

THE NEWS ROOM

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BOEMRE Awards \$432,000 for Louisiana Restoration Projects

CIAP Grants to Fund Beau Bayou Restoration Planning, Cameron Parish Bridge Project

NEW ORLEANS – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) today announced it has awarded two Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grants totaling \$432,750 to St. Martin Parish and Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The grants will fund Phase I of the Beau Bayou Swamp Hydrologic Restoration Project in St. Martin Parish, and will reimburse Cameron Parish for costs associated with the 2010 West Big Burn Bridge Restoration Project.

Created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, CIAP provides funding to the six Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas producing states to conserve and protect the coastal environment. CIAP is an ongoing program with grant funding that is allocated based on the offshore energy revenues collected by the United States.

“We are proud to support vital natural habitat preservation and infrastructure restoration initiatives to Louisiana’s coastal parishes,” said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. “CIAP grants help make possible the important ongoing work of protecting and restoring our coastal ecosystems for many years to come.”

The first grant will provide \$340,960 to St. Martin Parish, to be used for Phase I of the Beau Bayou Swamp Hydrologic Restoration Project. This administrative planning phase is scheduled for the first two years of a planned four-year project. Phase I will include permitting, design surveys, geotechnical investigation, a project alternatives report, and the final plans and specifications for the proposal. The Beau Bayou Swamp initiative is expected to restore fisheries habitats and help restore and preserve the overall ecology of the area. The project is located in the west central region of the Atchafalaya Basin in St. Martin Parish, approximately 15 miles northeast of New Iberia, Louisiana.

The second grant will reimburse \$91,790 to Cameron Parish for the additional project and construction expenses incurred during the West Big Burn Bridge Restoration initiative, completed in July of 2010. The award will fully fund all the parish’s costs associated with this endeavor.

CIAP received \$250 million in appropriated funds for each of the Fiscal Years 2007-2010, to be disbursed to six eligible OCS oil and gas producing states: Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, California, Mississippi and Texas.

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