



Minerals Management Service

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News Release

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MMS Approves Nearly \$700,000 Grant for Lake Pontchartrain Protection

First phase designs a lake shoreline protection plan in Tangipahoa Parish

NEW ORLEANS – The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has approved a grant for \$699,400 to Tangipahoa Parish in Louisiana through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) for the first phase of a proposed shoreline protection project on the northern edge of Lake Pontchartrain.

Grant funding for the first phase of the project will provide for engineering and design service, coordination of land rights, and administration costs. The project is located along the northwestern rim of Lake Pontchartrain in Tangipahoa Parish, approximately fifteen miles southeast of Ponchatoula, Louisiana.

“MMS is committed to assisting Louisiana in its important inland shoreline restoration efforts through the CIAP program,” said MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Director Lars Herbst. “We are proud to partner with Tangipahoa Parish in supporting vital conservation initiatives like the Lake Pontchartrain Shoreline Protection Project.”

The second phase of the project will include construction of a detached breakwater system to reduce wave energy along the highly erodible northern rim area of Lake Pontchartrain. This feature is planned to extend approximately 18,000 feet, from Pass Manchac to the Tangipahoa River.

The CIAP was created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Through the program, MMS will provide \$250 million in grants annually, from 2007-2010, to six eligible Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas producing states: Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, California, Mississippi, and Texas. The funding to Louisiana included \$127.5 million for each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008, \$120.9 million for 2009 and \$119.6 million 2010. Nineteen Coastal Political Subdivisions (parishes) share in the funding of projects outlined in the state’s approved plan.

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