 75:16 projections (1) 86:13 projects (139) 8:14,17,24,24,25; 9:1,16;10:16;12:16, 19;15:4;16:21;21:1, 2,2,3,15,15,17,23; 22:2,8,9,10,22;23:3, 6,6,7;24:3,5,7,8,20, 24,25;25:11,13,14, 17;26:22;27:2,3,3,7; 28:8,9,11,14,15,21, 24;29:1,8,13,20; 30:10,22,24;31:11, 14;32:4;34:10;35:15, 21,22;37:14,24;38:2, 3,4,4,6,9,13,22;39:7, 15,18,25;40:4,5; 43:5,22,24;47:11,13; 48:4;52:23;56:23; 57:23;58:4;60:18; 62:10,13;69:12,13, 24;70:19;71:12;74:3, 5;77:1;78:3;83:24; 87:9,16;90:3;92:20; 93:9,14;96:6,13,20; 97:13,13,18;98:20, 22;99:9;101:5,14,18; 102:10,12,16,18,19, 21;104:7,16,20,24; 105:6,7,10,11,18; 106:2 promise (1) 17:23 promoting (2) 73:21;83:1 Propeller (1) 59:17 proper (1) 107:12 properties (5) 55:3,14;62:18; 75:15,17 property (2) 61:9;63:19 proportionately (1) 68:21 proposed (6) 73:16,18,23;76:5, 10,25 protect (10) 18:18;22:11; 27:10;36:20;55:6; 61:22;62:2,4,24; 93:15 protected (2) 11:22;61:6 protection (13) 13:18;18:13;</p>	<p>28:15,21;35:21;38:3, 4;39:17,17;66:18; 74:6;93:14;101:7 protects (1) 11:19 proud (4) 17:8;60:10;102:3; 103:6 proven (1) 77:21 provide (15) 4:18;20:9;27:15; 45:11;50:16,17;51:1; 69:10,14;74:5;93:23; 94:22;100:18;106:8, 12 provided (1) 98:18 provides (4) 19:16;96:19; 99:21;104:21 providing (1) 87:24 public (55) 4:24;5:6,7,11,15, 24;6:8;7:15,19;11:8, 9,13;12:16;10; 25:11;26:15;33:7; 34:5;48:11,11,13,23; 49:8,9;50:12,12,16; 51:1,3,9,10,14,15; 52:8;54:19;55:1,2, 11;56:1,14;70:19; 71:18;78:7,18;83:18; 93:19,24;94:6;95:15; 104:19;105:16; 106:7,8,10,12,21 public/private (1) 54:13 publicly (1) 92:13 pull (2) 18:8;54:2 pulled (1) 79:1 purchased (1) 76:22 purple (1) 42:8 purpose (1) 8:2 push (2) 7:3;63:18 put (6) 56:22;66:12,17; 73:1;83:7;103:25 putting (5) 10:15;56:10; 59:21;61:14;87:14</p>
Q				
qualifications (1)				

<p>93:12 quals (1) 60:17 queue (1) 91:21 quick (7) 4:16;75:10;96:23; 97:15;98:10;99:25; 105:19 quicker (1) 64:19 quickly (5) 17:22;34:19; 73:12;95:19;102:20 quiet (1) 50:7 QUIPRA (2) 104:20;105:2 quite (4) 52:19;66:9;92:3; 102:4 quote (1) 75:10 quoted (1) 75:20 Quoting (1) 73:25</p>	<p>reads (1) 58:10 ready (4) 53:8;87:10;99:8,9 real (6) 9:4;30:20;31:15; 44:15;55:4;65:6 realistic (2) 29:4;35:16 reality (4) 9:6;31:4;82:18; 85:12 realize (1) 83:22 really (52) 6:6,10,10;8:1; 9:20;11:10,21,22; 15:19,21,25;18:9; 23:1,13;26:3;28:1; 29:19;31:18;32:5,5; 34:14;41:21;44:23; 45:12,13,16;46:10; 47:23;48:6;53:8; 56:15;60:5,15;62:23; 64:14,22;65:5;70:20; 72:25;78:18;79:2,4, 16,16;84:4;85:21,21; 87:25,25;93:13; 96:11;104:1 reason (3) 23:12;88:16;102:8 reasonable (2) 29:10;35:10 reasons (6) 19:10;23:14; 27:22;33:4,6;74:22 Rebecca (4) 81:10;82:20,23; 85:2 rebuilt (1) 61:20 receive (2) 51:5;77:11 received (1) 51:10 recent (2) 19:22;78:18 recently (1) 14:8 recognition (1) 20:22 recognize (7) 6:16;7:8;17:21; 31:3;32:22;49:13; 74:17 recognized (2) 71:25;72:7 recommend (2) 64:10;77:13 recommendations (4) 75:3;76:3;77:13; 78:1 recommended (1)</p>	<p>75:12 recommends (1) 57:11 record (2) 77:16;107:7 recovery (1) 80:10 recreational (2) 27:16;59:1 Rector (4) 85:3;88:4,8,10 recurring (2) 80:11,12 red (7) 19:4;36:11;40:13, 14,22;42:8;44:14 redirect (1) 62:5 reduce (2) 30:23;43:11 reduced (6) 37:17;42:19;43:3, 8,19;44:8 reduction (10) 21:3;22:10;24:15; 25:22;35:21;39:15; 74:2;76:9;78:3; 103:21 re-establishment (1) 59:6 refer (1) 20:19 reference (1) 107:17 referred (1) 98:4 refined (1) 39:6 reflected (1) 25:23 reflective (1) 43:18 regard (2) 71:18;73:22 regarding (1) 75:11 regards (1) 69:18 Reid (1) 7:7 reimbursed (1) 100:13 reintroduction (1) 53:10 reiterate (1) 93:2 related (1) 22:8 relates (2) 11:15;87:5 relative (2) 6:13;79:19 release (2)</p>	<p>34:23;56:19 released (1) 48:9 relocation (1) 69:16 remained (1) 67:17 remarks (1) 4:19 remember (3) 49:21;92:5;93:6 remembers (1) 66:7 remiss (1) 94:18 removed (1) 55:14 repeat (1) 73:13 reporter (2) 51:7;107:3 Reporter's (1) 107:12 represent (6) 7:13;8:17;13:15, 16;60:25;70:13 representation (1) 21:14 Representative (1) 7:6 representatives (1) 10:18 representing (3) 52:11;69:7;78:15 represents (4) 33:14;37:14,15,17 request (3) 63:22;73:13,14 requested (1) 77:9 require (3) 75:6,14,23 required (2) 7:16;23:11 research (3) 71:9,11,13 reserve (1) 55:12 reservoir (1) 55:17 resident (2) 85:8;91:15 residential (1) 76:6 resilience (1) 25:22 resolution (1) 70:3 resource (1) 77:20 resources (6) 31:16;44:6;56:1; 86:23;103:8;104:12</p>	<p>respect (5) 14:14;16:1;51:18; 86:16;95:5 respectful (1) 5:5 respectfully (1) 95:11 respecting (1) 63:23 responded (1) 25:16 response (1) 8:4 responsible (3) 10:14,17;102:17 responsibly (1) 37:6 responsive (3) 32:23;33:3,9 rest (5) 19:17;20:9,10; 78:3;95:5 restoration (21) 13:19;18:13;21:2; 22:9;24:15;28:14; 35:20,25;38:2,3; 39:20;49:1;56:4; 63:14;69:20;83:1; 92:19;97:21;98:1,6; 104:14 restore (11) 18:17,17;22:10; 26:5;36:19;38:19; 61:6,9;63:19;94:19; 104:18 restoring (3) 80:3;81:20;101:12 restrictive (1) 101:9 result (5) 26:22;32:19; 42:19;43:4;99:17 results (5) 12:17;13:2;35:2; 37:1,3 retaining (1) 74:19 retention (1) 74:21 Retreat (1) 94:19 return (1) 43:20 revenue (11) 10:2,8;11:25; 80:11,12;99:23; 103:11;104:2,22,25; 105:3 revenues (6) 12:1;99:20;100:4, 5;101:1;102:15 review (1) 104:19</p>
R				
<p>rabbits (1) 54:5 Racer (1) 94:4 RAGAS (2) 81:12;82:20 Ragus (2) 78:10;81:13 raise (3) 8:21;17:24;52:1 raising (2) 18:1;28:17 rally (1) 25:1 ramping (2) 21:22;34:19 ran (3) 66:16,20;73:10 Randy (1) 18:2 range (2) 29:11;30:14 rather (2) 27:7;34:13 rationalize (4) 8:1,20;10:25;11:4 react (2) 24:10;36:24 read (4) 67:10;103:18; 105:19,20 reading (1) 57:23</p>				

<p>revise (1) 75:13</p> <p>revised (1) 75:6</p> <p>revision (1) 75:12</p> <p>reviving (1) 77:17</p> <p>ridge (4) 21:3;38:3;67:3; 71:22</p> <p>ridges (1) 21:6</p> <p>ridiculous (1) 90:19</p> <p>right (26) 4:20;16:6,10;17:2; 18:12;21:25;22:17, 24,25;25:12;26:8; 30:17;31:4,7,45;6; 50:10;58:4,22,24; 72:17;80:20;88:24; 90:23;91:17,20;95:1</p> <p>right-hand (3) 32:9;40:12;46:13</p> <p>Rigolets (2) 57:13;73:17</p> <p>ring (1) 73:23</p> <p>rise (2) 75:8;79:19</p> <p>risk (14) 21:3;22:10;24:15; 25:21;30:9,15;35:21; 39:15;43:8;48:2; 74:2;75:9;76:9;78:2</p> <p>risks (3) 30:12,23;44:8</p> <p>Rita (1) 67:13</p> <p>River (29) 20:3;38:10,16; 53:10;61:7,8,17; 62:1,3,5,7,17;78:15; 81:18;82:16;88:23, 24;89:2,9,15,20,21, 22;90:1,8,13,20; 91:2,5</p> <p>Road (3) 72:9;94:16;96:5</p> <p>robust (2) 45:7;67:17</p> <p>Rockefeller (2) 55:13,21</p> <p>role (1) 74:19</p> <p>roll (1) 53:8</p> <p>room (4) 92:6;94:9;95:10, 11</p> <p>Roosevelt (1) 56:18</p>	<p>root (2) 31:19;67:1</p> <p>Rosa (3) 69:3,6;70:9</p> <p>Rouge (3) 89:4;90:18,18</p> <p>rough (1) 39:4</p> <p>roughly (6) 21:10;29:10; 35:22;38:24;43:18, 23</p> <p>rubber (1) 96:5</p> <p>Rule (1) 107:4</p> <p>Rules (1) 107:5</p> <p>run (3) 4:16;18:7;95:18</p> <p>running (1) 87:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>Sabine (1) 55:16</p> <p>salinity (3) 29:22;67:15,17</p> <p>salt (4) 53:12;58:19,25; 59:8</p> <p>saltwater (3) 32:16;58:20;59:6</p> <p>Salvant (1) 52:25</p> <p>same (3) 38:5;42:23;107:11</p> <p>sand (2) 53:3;71:21</p> <p>sandwich (1) 94:16</p> <p>sandwiches (1) 106:15</p> <p>sat (1) 37:12</p> <p>savant (1) 86:21</p> <p>save (4) 19:9;20:18;80:17; 81:16</p> <p>saved (1) 4:13</p> <p>saying (2) 12:14;65:7</p> <p>scale (4) 42:3;69:13;73:14; 79:13</p> <p>scenarios (2) 30:15;36:6</p> <p>schematic (1) 28:7</p> <p>schemes (1)</p>	<p>80:15</p> <p>SCHOEFFLER (1) 53:18</p> <p>Schoeffler (2) 52:14;53:19</p> <p>school (1) 86:8</p> <p>science (8) 14:9;15:25;24:11, 18;32:21;70:18; 82:16;92:11</p> <p>science-based (1) 14:19</p> <p>Sciences (2) 67:6;70:18</p> <p>scientific (1) 32:24</p> <p>scientist (1) 67:4</p> <p>scientists (1) 60:9</p> <p>screen (3) 33:25;46:14;106:6</p> <p>sea (4) 75:8,16;79:19; 85:12</p> <p>SeaApp (1) 98:17</p> <p>Sean (4) 52:9,9,10,16</p> <p>season (1) 67:12</p> <p>seat (1) 4:2</p> <p>second (6) 23:13;30:7;63:21; 69:13;89:7,93:1</p> <p>Secondly (1) 79:5</p> <p>seconds (1) 63:12</p> <p>secured (1) 20:25</p> <p>Security (2) 10:1;103:11</p> <p>sediment (14) 29:25;30:1,2; 31:16,17,20;38:12; 40:5;68:3;79:13; 83:12;89:6,8;98:2</p> <p>seeing (3) 53:9;83:15;92:9</p> <p>seems (3) 54:25;62:12;79:10</p> <p>seismic (1) 71:12</p> <p>seldom (1) 66:20</p> <p>select (4) 22:23;23:2;31:13; 32:4</p> <p>selected (5) 8:24;30:21;35:7,8;</p>	<p>38:23</p> <p>selecting (1) 22:25</p> <p>selection (2) 12:18;32:1</p> <p>self (1) 77:22</p> <p>self- (1) 85:18</p> <p>sells (1) 65:22</p> <p>Senate (1) 97:5</p> <p>Senator (11) 6:17,18,22;11:13; 13:7,8,9,12;15:18; 17:6;88:18</p> <p>senators (1) 10:18</p> <p>send (1) 93:17</p> <p>sending (1) 50:23</p> <p>senior (1) 59:16</p> <p>sense (8) 8:21;11:3;12:15; 13:1;23:2;26:25; 39:23;74:5</p> <p>sensitive (1) 75:22</p> <p>serious (1) 92:18</p> <p>seriously (1) 76:3</p> <p>serve (3) 13:24;14:2;34:6</p> <p>service (2) 19:16;20:9</p> <p>session (1) 81:7</p> <p>set (1) 65:17</p> <p>setting (1) 34:3</p> <p>settlement (2) 26:23;99:5</p> <p>settlements (1) 56:24</p> <p>seven (5) 10:4;42:6;66:8; 71:20;72:5</p> <p>seventh (1) 90:22</p> <p>seventies (1) 80:4</p> <p>seventy-fifth (1) 70:15</p> <p>several (13) 18:10;56:20;75:2; 76:1;78:15,19;93:1; 97:10;99:5;100:7; 102:3;103:23;105:4</p>	<p>shades (1) 66:24</p> <p>shake (1) 46:15</p> <p>share (1) 16:23</p> <p>Sharon (1) 6:18</p> <p>sheet (1) 47:3</p> <p>sheets (4) 46:25;47:7,15; 88:5</p> <p>shelf (2) 89:5,18</p> <p>Shell (2) 22:1;97:24</p> <p>Sherwood (1) 91:12</p> <p>shift (1) 95:6</p> <p>shifted (1) 102:12</p> <p>shore (3) 62:25;72:8;73:22</p> <p>shoreline (4) 38:4;91:24;93:14; 98:4</p> <p>shorelines (1) 21:11</p> <p>short (1) 10:3</p> <p>show (4) 16:19;42:16; 89:24;99:12</p> <p>showing (3) 10:15;41:7,8</p> <p>shows (3) 17:9;28:11;47:10</p> <p>shrimp (4) 32:15;46:19; 57:17;68:12</p> <p>shrimpers (1) 55:10</p> <p>Shrimping (1) 54:8</p> <p>side (13) 29:18;30:17;32:9; 33:25;39:19;46:13; 47:10;53:3;62:11,14; 72:12,13;98:23</p> <p>Sierra (4) 53:20;73:9,13; 82:5</p> <p>signal (1) 79:7</p> <p>signed (1) 99:6</p> <p>significance (1) 18:22</p> <p>significant (5) 44:19;61:10; 63:15;74:19;100:21</p>
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<p>signs (3) 54:23;55:1,4</p> <p>silt (2) 64:16,18</p> <p>similar (5) 22:9;45:24;74:15; 77:10;105:14</p> <p>simple (1) 68:7</p> <p>simpler (1) 47:15</p> <p>simply (1) 29:4</p> <p>single (2) 18:14;40:5</p> <p>sink (1) 54:3</p> <p>sinking (3) 45:20;53:4;83:17</p> <p>sister (1) 91:18</p> <p>sit (4) 4:10;5:16;34:6; 94:1</p> <p>site (1) 71:25</p> <p>sitting (2) 5:2;65:9</p> <p>situation (3) 26:4,4;54:12</p> <p>six (4) 10:7,9;42:6; 104:16</p> <p>sixteen (1) 89:3</p> <p>sixth (1) 93:25</p> <p>sixties (1) 80:4</p> <p>sixty (1) 21:10</p> <p>slide (9) 29:19;30:18;31:2; 32:9;39:19;40:12,14; 51:17;101:25</p> <p>Slidell (1) 73:24</p> <p>slides (1) 95:18</p> <p>slight (1) 103:20</p> <p>slow (1) 65:1</p> <p>slowing (1) 21:21</p> <p>small (7) 59:17;60:16; 69:10,12;92:6;93:2,6</p> <p>smaller (4) 83:25;93:9,14; 98:7</p> <p>smart (1) 90:11</p>	<p>smarter (1) 14:24</p> <p>smoothly (1) 18:7</p> <p>smothers (1) 68:10</p> <p>snacks (1) 94:22</p> <p>society (3) 70:14,14;71:7</p> <p>solution (1) 22:19</p> <p>solve (1) 22:18</p> <p>solving (1) 87:4</p> <p>sometimes (1) 33:2</p> <p>somewhere (1) 89:13</p> <p>sorry (1) 72:17</p> <p>sort (10) 21:18;28:7;30:9; 32:21,25;36:1,3; 44:23;45:5,15</p> <p>Sound (3) 57:20,20;100:9</p> <p>source (2) 46:11;105:3</p> <p>sources (6) 80:13;99:23; 100:2;101:2;103:7; 104:3</p> <p>south (2) 72:18;81:14</p> <p>space (1) 59:19</p> <p>span (1) 8:19</p> <p>speak (7) 4:17;19:19;21:13; 33:15;48:15;51:23; 88:14</p> <p>speakers (2) 86:25;93:1</p> <p>speaking (2) 34:4;94:17</p> <p>spear (1) 45:16</p> <p>species (1) 30:5</p> <p>specific (4) 52:12;69:8;80:3; 101:10</p> <p>specifically (5) 66:21;75:5,14; 102:17;104:10</p> <p>Speed (1) 94:4</p> <p>spend (6) 16:16;54:19; 56:12;92:18,24;</p>	<p>95:20</p> <p>spending (3) 16:20;37:6;85:9</p> <p>spent (5) 14:7;53:23;69:20; 70:6;86:16</p> <p>SPEYRER (22) 4:1;50:9;53:15; 56:5;59:11;60:20; 63:5,9,20;66:1;69:1; 70:8;73:4;77:4;78:5; 81:9;82:19;85:1; 88:3;91:7;93:16; 106:4</p> <p>spill (9) 9:25;12:21;99:10, 17;101:1,6,9;102:12; 105:9</p> <p>splash (1) 65:6</p> <p>split (3) 35:19,24;36:4</p> <p>sponsoring (1) 71:9</p> <p>spontaneous (1) 107:9</p> <p>sport (2) 56:20;58:15</p> <p>sportsmen (1) 84:24</p> <p>spot (1) 36:4</p> <p>spots (2) 41:7;65:19</p> <p>sprout (1) 29:25</p> <p>square (7) 18:25;37:15; 41:14;44:11;55:21, 22;67:14</p> <p>St (14) 7:6;13:15,17;47:3; 57:7,8,8;62:25;64:2; 76:8;85:7,8;91:23; 98:5</p> <p>stack (1) 51:24</p> <p>Staff (2) 52:17;56:11</p> <p>stake (1) 68:11</p> <p>stakeholder (1) 68:11</p> <p>stand (4) 17:25;91:11,14; 92:14</p> <p>standing (1) 18:1</p> <p>start (11) 16:8;28:10;37:22; 38:11;50:12;52:9; 53:9;64:21;77:18; 90:13;91:5</p>	<p>started (5) 4:3;49:11;52:8; 94:14;95:2</p> <p>starting (2) 38:8;99:14</p> <p>starts (1) 28:8</p> <p>state (33) 4:9,13;12:1;18:14; 23:8;26:20,24;29:5; 35:11;37:22;38:15; 45:4;52:10;54:14; 60:11;63:6;75:5,11; 80:11;84:18,23; 87:22;93:8,10;98:19, 24;100:4,6;103:4,8, 14;107:3,6</p> <p>stated (1) 7:14</p> <p>statement (1) 73:15</p> <p>stations (5) 72:18,20,21,23,25</p> <p>stats (3) 20:6,23;47:8</p> <p>statute (1) 75:6</p> <p>stay (4) 13:4;16:24;93:13; 103:17</p> <p>stayed (1) 66:9</p> <p>staying (1) 105:24</p> <p>stays (1) 12:1</p> <p>step (3) 10:22;91:20;93:20</p> <p>Stephen (3) 59:13;60:21,24</p> <p>Stern (6) 70:10;73:7,8;77:5, 7;78:6</p> <p>stick (2) 16:12;46:16</p> <p>sticking (2) 94:11;95:3</p> <p>still (9) 52:24;68:19; 82:10;92:5;94:18; 102:7,13;103:24; 106:14</p> <p>stop (2) 6:2;79:25</p> <p>stopped (1) 88:22</p> <p>stopping (2) 21:20;80:20</p> <p>storm (9) 18:18;27:12;30:8, 10;66:11;67:12,19; 77:21;91:19</p> <p>storms (1) 18:20</p>	<p>straight (1) 8:14</p> <p>strategic (1) 85:23</p> <p>stream (3) 99:1;103:24;104:2</p> <p>streams (5) 10:7;98:15; 100:24;101:13,16</p> <p>street (1) 91:18</p> <p>strength (1) 66:17</p> <p>strengthen (1) 75:4</p> <p>strengths (1) 87:3</p> <p>stretch (1) 24:4</p> <p>stricken (1) 75:18</p> <p>strong (3) 11:2;79:6,10</p> <p>stronger (1) 79:10</p> <p>structural (8) 28:20;38:2,22; 39:16;69:20;70:5; 74:2;78:2</p> <p>structure (1) 89:1</p> <p>structures (3) 38:25;39:4;74:15</p> <p>Studies (1) 67:8</p> <p>study (1) 67:5</p> <p>studying (2) 88:10;90:7</p> <p>stuff (4) 15:24;59:22;64:3, 9</p> <p>subject (2) 55:7;56:2</p> <p>submerged (1) 58:21</p> <p>submit (6) 50:25;59:9;63:2; 78:7;89:24;93:11</p> <p>submitted (2) 8:15;49:3</p> <p>submitting (2) 57:4;97:6</p> <p>subset (1) 16:15</p> <p>subsidence (9) 70:25;71:2;72:5,6, 16,18,23;73:2;75:9</p> <p>subsiding (1) 72:13</p> <p>success (2) 78:19;84:23</p>
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<p>suffer (1) 46:24</p> <p>sugar (1) 94:25</p> <p>suite (1) 29:14</p> <p>summarize (1) 51:13</p> <p>summary (1) 99:19</p> <p>super (1) 55:19</p> <p>support (4) 59:17;60:2;84:14; 94:23</p> <p>supportive (1) 7:11</p> <p>supports (2) 11:18,19</p> <p>sure (18) 11:23;12:6,9,15; 16:11;27:24;37:5; 57:24;58:6;59:2; 60:15;62:15;69:18; 79:20;80:15;88:25; 92:23;97:11</p> <p>surge (3) 30:8;67:12,19</p> <p>surges (3) 18:19;27:12;30:11</p> <p>surprised (1) 71:3</p> <p>surrounded (1) 85:12</p> <p>sustainable (1) 45:14</p> <p>Swamp (3) 53:11;67:24;83:14</p> <p>sweeps (3) 80:20,21,25</p> <p>sweet (1) 36:4</p> <p>sworn (1) 107:6</p> <p>synthesize (1) 51:13</p> <p>system (1) 37:9</p> <p>systems (3) 88:11,11,20</p>	<p>talk (11) 6:20;12:7;35:3; 37:1;43:6;56:22; 65:14;84:13;101:19; 102:1;107:11</p> <p>talked (2) 12:23;68:16</p> <p>talking (9) 6:2;10:10;28:17; 64:22;65:3,21;76:17; 83:1;84:18</p> <p>tall (1) 67:2</p> <p>Tammany (8) 7:6;13:16;47:3; 57:7;62:25;76:9; 85:7,8</p> <p>Tangipahoa (1) 57:8</p> <p>target (1) 8:23</p> <p>tarpon (1) 54:5</p> <p>task (6) 14:15;18:9;53:24; 54:10;56:12;59:21</p> <p>tasked (1) 72:21</p> <p>Tchefuncte (4) 61:4,7,17;62:3</p> <p>teachers (1) 92:11</p> <p>team (2) 17:21;78:23</p> <p>technical (5) 14:9;15:23;32:21, 25;60:17</p> <p>techniques (1) 23:18</p> <p>technology (2) 24:10,19</p> <p>telling (1) 68:24</p> <p>ten (1) 42:7</p> <p>tend (2) 44:16,22</p> <p>term (1) 85:8</p> <p>terms (37) 19:14,25;22:7; 24:7,23;26:20;27:1, 8;28:6,22;29:4;31:6, 16;35:18,19;36:2,6, 19;37:1;39:12;40:8; 41:11,23;44:1;45:17; 46:7,25;47:8;48:8, 20;50:5;55:19;81:1; 86:14;96:21,23; 103:7</p> <p>Terrebonne (1) 12:6</p> <p>testimony (2)</p>	<p>7:10;107:6</p> <p>thankful (1) 105:23</p> <p>thanks (6) 18:10;59:5,19; 93:17;95:14;105:23</p> <p>Theodore (1) 56:17</p> <p>thinking (4) 51:7;65:14,23; 77:18</p> <p>third (3) 23:13;48:10;69:17</p> <p>thirteen (2) 42:8;52:17</p> <p>thirty (7) 40:21;41:3;65:1; 76:15;92:8;100:21; 103:9</p> <p>thirty-five (2) 28:13;88:12</p> <p>thirty-nine (1) 55:12</p> <p>thirty-six (1) 103:15</p> <p>thirty-two (1) 38:23</p> <p>though (1) 80:2</p> <p>thought (5) 14:12;57:24; 63:21;91:14;107:11</p> <p>thoughts (2) 10:23;13:15</p> <p>thousand (3) 71:24;72:3;81:17</p> <p>threatened (1) 83:18</p> <p>three (9) 5:1;7:17;16:17; 42:5;51:18;69:8; 70:21;96:8;98:3</p> <p>thumbs (1) 74:23</p> <p>tidal (6) 55:14;56:2;57:25; 58:1,6;84:5</p> <p>tight (1) 94:1</p> <p>timber (1) 65:22</p> <p>tip (1) 45:16</p> <p>tireless (1) 78:22</p> <p>today (11) 9:24;21:1,19;22:3; 23:21;48:2;69:8; 80:9,18;92:14;93:23</p> <p>together (7) 10:15;18:8;56:10, 22;59:21;65:6;79:1</p> <p>told (2)</p>	<p>12:3;68:25</p> <p>tonight (36) 4:15;5:6;6:6,10, 17;8:7;10:22;13:11; 15:3;17:7;25:7;33:5, 8;46:9;47:22;48:14, 15;50:13,16;51:6,9, 16,23;60:25;63:23; 88:1;91:13,25;93:19; 94:23;95:23;96:25; 98:11;102:2;105:23; 106:19</p> <p>tonight's (1) 5:23</p> <p>took (1) 12:3</p> <p>tool (6) 20:12;30:19; 38:18;47:24,24;48:6</p> <p>tools (1) 24:23</p> <p>top (7) 14:6;29:18,18; 31:1;40:12;66:23; 67:2</p> <p>total (2) 103:14;104:17</p> <p>totally (2) 55:14,17</p> <p>touch (2) 43:25;88:17</p> <p>touched (3) 25:9;31:6;36:6</p> <p>tough (3) 15:1,22;54:12</p> <p>tourists (1) 61:25</p> <p>toward (5) 38:15;49:24; 101:13;102:13,15</p> <p>town (2) 62:8,15</p> <p>trace (1) 72:10</p> <p>track (2) 68:18,18</p> <p>traditional (3) 32:13,14;46:19</p> <p>transcript (1) 107:15</p> <p>transcription (1) 107:13</p> <p>transfer (1) 101:5</p> <p>translate (1) 30:12</p> <p>translates (1) 41:22</p> <p>Transportation (2) 14:2;19:15</p> <p>traveled (1) 4:12</p> <p>trawl (1)</p>	<p>54:2</p> <p>treasure (2) 19:8;61:21</p> <p>tree (1) 65:2</p> <p>trees (8) 63:17;64:10,21,25; 65:21,24;67:25;68:1</p> <p>tremendous (19) 18:23;19:16; 20:21;24:2;26:25; 46:11;57:14;58:18; 59:4;95:24;97:9; 98:8;99:15;101:3; 102:9;103:25;104:8, 12,24</p> <p>tremendously (1) 99:4</p> <p>trespass (2) 55:1,3</p> <p>Triche (3) 81:11;82:22,23</p> <p>Tricia (2) 107:2,23</p> <p>tropical (3) 18:19;27:12;66:11</p> <p>trucking (1) 79:24</p> <p>true (2) 45:1,22</p> <p>try (6) 12:23;16:4;23:1; 27:6;62:24;95:16</p> <p>trying (11) 7:2,12;11:18;16:2; 70:17;71:8;72:22,24; 81:5;91:2;99:7</p> <p>Tulane (1) 71:10</p> <p>tune (2) 44:8,11</p> <p>turbine (3) 65:15,16,24</p> <p>turbines (1) 65:18</p> <p>turn (3) 50:11;62:7;88:24</p> <p>turned (2) 79:12;86:21</p> <p>Turner (4) 52:9,13,15,16</p> <p>turning (2) 21:19;22:2</p> <p>turnout (1) 6:9</p> <p>turns (1) 36:3</p> <p>twelve (10) 42:7;66:12,25; 67:2;69:23;72:17,23, 25;76:25;91:17</p> <p>twenty (7) 10:12;28:20;</p>
T				
<p>table (7) 34:7;55:10;90:4; 99:20,20;100:25; 101:24</p> <p>tables (1) 99:19</p> <p>tactics (1) 86:5</p> <p>tag (1) 29:2</p>				

69:20,25;70:2;82:15; 92:8 twenty- (4) 41:24;48:10;49:3; 93:24 twenty-five (6) 4:22;16:9;39:14; 41:25;42:10,10 Twenty-nine (1) 76:18 twenty-ninth (1) 66:10 twenty-one (1) 86:10 twenty-six (1) 82:8 twenty-sixth (2) 48:12;50:19 two (24) 4:8;19:11;25:11, 15;30:20;32:2;34:21, 21;42:15;59:3; 62:22;67:9;71:24; 72:3,20;78:20,22; 79:22;89:10;91:24; 96:7;97:19,23;99:20 type (3) 39:12;47:25; 105:17 types (5) 37:25;38:5;39:18; 101:14,17 typical (1) 34:3	Unlimited (1) 100:16 unwise (2) 74:16;76:11 up (67) 4:7,17;5:2,4,9; 6:20;7:19;8:3,14; 10:22;11:12,13;13:7; 16:7;17:25;18:1; 21:22;27:5;34:4,19; 38:8;41:7,9;47:17; 49:9,10;51:21,22; 52:4,23;53:1,5;56:7; 57:3;58:8;59:12; 60:21;61:25;62:16; 64:7,17,19;65:7,18; 66:3;67:20,22;73:5; 74:23;77:6;78:9; 84:9;86:24;87:21; 88:7,13;89:12;91:11, 14,20;93:20;94:5; 101:1;103:17;106:5, 6,9 update (2) 36:22;83:9 updating (1) 24:12 upper (1) 68:21 uptake (1) 99:15 uptick (1) 102:10 urgency (4) 12:16;13:2;27:1; 39:23 use (8) 20:13;24:23;74:6, 17;75:8,14,15;77:25 used (10) 24:19,20;25:4; 49:7;62:6,7;63:17; 81:2;105:3;107:10 useful (1) 48:7 using (2) 71:12;72:23 utilize (1) 84:7	52:21;82:15 venue (1) 85:7 venues (1) 48:16 verified (1) 107:17 versus (1) 40:4 vicinity (1) 76:24 victory (1) 87:14 view (3) 5:25;83:25;96:16 viewer (3) 47:21,25;96:16 Villere (1) 6:25 vine (2) 66:22;68:9 vines (1) 66:21 virtual (1) 82:18 vision (1) 86:22 visit (1) 28:2 visited (1) 4:8 vital (3) 47:8;55:6;62:13 void (1) 62:13 voluntary (1) 28:19 vote (1) 49:5	76:13,14,24 watched (1) 54:4 water (26) 19:14;29:21,23,24; 31:23;53:12;58:18, 19,25,25;59:8,16,18; 64:16,18,21;65:9; 66:9,13,18;67:18; 68:8;76:19;82:6; 83:13;91:20 waters (4) 54:23,25;55:18; 62:16 wave (2) 30:11;67:12 waves (1) 30:8 way (17) 10:3;24:6;29:14; 34:13;36:24;43:7; 50:19;52:21;55:24; 65:20,20,25;80:17; 82:11;87:7;89:4; 94:9 ways (4) 57:10;60:14;80:6; 84:14 wealth (1) 96:20 weather (4) 72:19,20,24,25 website (8) 46:11,22;47:19,20; 48:19;50:21,25; 96:18 weeds (1) 29:16 week (3) 14:8;23:16,16 weekends (1) 28:2 weeks (3) 4:8;17:17;97:10 weighted (1) 51:4 weirs (1) 57:12 welcome (2) 79:6;106:16 well- (1) 18:6 weren't (1) 34:2 West (4) 22:1;37:22;62:10; 97:25 western (2) 37:21;62:24 wetland (1) 87:6 wetlands (17) 18:23;20:18;21:8;	27:20;67:14,16,17; 68:21;75:21;76:8,19, 23;77:14,18,19,23; 88:16 whack-o (1) 92:14 what's (5) 12:12;29:22;47:5; 74:25;105:17 whereas (1) 69:25 white (5) 10:23;11:12; 55:17;56:1;57:17 whole (8) 19:2;56:3;67:3; 83:16;87:19;92:4; 97:22;104:9 whomever (1) 12:8 who's (2) 60:9;77:20 whose (1) 85:17 wildlife (10) 30:5;44:2;55:11; 77:20;82:4,24;83:3; 84:22;101:21;104:4 willing (1) 16:24 wind (3) 65:15,18,24 winds (1) 65:16 wise (1) 75:3 wisely (2) 36:17;37:6 within (4) 35:17,20;47:13; 67:14 wiwith (15) 37:16;39:8;40:15, 16,21;41:5,15;42:3, 12,24;44:5;47:9; 48:3;86:22;100:25 wonderful (2) 60:12;86:6 woods (3) 38:17;47:7;67:23 words (5) 6:19;13:7;75:2; 107:14,16 work (29) 8:18;13:22;14:2,9, 10,14;15:6;16:3; 20:21;24:1;26:8; 28:5;52:24;53:9; 58:9,13,14;78:22; 79:16;81:8;83:6; 91:22;96:1;97:9,16; 99:13;103:2;104:8; 106:1
U				
UL (1) 71:10 ultimately (3) 14:3;48:23;71:15 unable (1) 50:15 unattended (1) 68:8 unchanged (1) 67:18 under (3) 21:12,24;62:11 understands (1) 15:23 undertake (1) 18:8 undertaking (1) 55:6 Unfortunately (1) 5:13 unintentionally (1) 74:3 unique (1) 33:21 University (3) 67:6,8;71:9	V validity (1) 74:25 value (2) 20:4;77:20 Vanishing (1) 52:16 various (1) 81:21 vegetation (3) 29:23;44:2;58:21 Venice (2)	W		
		wade (1) 29:8 wait (3) 68:1,2;81:25 walk (2) 95:9;106:9 walking (1) 95:4 walls (1) 28:23 wants (13) 6:19;12:2,18,19; 20:17;53:5;89:21,22; 90:9,13,21;91:4;95:3 War (1) 61:20 washed (1) 68:7 Washington (2) 20:15;85:11 waste (3)		

<p>worked (2) 60:12;86:18</p> <p>working (13) 7:4;13:4;16:21; 28:1;54:11;56:20; 79:11;86:17;89:23; 91:23;92:2;104:10; 106:19</p> <p>workshops (1) 56:22</p> <p>world (5) 20:10;27:23; 31:10,20;58:15</p> <p>worst (1) 36:13</p> <p>worth (8) 8:18;20:5;22:6,22; 53:2;104:20,22; 105:7</p> <p>wrap (3) 4:7;51:21;77:6</p> <p>writing (3) 59:10;63:2;78:8</p> <p>written (4) 51:2;57:4;85:22; 87:24</p> <p>wrong (5) 36:23;55:23;77:3; 90:4,5</p>	<p>100:7;102:3;103:23; 105:4</p> <p>year's (1) 65:1</p> <p>yellow (1) 66:22</p> <p>yellow (1) 42:6</p> <p>yesterday (1) 53:23</p> <p>young (1) 91:21</p>			
	Z			
<p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <p>y'all (3) 15:15;68:25;92:16</p> <p>yard (1) 53:13</p> <p>yards (1) 21:4</p> <p>year (47) 5:10;7:18;9:8,8,10, 13,15;13:23;16:17, 18,20;23:17,17;37:2, 18;40:20;41:2,4,5,5, 25,25;42:1,3,10,11, 24;43:9,13,16;44:9; 58:24;70:15,15;79:9; 87:10;90:9;95:7; 96:7,9,9;97:17; 98:14;101:25; 102:15;103:12,13</p> <p>years (48) 8:18;9:12;10:13; 15:8;18:10,24;19:22; 23:22;24:12;29:6; 34:21;35:11;36:22; 39:2;41:13,17;42:10, 25;44:12,20;52:17; 53:6;63:16;68:2,19; 71:14,24;72:3;75:17; 78:22;82:1,9,15; 85:11;86:10;88:12, 21;90:10,11;91:17; 92:8,9;96:8;99:5;</p>	<p>Zach (3) 5:1;18:2;51:18</p> <p>zone (2) 53:22;54:13</p>			