RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Eligible Applicant Name:	Jefferson Parish

Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:

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B. PROVIDE A BRIEF NARRATIVE THAT DEMONSTRATES:

1. The need, purpose, and objectives for each activity, including a detailed description of each activity.

The coastline of the modern Mississippi River delta plain is bordered by numerous barrier islands related to several historic major deltaic headlands. Numerous hurricanes and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill have demonstrated the advantage of robust barrier islands in terms of shoreline resilience and hurricane damage reduction. These barrier islands provide a critical first line of defense in the system that has protected its inland population from wind and wave action as well as storm surges generated by tropical storms and hurricanes. In addition, barrier shorelines are unique habitats that represent the foundation for complex and productive coastal ecosystems.

As Louisiana's only inhabited Barrier Island, Grand Isle provides a significant and potentially sustainable buffer against hurricanes, as well as a unique wildlife habitat for many species of marine life and birds. The island plays a major role in the state's seafood, tourism and oil and gas industries. Anglers from near and far flock to this island thanks to the more than 280 species of fish in the surrounding waters. The island is rich in history and nature and is a favorite of bird watchers. It is home to thousands of brown pelicans, shorebirds, and waders on the beaches and in the marshes, and the island has long been recognized as one of the most important stopover sites for neotropical migratory birds flying across the Gulf of Mexico on their annual migration to and from North America.

The restoration of Louisiana's barrier islands has been a priority for a number of programs over the past several decades. Since the 1960s, a variety of federal, state, and local agencies have funded efforts to restore and preserve Grand Isle. Segmented breakwaters were first placed on the gulf side to protect the beach against surf. Later, breakwaters were constructed on the back bay side to prevent erosion from the north a; however, funding constraints allowed only partial completion of the breakwaters needed to protect the island.

Segmented near-shore rock breakwaters are needed for beach erosion control and to protect the natural resources and infrastructure of Grand Isle from wave action on both the Gulf and bay side. The shore-parallel breakwaters on the Gulf side of the island provide protection by attenuating wave action and by promoting the deposition of drifting sediment in the lee of the structures, resulting in the development of a beach salient. Breakwaters on the bay side protect infrastructure and wetlands from wave action.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of all meaningful input from the public.

A public notice will be published on the following dates in the Times-Picayune newspaper, the official journal of record for Jefferson Parish government, informing the public of the availability to review and comment on the Jefferson Parish Multiyear Plan. The advertisement will notify the public that the Multiyear Plan is available for review and comment at the Jefferson Parish Department of Affairs' office and on the Jefferson Parish website. The Multiyear Plan will be available for public review and comment for for 45 days from the initial date of publication. Public comments will be accepted and considered for 45 days, leading to the final plan being adopted by the Jefferson Parish Council.
Dates of Public Notice:
8/24/2016
8/31/2016
9/7/2016
Public Comment Period: 8/24/2016 - 10/10/2016

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix is eligible for funding and meets all requirements under the RESTORE Act.

In this Multi-Year Implementation plan, the Grand Isle Breakwaters activity that is being submitted is located within Jefferson Parish; a Coastal Zone Parish, listed as an entity eligible for Direct Component grants as per the RESTORE Act. This activity falls under the

dominion of infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure, as well as restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region, and coastal flood protection and related infrastructure. These classifications are listed as eligible activities under the RESTORE Act.

4. How the applicant will evaluate success of the activities included in the matrix.

The Grand Isle Breakwater Plan for Gulf and Bayside Shoreline Protection was developed with input from Jefferson Parish, the Town of Grand Isle, the Grand Isle Independent Levee District and coastal stakeholders. The plan when fully implemented will provide comprehensive shoreline protection and wave attenuation for Grand Isle, protecting its beaches and infrastructure. Activities included in the matrix were selected to advance this comprehensive plan. The plan consists of several components, some of which have been constructed and others that are in varying planning stages. Permitting and development of engineering plans and construction specifications are essential for planned projects to move to the construction phase, and as such are key milestones for plan implementation. Performance measures will track the progress as the project moves through the following steps: award of engineering contract; permitting: 30%, 60%, 95% and final design; and development of construction plans and specifications for bidding, and potential construction. Success will be achieved when the project is ready to advertise for bids, and thus shovel ready enhancing its ability to leverage construction funding or when the project (partial) is constructed.

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and the criteria used to establish the priorities.

Protection of the Barataria Basin barrier islands has long been a priority for Jefferson Parish. In 1993, Jefferson Parish developed its first Coastal Wetland Conservation and Restoration Plan. The Plan was updated in 2003, and is currently in the midst of a third update, which focuses on coastal protection as well as restoration. From the origination of the Plan in 1993, through to the newest plan, one of the Parish's primary strategies to conserve wetlands is to maintain and enhance the barrier island system to reduce tidal activity. The 2003 Plan included a project entitled, "Grand Isle Plan, Part 1- NW Grand Isle Breakwater Enhancement," a project, which combined with its subsequent phases would provide a continuous line of protection on the north side of the island, and provide critical protection for marsh remaining on the back side of the island, commercial and residential development, and infrastructure that supports the offshore oil and gas industry, fishing industry and ecotourism. Jefferson Parish Environmental Affairs Department meets annually with the Jefferson Parish Stakeholder Group, which includes coastal property owners, sportsmen, local officials, interested citizens and state and federal agency representatives to discuss, develop and prioritize projects for the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), and other funding venues. This group evaluates various projects that are essential to restore, protect, and conserve the habitats, natural resources, community and economy of the region. Preservation of barrier islands has consistently been a priority of the Jefferson Parish Stakeholder Group. The completion of all phases of this project, combined with previously constructed phases, will provide a continuous line of protection on the Gulf and bay sides of the island , providing critical protection to the island's natural resources, as well as commercial and residential infrastructure.

6. The relationship, if any, between the activities the applicant included in the multiyear plan matrix and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

Jefferson Parish has one of the highest coastal land loss rates in Louisiana. As such, Jefferson Parish is continually pursuing opportunities for coastal restoration and protection project funding including RESTORE Act funds. In December 2015, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (GCERC) voted to approve the Initial Funded Priorities List (FPL) pursuant to the RESTORE Act, including • West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization Project ($7.3 million; planning) to engineer and design the West Grand Terre Barrier Island restoration, a barrier island just east of Grand Isle. Deliverables for the project will include a full set of construction-ready plans and specifications, a completed design report and an actionable adaptive management plan to guide decision-making for future project maintenance activities. If implemented in the future, the project would build an estimated 12,700 feet of beach and dune with an area of 235 acres, 66 acres of back-barrier marsh, and a rock revetment to protect the restored marsh.

In July 2011, the governor of Louisiana submitted proposed projects for Early NRDA Restoration under the "Louisiana Plan" For Restoring Damaged Coastal Areas, Fisheries & Oyster Seed Grounds From Oil Spill," which list included the following projects in close proximity to the proposed Grand Isle Breakwater activities:

- Bay Side Segmented Bay Side Segmented Breakwater at Grand Isle project to reduce erosion on the bay side of Grand Isle, the only inhabited Barrier Island in Louisiana, with the goal of protecting a coastal area, including wetlands, and would protect residential and commercial development.
- West Grand Terre Restoration project to restore the southwest (Gulf) side of West Grand Terre Island, using sediment pumped from an offshore source area. The total restoration area for this project is approximately 120 acres.
- West Grand Terre Stabilization project to stabilize the bay side of southwestern West Grand Terre Island, using rock armament.
- Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration project to restore the Caminada Headland portion of the barrier shoreline, part of the Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline (BBBS), forming a key barrier between saline waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the fresher waters of the Barataria Basin.

Like Grand Isle, Grand Terre and the Caminada Headland are experiencing land loss and were heavily impacted by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.