

An Agreed-Upon Procedures Report on the  
**COASTAL PROTECTION AND  
RESTORATION AUTHORITY**  
**GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL RESTORATION**  
Issued September 18, 2019



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LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR  
DARYL G. PURPERA, CPA, CFE

August 29, 2019

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

**MR. BREN HAASE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
COASTAL PROTECTION AND  
RESTORATION AUTHORITY**  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) management, on the completeness and accuracy of documentation used to support expenditures submitted by CPRA during the period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, and that those expenditures complied with applicable federal and/or state laws and regulations. For the purpose of performing these agreed-upon procedures, no exceptions were reported for differences of \$10,000 or less. CPRA management is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of documentation for activities funded with Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) dollars, National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) dollars, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) settlement and/or grant dollars. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of CPRA management. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below, either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

**OVERALL RESULTS**

For the period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, we confirmed and/or verified the completeness and accuracy of 971 invoices submitted by CPRA totaling \$68,786,589. As a result of applying our procedures, we noted exceptions totaling \$125,972 (0.18%) in 16 invoices. The following table presents a breakdown of the exceptions and resolutions by finding type.

Exceptions by Finding Type				
Finding Type	Number of Occurrences	Exception Amount	Exceptions as a Percent of Total Analyzed (\$68,786,589)	Resolved Amount
Out of Scope	0	\$0	0.00%	\$0
*Lack of Support	16	125,972	0.18	108,682
Procurement not Documented	0	0	0.00	0
Incorrectly Classified/Recorded	0	0	0.00	0
Unnecessary/Unreasonable Change Orders	0	0	0.00	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$125,972</b>	<b>0.18%</b>	<b>\$108,682</b>

\*CPRA management was unable to resolve \$17,290 in this category because there was not enough time to properly amend the related contract before it expired.

Following are the procedures we applied and the resulting findings for the five finding types (*Out of Scope*, *Lack of Support*, *Procurement not Documented*, *Incorrectly Classified/Recorded*, and *Unnecessary/Unreasonable Change Orders*) mentioned in the table above.

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

**FINDING:** We did not note any exceptions as a result of this procedure.

**PROCEDURE:** 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:** Of the 971 expenditures we confirmed, 955 (98.35%) were supported with proper and applicable documentation. However, we noted exceptions totaling \$125,972 (0.18%) in the other 16 expenditures.

**PROCEDURE:** We confirmed that the work reflected in the reimbursement request/invoice complies with federal and state regulations and guidance or grant requirements.

**FINDING:** We did not note any exceptions as a result of this procedure.

- PROCEDURE:** We confirmed that expenditure transactions were classified and recorded properly.
- FINDING:** We did not note any exceptions as a result of this procedure.
- PROCEDURE:** We verified that all change orders are necessary and reasonable.
- FINDING:** We did not note any exceptions as a result of this procedure.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in the *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination, the objective of which would be to express an opinion or conclusion on the completeness and accuracy of documentation provided by CPRA to support reimbursement of expenses eligible for funding through RESTORE Act, NRDA, NFWF settlement and/or grant dollars for the period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, or CPRA's compliance with 2 CFR part 200. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

The purpose of this report is solely to assist CRPA management in evaluating the completeness and accuracy of the documentation provided by CPRA to support reimbursement of expenses eligible for funding through the RESTORE Act, NRDA, and NFWF settlement and/or grant dollars for the period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. By provision of state law, this report is a public document and has been distributed to the appropriate public officials.

Respectfully submitted,



Daryl G. Purpera, CPA, CFE  
Legislative Auditor

DGP/aa

CPRAGULFOILSPILLJUL 2018-JUN 2019



## BACKGROUND

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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 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 Economics of the Gulf Coast States Act, National 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.
- Diversions - 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.



## Appendix A

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### Management's Response





# State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR

September 4, 2019

Daryl G. Purpera, CPA, CFE  
Louisiana Legislative Auditor  
P.O. Box 94397  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

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 in connection with the engagement to apply agreed-upon procedures to expenditures related to NFWF, NRDA, and RESTORE from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. We are in disagreement with your assessment that during this period of review and of the \$68,786,589 of expenditures analyzed, \$17,290 remains unresolved. The expenditure is within scope, is appropriate, and documentation sufficiently supports the expenditure. The issue is regarding a difference of opinion in the interpretation of contract provisions.

We fully understand your position, but we do not see it as a lack of support issue. However, given the considerable discussion surrounding the issue, we have eliminated surveying services from task orders issued under consulting services contracts.

We value the service this audit group is providing to CPRA, and view it as a learning experience, particularly the consultation offered regarding contracting. 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: Bren Haase, Executive Director  
Denise Stafford, Accountant Administrator  
Gloria Tigner, Coastal Resources Program Manager  
John Moorehead, Assistant Legislative Auditor and Director of Recovery Assistance Services

**Executive Division**

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