



Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana

1110 River Road S., Suite 222 Baton Rouge, LA 70802 • 225.767.4181
3801 Canal Street, Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70119 • 504.264.6812

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Contact: Jimmy Frederick, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, 225-412-1784, jimmy.frederick@crcl.org

CRCL Blasts “One Lake” Project as Destructive to Louisiana

Project Would Destroy Oysters, Wildlife Habitat, and Wetlands

New Orleans, LA (August 16, 2018) As the public comment period on the “One Lake” proposal comes to a close and in advance of the only public meeting being held in Louisiana, the [Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana](#) (CRCL) felt it was important to weigh in on the project. The “One Lake” project proposes to dredge 10 miles of the Pearl River and build a dam to create a 1,900-acre lake near Jackson, MS. In response to this proposal, Emily Vuxton, CRCL’s Policy Director released the following statement:

“We are very concerned about the downstream effects of this project on communities and ecosystems in Louisiana. Louisiana is currently in a battle against land loss that is affecting the people and industries that call the lower Pearl River Basin home. The fact that there is consideration for altering the Pearl River Watershed without considering the downstream affects is astounding.

“CRCL supports science-based decision-making. Simply put, this project is not based in science. It is a development project masquerading as a flood control project. It will benefit a small group of developers while hurting countless people and ecosystems downstream.

“Apalachicola Bay, on the central Florida Gulf Coast, is a prime example of what can happen downriver when a significant source of freshwater is restricted upstream. The bay is facing a decrease in oysters and a collapse in valuable coastal habitats. This very same scenario will happen to oyster production here in Louisiana if this project is constructed.

“Along with the serious repercussions faced by our fishing industries, it’s the people of the lower Pearl River Basin who will be most impacted by the “One Lake” project. Louisiana is in the process of implementing our 50-year Coastal Master Plan that will see us construct some of the most ambitious environmental projects in the history of our country. Without sufficient freshwater from the Pearl River Watershed, those projects will be less effective causing more and more of Louisiana to be lost.

“The bottom line is that this project should be dead on arrival when it is sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Louisiana is washing into the Gulf of Mexico. We certainly don’t need our land loss crisis exacerbated by poor decisions made in Mississippi.”

About CRCL:

CRCL is a non-partisan, non-profit organization driving bold, science-based action to restore Coastal Louisiana through outreach, restoration and advocacy. CRCL was founded in 1988 and is the state’s oldest and most comprehensive coastal restoration organization. Visit crcl.org.

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