This project will initiate the design and critical environmental regulatory review required to construct a river diversion to utilize freshwater and sediment from the Atchafalaya River and dredged material to build, sustain, and maintain wetlands within the Terrebonne Basin. Once constructed and operated, this diversion project will restore freshwater influence in this basin and reduce wetland loss by approximately 13,000 acres over 50 years.

The wetlands of Terrebonne Parish now experience the highest rate of land loss in all of coastal Louisiana. Starved of the historical freshwater, sediment, and nutrient supply that sustained them, Terrebonne Parish wetlands are expected to lose in excess of 146,000 acres of wetlands by 2050 with no further restoration action. The Louisiana Coastal Master Plan identified this project as a unique means to harness the Atchafalaya River to stem the dramatic erosion in this area of Louisiana’s fragile coast.