

# COAST BUILDERS COALITION

June 3, 2008

Mr. Garret Graves  
Chairman, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority  
1051 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 138  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Re: Comments on the expenditure of the state surplus funding for coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects

Dear Chairman Graves,

On behalf of the Coast Builders Coalition, a newly formed coalition of engineering and construction companies performing coastal restoration and hurricane protection work in Louisiana, I would like to provide you the following comments to be considered in the development of a list of coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects to be funded by \$300 million in surplus funds appropriated in the Second Special Legislative Session of 2008.

Recognizing that the dedication of \$300 million in surplus funds represents a tremendous commitment by Governor Jindal and the Louisiana Legislature to support a sustainable coast, the Coast Builders Coalition urges that the expenditure of these funds be similarly exceptional. The Coast Builders Coalition believes it is important that Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast be used as the principal tool for prioritizing project funding. In accordance with the Master Plan, the Coast Builders Coalition believes that an appropriate mix of coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects should be selected for funding. Only through this type of an approach will we truly meet our goal of a sustainable coast.

The Coast Builders Coalition urges that industry's capacity to perform work on particular projects should be considered. By choosing to fund a mix of projects that require a broad range of industry services spread out over a number of months, the state's program can avoid the costs and inconveniences of overloading a particular industry sector over a short time span.

Understanding that a similar state funding commitment next year is reliant upon the successful disbursement of this year's surplus funding, the industry looks forward to working with the state to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of those projects chosen by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. Thank you for your consideration of these comments,

Sincerely,



Scott Kirkpatrick  
Executive Director, Coast Builders Coalition