

# Louisiana Coastal Area Study\* Public Involvement Fact Sheet

January 2003

## The public needs to be involved with LCA Study

Implementation of the Coast2050 strategies will affect the lives of all South Louisiana residents and represents a major investment of public funds in the future of coastal Louisiana. The Louisiana Coastal Area\* (LCA) study is the next step in the Coast2050 process. This coastwide study will be the guiding document for future planning activities for a sustainable coastal Louisiana and the first formal step in the Congressional request for construction funds.

### What is Outreach?

Public outreach is a process by which interested and affected individuals, organizations, agencies and governmental entities are informed of a study and its goals, and have the opportunity to participate in the decision making process.

LCA outreach activities are designed to provide the public with timely information and extensive opportunities to participate in the planning and formulation of this restoration overview document. In the LCA study, public comment will be sought at each major phase of the study process. The public will have the opportunity to comment and provide guidance towards the next phase of the study.

### Why Engage the Public?

Public outreach supports the exchange of ideas and information among interested individuals and groups. This is critical to resolving the challenges involved in implementing a comprehensive restoration effort. Outreach also creates and builds

partnerships, involves the community and helps form mutual understanding, engenders trust, reduces conflict, and ultimately leads to a more complete report that represents the community.

At LCA public meetings you will be able to hear different points of view about restoration. You will also have the opportunity to speak directly with senior study manager about your concerns.

### Background

Louisiana is losing coastal land at an alarming rate. Since 1956 over 1,524 square miles of land has been lost to open water. These land losses are well documented and are unacceptable. Congress started to address the problem with passage of the Coastal Wetlands Protection, Planning and Restoration Act (CWPPRA, or a.k.a. Breaux Act) in 1990. With matching funds from the State of Louisiana there is approximately \$50 million per year for wetland projects. However, the estimated cost to restore the coast based on the completed *Coast 2050: Toward a Sustainable Coastal Louisiana* report is approximately \$14 billion dollars or \$468 million per year for the next 30 years!

\* Full Study Name: Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana Ecosystem Restoration - Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration Study



## How Can I Participate?

There are a number of ways individuals can participate in the study:

- Attend and comment at coastwide LCA public meetings.
- Encourage your local civic, religious, environmental, or trade group to be informed and involved in the study.
- Visit the study Web site at [www.coast2050.gov/lca](http://www.coast2050.gov/lca) for current information and opportunities to comment on the study.
- Join groups that are currently participating in the study.
- Write letters or email to document your concerns. All written comments will be taken into consideration.

## When are the next meetings?

The second set of public meeting will be held across coastal Louisiana in February. Additional meetings will be held for additional public input during April and May 2003.

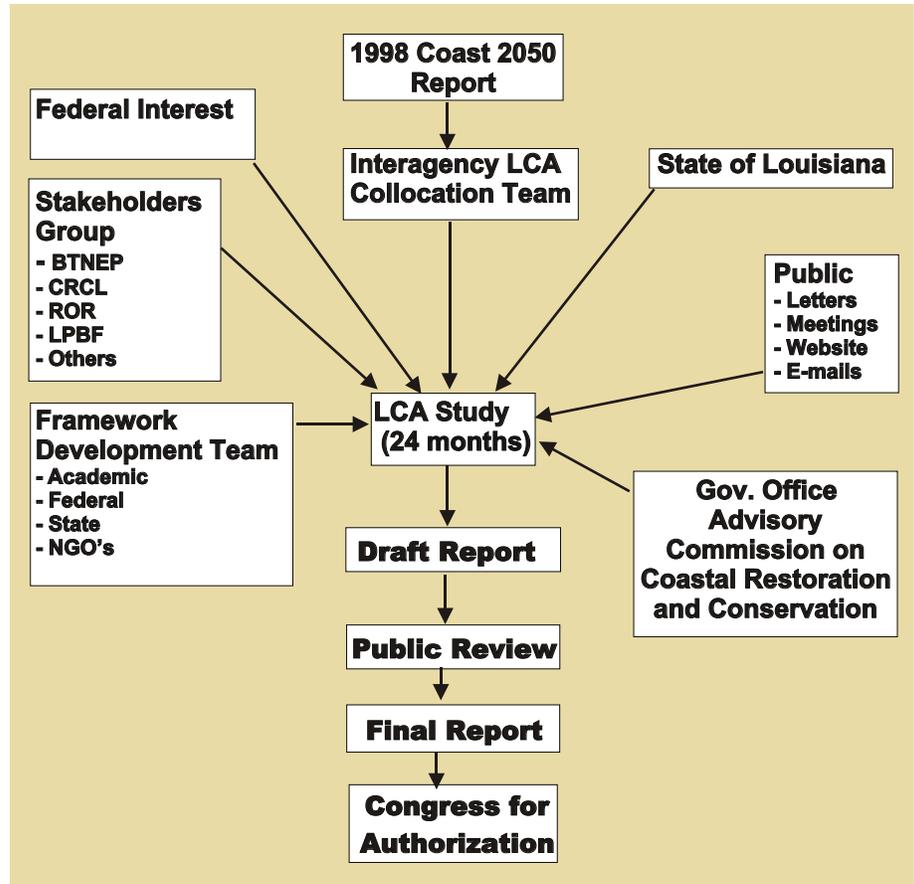
Check the web site [www.coast2050.gov/lca](http://www.coast2050.gov/lca) for location and updated information.

If you cannot attend, all meeting materials along with public comment will be posted to the web site.

## Will my comments be used?

All public comments are reviewed and considered by study managers of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

## Public Input into the LCA Study



### Contacts:

Your comments and concerns are important to this vital effort. If you cannot attend these meetings, please send any comments to:

District Engineer  
New Orleans District Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

or

visit the website at: [www.coast2050.gov/lca](http://www.coast2050.gov/lca), to send comments by email and get updated project information.