



P.O. Box 712 THIBODAUX, LA 70302
WWW.BAYOUINDUSTRIALGROUP.COM

October 29, 2020

Sarah Bradley
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CEMVN-PM-R, RM 331
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
Transmitted via email: Sarah.C.Bradley@usace.army.mil

Re: Phase 2 construction funding for the East Leeville Marsh Creation Project (BA-194)

Dear Ms. Bradley and Technical Committee Members,

The Bayou Industrial Group (BIG) represents business and industry in Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary, and Assumption Parishes, and coastal protection and restoration is a priority issue for our members and our community. We recognize that comprehensive, large-scale projects are critical to defend our Bayou Region communities from tidal surge, nourish our wetlands, and sustain this land that our businesses and families call home. As such, BIG supports CWPPRA awarding Phase 2 construction funding for the East Leeville Marsh Creation Project (BA-194).

BA-194 is consistent with all of our advocacy goals and would be the first coastal restoration and protection project in the Leeville area. It could be the linchpin for future restoration projects that would protect the Bayou Region's largest economies, namely recreational and commercial fisheries and oil and gas production. We believe that marsh restoration can dually serve as infrastructure for our fisheries industries and be a component of hurricane protection for critical wetlands infrastructure such as pipelines and flowlines for our oil and gas infrastructure.

The project area is outside of the hurricane protection levees and, without BA-194, the encroaching southeasterly tides and waves threaten Leeville's existence. Leeville can be a sleepy town of just a few citizens at night, but on a good weather day it swells by the hundreds as people enjoy the marine resources in the nearby marshes. The State of Louisiana, Lafourche Parish and Greater Lafourche Port Commission recently invested in a new modern public boat launch and fishing pier in Leeville, made possible by the state donating property for such an asset where the former Leeville draw bridge stood. Many oil and gas companies rely on the sustainability of this region as they launch from Leeville to access their inshore facilities and infrastructure.

Bayou Industrial Group urges the Technical Committee to approve Phase 2 funding for the East Leeville Marsh Creation Project. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori LeBlanc".

Lori LeBlanc,
President