



State of Louisiana  
Coastal Protection and Restoration  
Authority

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**Third-Party Environmental Impact Statement Contractor Selected for Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion**

Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has selected Gulf Engineers & Consultants (GEC) as the contractor to conduct the third party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD). CPRA submitted an updated permit application to the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in June, 2016, and the EIS prepared by GEC will disclose and analyze the impacts of the project to the human and natural environment as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as well as incorporate significant public engagement.

The MBSD, a cornerstone project of Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan, will provide sediment and freshwater to the Barataria Basin, which is suffering from significant land loss. Once implemented, this project will reconnect and reestablish the natural or deltaic sediment deposition process between the Mississippi River and Barataria Basin. This sediment diversion is the first major project of its type and, while an essential element of the state's overall plan to restore and protect the coast, it will first have to undergo significant federal reviews. GEC will work in coordination with the USACE to prepare a public involvement plan and conduct public scoping meetings and hearings, conduct alternative screening analyses and evaluate impacts, and prepare documentation in compliance with other laws, regulations, and Executive Orders as required by the permitting process.

"The State has full faith that GEC can fairly, accurately, and expeditiously guide this crucial project through the Environmental Impact Statement portion of the permitting process. We are excited to be moving this project forward and excited that when the most qualified firm was chosen at the end of a very competitive process, that a Louisiana firm was ultimately selected to do the work," said CPRA Board Chairman Johnny Bradberry.

CPRA Executive Director Michael Ellis added, "CPRA has done an impressive amount of work to get this project ready to enter this stage of the permitting process and looks forward to GEC developing the EIS with the appropriate information, data, and analyses so that the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project can continue to progress toward construction."



GEC was established in 1986 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as a small engineering consulting firm. GEC has grown over the years into a firm of national prominence with expertise in engineering, planning, environmental services, and geographic information systems (GIS).

The Request for Proposals solicitation window closed on November 16, 2016 and contract execution is estimated for early February of 2017.

For more information on the solicitation, visit [RFP 2503-16-23](#) "Mid-Barataria Environmental Impact Statement RFP".