This project will build on the initial efforts funded in 2013 by the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund to complete the engineering and design of the Mid-Barataria sediment diversion. Once constructed, the diversion is anticipated to convey up to 75,000 cubic feet per second of sediment-rich river water, introducing approximately 150 million tons of new sediment into Barataria Basin over a 50-year projection. Earlier investments advanced this project to a critical phase of design and these funds will result in a fully designed and permitted project ready to be constructed.

Under development for decades, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is regarded by many as one of the most important river reconnection projects contained in Louisiana’s Coastal Master Plan. This sediment diversion will mimic delta-building processes that created the ecologically productive coastal wetland landscape of south Louisiana. This effort is expected to restore significant habitat in the Barataria Basin, including fresh, intermediate, and brackish marshes by reintroducing the sediment and nutrients which historically built and maintained the affected area, which is projected to lose 105,000 – 150,000 acres of wetlands by 2060, depending on future environmental conditions.