

COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY

GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL RESTORATION

RECOVERY ASSISTANCE SERVICES

**Agreed-Upon Procedures Report
for the period July 2022-June 2023
Issued September 20, 2023**

**LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
1600 NORTH THIRD STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 94397
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9397**

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

MICHAEL J. "MIKE" WAGUESPACK, CPA

FIRST ASSISTANT LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

BETH Q. DAVIS, CPA

DIRECTOR OF RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

VICTORIA HAYES, CPA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Independent Accountant’s Report.....	2
Background	5
Management’s Response.....	7

September 14, 2023

Independent Accountant's Report
On the Application of Agreed-Upon Procedures

MR. GREGORY M. GRANDY, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COASTAL PROTECTION AND
RESTORATION AUTHORITY
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on documentation submitted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) during the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, to support expenditures for activities funded with Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE) dollars; Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) dollars; and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) settlement and/or grant dollars (Documentation). CPRA management is responsible for the Documentation.

CPRA management has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the Documentation. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

OVERALL RESULTS

For the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, we performed procedures on the Documentation for 1,233 expenditures totaling \$191,888,432. As a result of applying our procedures, we did not note any exceptions which exceeded \$10,000 per expenditure. The following table presents the overall results of our procedures.



Expenditures by Funding Source			
Funding Source	Number of Expenditures*	Total Dollars	Percentage of Total Dollars
NRDA	580	\$128,160,199	66.79%
NFWF	407	44,897,858	23.40
RESTORE	246	18,830,375	9.81
Totals	1,233	\$191,888,432	100.00%

*We did not note any exceptions which exceeded \$10,000 per expenditure.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

PROCEDURE 1: We confirmed that the work reflected in the reimbursement request/invoice is within the scope approved for the project.

FINDING 1: We found no exceptions as a result of this procedure.

PROCEDURE 2: We confirmed that the amount requested/invoiced is supported by invoices, receipts, lease agreements, contracts, appraisals, labor policies, time records, equipment logs, or other applicable documentation.

FINDING 2: We found no exceptions as a result of this procedure.

PROCEDURE 3: We confirmed that the work reflected in the reimbursement request/invoice complies with the RESTORE Act of 2012, 31 Code of Federal Regulation Part 34, 2 Code of Federal Regulation Part 200, Clean Water Act Criminal Plea Agreement, Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) Recipient Guide, GEBF Full Proposal Guidelines, NFWF Project Funding Agreements, Trustee Implementation Group Project Funding Resolutions, Louisiana Procurement Code, and Louisiana Bid Law.

FINDING 3: We found no exceptions as a result of this procedure.

PROCEDURE 4: We selected a 20% sample and confirmed that expenditure transactions made prior to July 1, 2016, were classified and recorded to the appropriate fund; grant; project; and task order/purchase order.

FINDING 4: We found no exceptions as a result of this procedure.

PROCEDURE 5: We confirmed that all change orders are necessary and reasonable by verifying that the work involves an unforeseen/hidden condition and was not included in the scope of the original contract; and that the costs were consistent with national estimating cost indices or costs on similar projects.

FINDING 5: We found no exceptions as a result of this procedure.

We were engaged by CPRA management to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with Generally Accepted *Government Auditing Standards* and attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct, an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the Documentation. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of CPRA and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of CPRA management, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than this specified party. By provision of state law, this report is a public document and has been distributed to the appropriate public officials.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. "Mike" Waguespack, CPA
Legislative Auditor

MJW/aa

CPRAOILSPILL 2023

BACKGROUND

In 2009, Act 523 of the Louisiana Legislature created the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration (OCPR) as an implementation and enforcement arm of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). In 2012, Act 604 of the Louisiana Legislature renamed the CPRA as the CPRA Board and changed its implementation and enforcement arm from OCPR to CPRA.

CPRA is tasked with developing, implementing, and enforcing the comprehensive coastal protection and restoration master plan. CPRA is also responsible for administering funds related to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill through the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act, Natural Resources Damage Assessment, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation settlements and/or grants. These funds are provided for the acquisition of land for conservation, restoration of barrier islands, restoration of inland marshes, construction of shoreline restoration and protection barriers, river diversions, and construction of coastal infrastructure.

CPRA restoration projects funded by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill settlement and penalties are intended to restore Louisiana's coast from the impacts and losses associated with the oil spill disaster. Examples of typical restoration activities include:

- Barrier Island/Headland Restoration - Creation and restoration of dune, beach, and back-barrier marsh to restore or augment Louisiana's offshore barrier islands and headlands.
- Diversion - Use of channels and/or structures to divert sediment and fresh water from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers into adjacent basins.
- Marsh Creation - Creation of new wetlands in open water areas through sediment dredging and placement. Most of these projects involve pipeline conveyance of sediment.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE



State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

September 14, 2023

Mr. Michael J. "Mike" Waguespack, CPA
Legislative Auditor
Office of Legislative Auditor
1600 North Third Street
Post Office Box 94397
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9397

Dear Mr. Waguespack:

RE: Audit Report - Engagement for Agreed Upon Procedures with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

I am writing to provide a response to the audit report for the engagement to apply agreed-upon procedures to expenditures funded with NFWF, NRDA, and RESTORE sources for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. We are pleased that this year's audit review yielded no findings. As a result of applying the agreed upon procedures, the auditors did not note any exceptions for the 1,233 expenditures reviewed for CPRA, totaling \$191,888,432.

As we have stated numerous times previously and can again say this year, we value the service this audit group is providing to CPRA. We view the engagement as an important tool in assessing the accuracy of the expenditures that are paid with oil spill funding sources. Additionally, your team of auditors provide specialized expertise to CPRA management regarding contract language and contractor billing.

We look forward to the next review period and working with your team. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 342-4698.

Sincerely,

Janice A. Lansing
Chief Financial Officer

c: Gregory M. Grandy, Deputy Executive Director
Candace Oby, Accountant Administrator
Gloria Tigner, Coastal Resources Program Administrator
Victoria Hayes, Assistant Legislative Auditor and Director of Recovery Assistance Services
Executive Division