



# BROADER EFFECTS OF DIVERSIONS

Compilation of Stakeholder Groups Diversion Comments



# Timeline of Coastal Planning in Louisiana

1927 1928 1973 1981 1982 1987 1993 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998



Flood Control in the Mississippi Valley in its Relation to Louisiana Fisheries (Dept. of Conservation)



Louisiana Wet Lands and the Value of Their Wild Life and Fishery Resources (Dept. of Conservation)



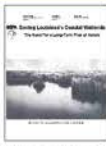
Environmental Atlas and Multi-Use Management Plan for South-Central Louisiana (LSU)



Report on Special Projects for Coastal Louisiana (Committee of Natural Resources)



Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana (USACE)



Saving Louisiana's Coastal Wetlands: The Need for a Long-Term Plan of Action (EPA)



A Long-Term Plan for Louisiana's Coastal Wetlands (LDNR)



The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan (CWPPRA)



A Long-Term, Comprehensive Management Plan for Coastal Louisiana (LSU)



Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation Comprehensive Management Plan-Phase III (LPBF)



The Estuary Compact: Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (LPBF)



Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan



Coast 2050: Toward a Sustainable Coastal Louisiana (Wetlands Conservation & Restoration Authority)



An Environmental-Economic Blueprint for Restoring the Louisiana Coastal Zone: The State Plan



The State of Louisiana's Policy for Coastal Restoration Activities

2000 2002 2004 2006 2007 2009 2010 2012 2014



Mississippi River Sediment, Nutrient, and Freshwater Distribution Study (CWPPRA)



Saving Coastal Louisiana: Recommendations for Implementing an Expanded Coastal Restoration Program



Ecosystem Restoration Study (LCA)



A New Framework for Planning the Future of Coastal Louisiana After the Hurricanes of 2005



The Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy to Sustain Coastal Louisiana (LPBF)



Envisioning the Future of the Gulf Coast (America's WETLAND)



Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (CPRA)



Comprehensive Recommendations Supporting the Use of the Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy to Sustain Coastal Louisiana



Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR)



Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana Ecosystem Restoration (CPRA, USACE)



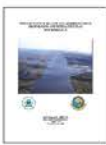
Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (CPRA)



Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study (LCA)



Drawing Coastal Louisiana's New Map: Addressing Land Loss in Coastal Louisiana



Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) Channel Restoration and Mitigation Plan and Addendum (LDNR & EPA)

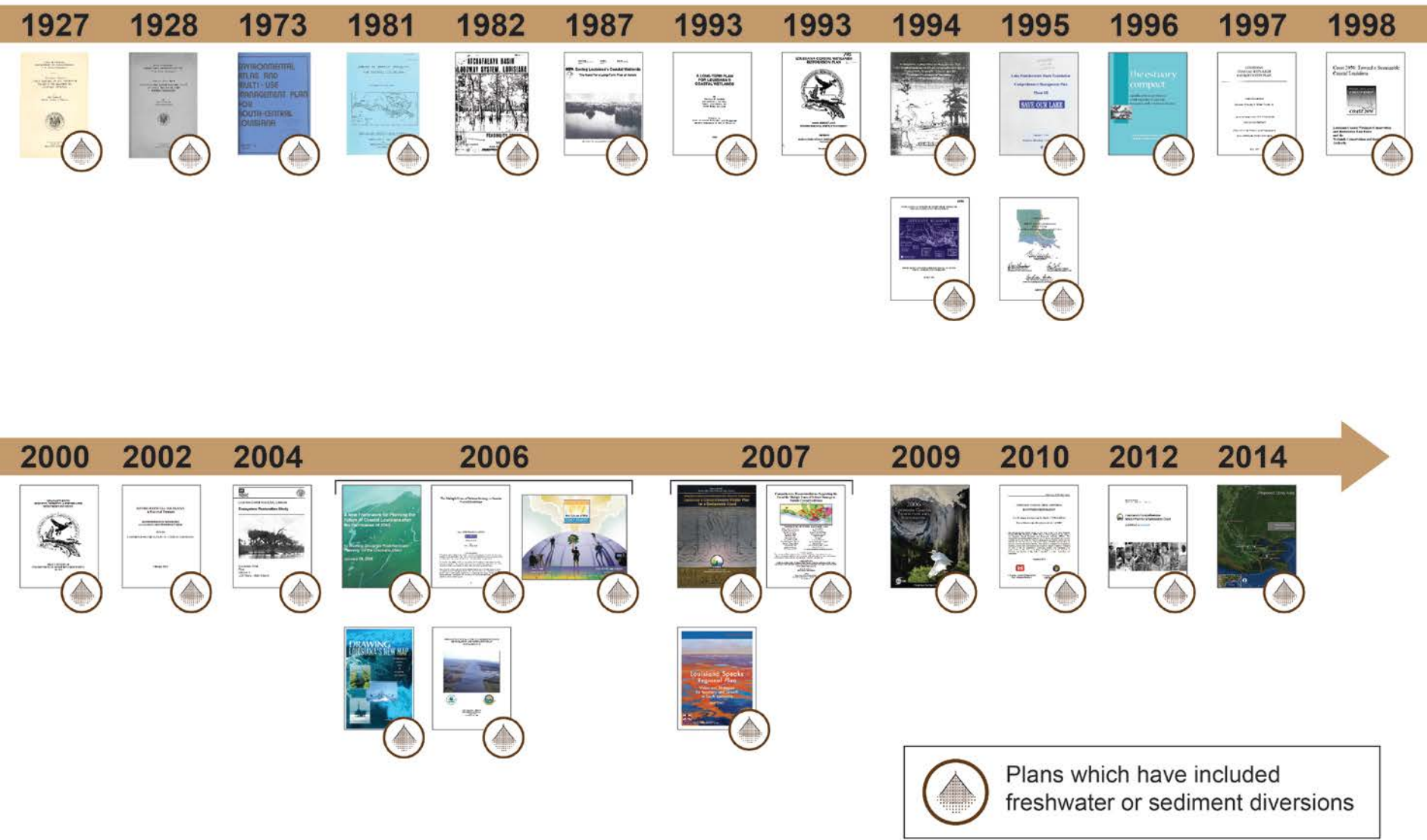


Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan (Louisiana Recovery Authority)

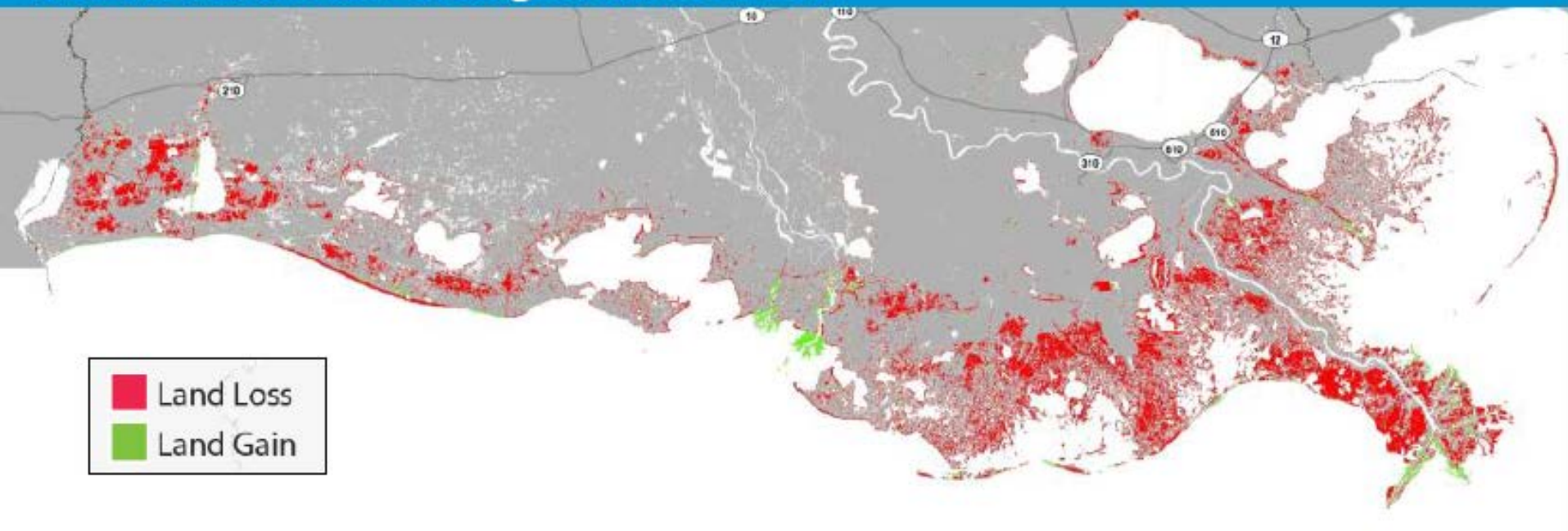


# Timeline of Coastal Planning in Louisiana

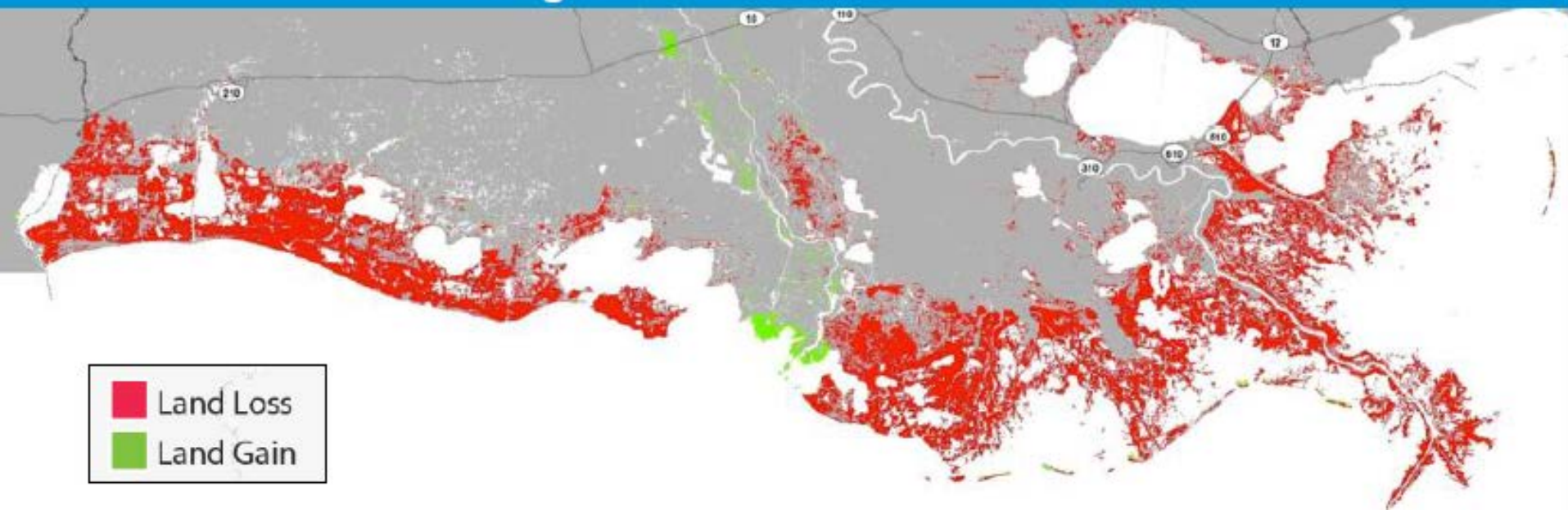
Long History of Diversion Proposals



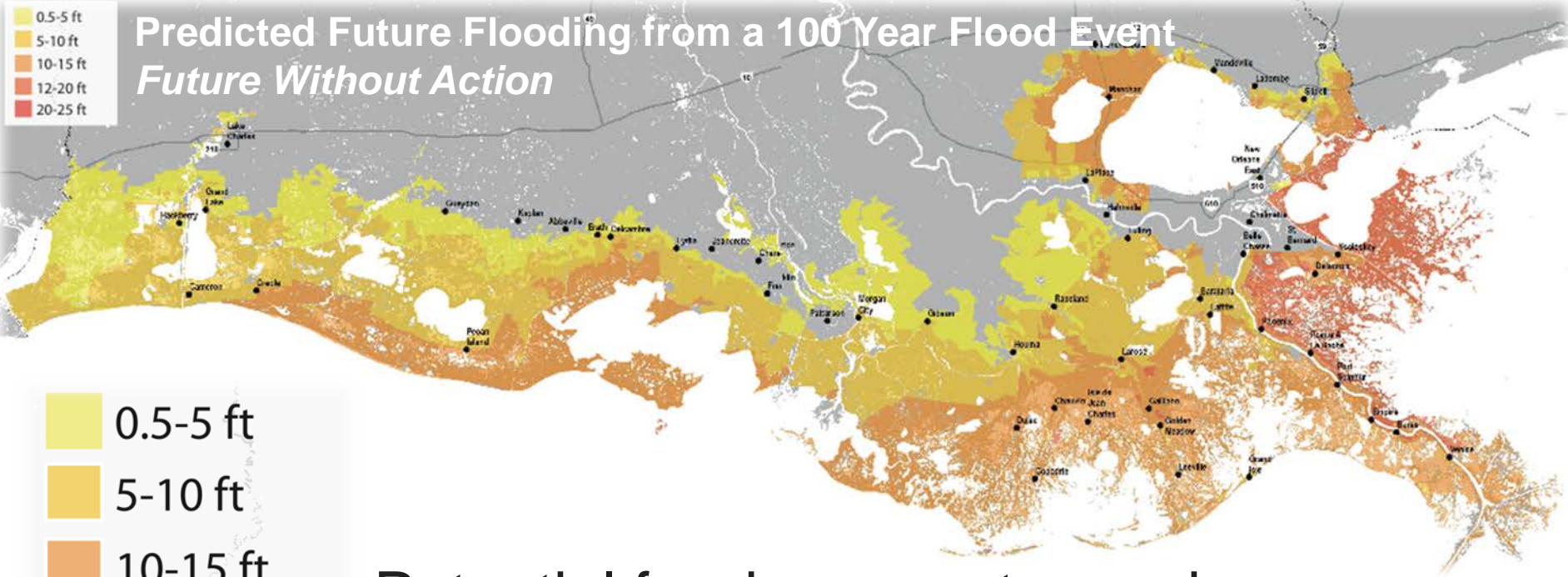
## Historic Land-Water Change from 1932-2010



## Predicted Land-Water Change Over Next 50 Years



# Our Communities and Livelihoods at Risk



Potential for damages to reach  
**\$23.4 billion** annually

**Increasing threats** to lives, jobs,  
communities and the economy

# Valuing Coastal Louisiana

**2 million**  
people live in  
coastal LA

**Largest**  
port complex  
in the world

**20%**  
of the nation's  
waterborne  
commerce

**26%**  
of the US commercial  
fisheries in the  
continental US

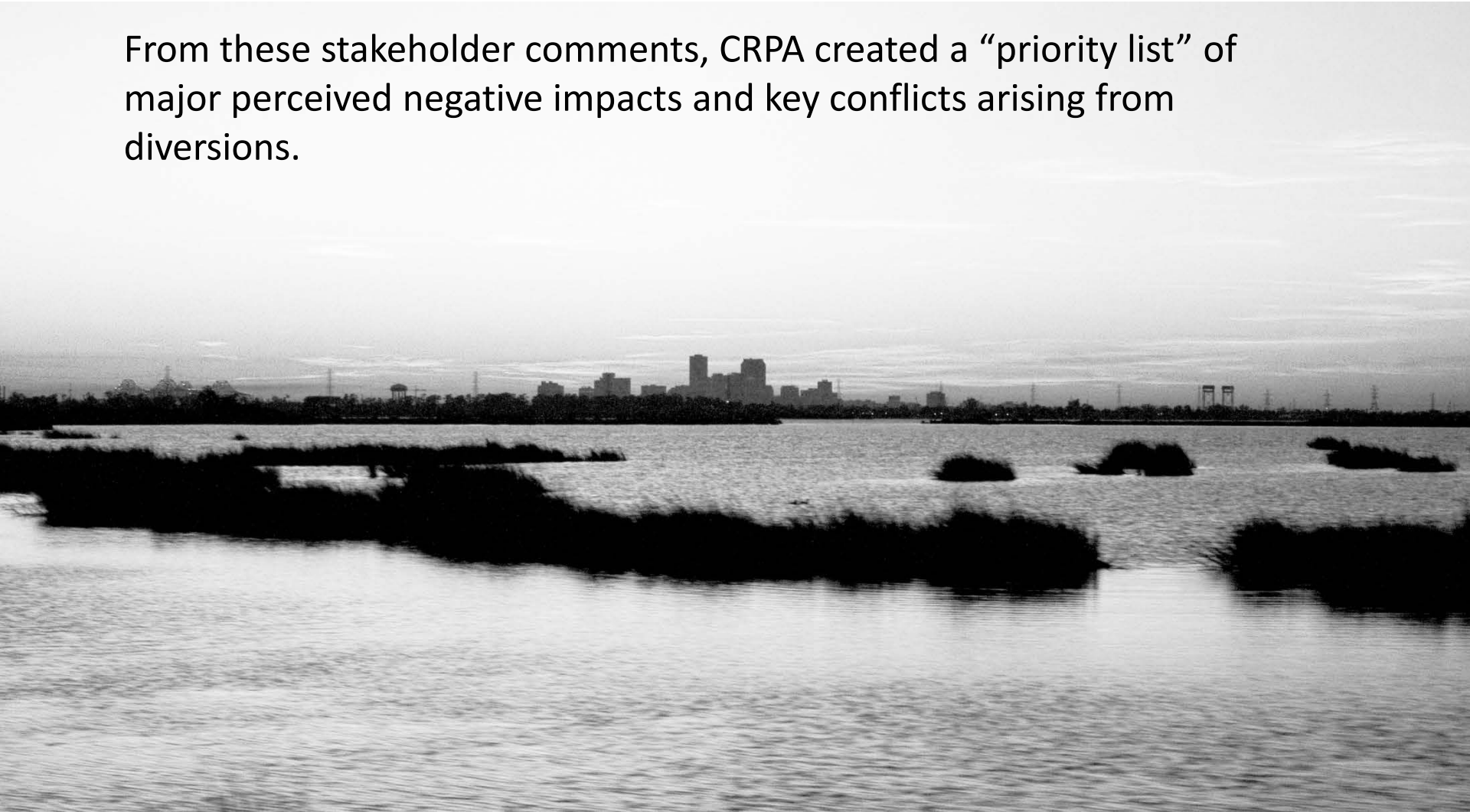
**\$7 billion**  
could be lost from  
Hwy1 closure

**5 million**  
migratory  
waterfowl depend  
on LA habitat

# Purpose

CPRA has reviewed all stakeholder perceptions regarding coastal restoration and diversion projects.

From these stakeholder comments, CRPA created a “priority list” of major perceived negative impacts and key conflicts arising from diversions.



# Sources of Comments

- Reviewed plans, reports, meetings, polls, and studies for public comments:

- 2007 Coastal Master Plan public comments
- 2012 Coastal Master Plan public comments
- 2012 Coastal Master Plan Science & Engineering Board Reports
- Draft 2015 Fiscal Annual Plan public comments
- Governor's Advisory Commission Meetings public comments
- LCA Blind River Feasibility Scoping Report
- MRHDM NEPA Scoping Report
- LCA Modification of Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Feasibility Study
- LCA Modification of Davis Pond Diversion Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study
- LCA Medium Diversion at White Ditch Restoration Feasibility Study
- St. Bernard Parish Diversion Meeting
- Vietnamese Fishing Community Concerns via CCC
- 2012 Louisiana Coastal Master Plan Public Opinion Survey by National Audubon Society
- LCA Medium Diversion at Myrtle Grove EIS
- Louisiana Speaks public comments
- America's WETLAND Foundation National Poll: Support of Federal Investment to Protect America's Energy Coast Ecosystem
- Louisiana Statewide Survey on Importance of Coastal Restoration by America's WETLAND Foundation
- Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Stakeholder Round Table Meeting
- USACE Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study Public Meeting
- Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board meetings
- Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corporation
- Oyster Advisory Committee Meetings
- New Orleans Business Council meeting
- Louisiana Senate Natural Resources Committee
- Diversion Advisory Panel Meetings
- Diversion Subcommittee Meeting
- Mid-Barataria Public Meetings
- Shrimp Task Force Meetings
- Oyster Task Force Meetings



# Received Comments from

- Citizens, Federal, State, NGO, industry, civic group, etc.:

- **Public Citizens**

- Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
- Louisiana Shrimp Association
- North Lafourche Levee District
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF)
- National Wildlife Federation
- Gulf Restoration Network
- Restore or Retreat
- Louisiana Bayou Keeper
- Louisiana Speaks
- Citizens of Plaquemines Eastbank (COPE)
- South Central Industrial Association
- Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- The Nature Conservancy
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- National Audubon Society
- Louisiana Oyster Dealers & Growers Association
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
- Conoco Phillips
- Lafourche Basin Levee District
- University of New Orleans
- Mississippi River Basin Alliance (MRBA)
- Ascension Parish Representatives
- Little Lake Duck Club
- East Ascension Sportsman's League
- Cameron Parish Police Jury
- St. Bernard Parish Councilman
- Biloxi Marsh Lands Corporation (BMLC)
- United Houma Nation
- St. Charles Parish Council
- Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
- Louisiana Society of Naturalists
- Sierra Club
- LSU
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Continental Land & Fur Co. Inc.
- St. Bernard Parish Coastal Zone Advisory Committee
- CL&F Resources LP
- Apache Louisiana Minerals LLC
- LSU Agricultural Center
- Morganza Action Coalition
- Louisiana Landowners Association
- Barataria Terrebonne Natural Estuary Program (BTNEP)
- National Resources Conservation Services
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee
- Mississippi River Delta Restoration Campaign
- Bayou Grace Community Services
- Jefferson Parish Environmental Affairs
- Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
- Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN)
- Louisiana Wildlife Federation
- Terrebonne Parish Coastal Restoration & Preservation
- Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
- Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management and Restoration Advise-ment Committee
- Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District
- St. John the Baptist Parish Director of Planning & Zoning
- Randy Moertle and Associates
- Louisiana Oyster Task Force (LOTF)
- R&A Oyster Co.
- Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone Management
- American Institute of Fisheries
- Louisiana Highway 1 Coalition

# 2007 Coastal Master Plan Public Meetings

**6**

LA Recovery  
Authority Louisiana  
Speaks Workshops

(Jul. – Aug. 2006)

**10**

Preliminary Draft  
Master Plan  
Meetings

(Nov. 2006 – Jan. 2007)

**50+**

Stakeholder  
Workshops &  
Meetings

(Jul. – Nov. 2006)

**4**

Draft Master Plan  
Public Hearings &  
Meeting

(New Orleans, Houma, Lake  
Charles, Abbeville)

**1**

Cameron Parish  
Police Jury  
Sponsored Meeting

(Mar. 2007)

**1,500+**

Public Comments  
received on 2007  
Draft Plan

# 2012 Coastal Master Plan Public Meetings

**15**

Focus Group  
Meetings

Ports & Navigation, Fisheries, Oil &  
Gas

(Jul. 2011 – Feb. 2012)

**116**

Presentations to  
Civic, Business, &  
Non-Profit Groups

(Jan. 2011 – Jan. 2012)

**87**

Stakeholder  
Outreach Meetings

(Apr. 2011 – Mar. 2012)

**10**

Regional Community  
Meetings

(Jul. – Sept. 2011)

**3**

Open House + Public  
Meetings

(New Orleans, Houma, Lake  
Charles)

**2,200+**

Public Comments  
received on 2012  
Draft Plan

# Public Meetings - Diversions

**153**

Public Meetings on Diversions

*(1991- Present)*

# Diversion Comment Stats.

**34,138** = Total comments reviewed

- **451** comments related to diversions

↳ Of this: **212** were negative

Diversion comments are **1.3%** of the coastal restoration conversation

# Key Diversion Concerns

1. Negative fisheries impacts (displacement of fisheries, fisheries kills, loss of livelihoods)
2. Doubts land building potential to reduce storm surge risk
3. Prefer smaller diversions instead of the larger planned diversions
4. Prefer dredging over diversion projects
5. Flooding concerns / increased water levels
6. Concerns regarding nutrients and invasive species
7. Large diversions take too long to build land
8. Diversions will not rebuild or sustain Cypress forests

# Stakeholder Perceived Positive Impacts of Diversions

- Enhances ecological benefits
- Reestablishes historic habitats
- Provides infusion of freshwater needed to sustain agricultural producing lands and coastal vegetated marshes
- Beneficial to the wildlife management areas
- Reduces salinities and increases wetland creation and habitat quality
- Represents a significant building block for restoring the wetlands
- Effectively addresses saltwater intrusion, soil subsidence, wave action erosion, and sediment deprivation - important components in the fight against coastal erosion



THANK YOU

[coastal.la.gov](http://coastal.la.gov)