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New Orleans District

# News Release

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## **Governor, Corps join hands to save Louisiana coast**

*Gov. Blanco, Lt. Gen. Strock pledge cooperation to reverse coastal degradation*

BATON ROUGE – Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, reaffirmed Monday the state-federal partnership and its commitment to the significant national goal of reversing Louisiana’s coastal losses.

The signing ceremony for the partnership agreement was held in the LSU Energy, Coast and Environment Building. In the same formal ceremony, Strock signed the Chief of Engineers Report, a crucial step to advance the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Study, known as the LCA Study.

The Chief’s Report is a summary of the LCA Study for the Congress, which will now decide whether to authorize the \$1.9 billion project. His signature signals the completion of years of work by the Corps and the state through the Department of Natural Resources and other agencies.

The Chief of Engineers, in remarks delivered Monday, stressed that the occasion marks an important milestone: “It signifies the progress being made to reverse the decline and loss of the coastal wetlands, cypress swamps, marshes, barrier islands and other lands that comprise the nationally significant ecosystem of coastal Louisiana.”

Col. Peter J. Rowan, the New Orleans District Engineer, said, “The LCA study is the result of a multidisciplinary, multi-agency federal-state partnership based upon the best available science. It recommends restoration activities that will be sustainable and adaptively managed for maximum coastal system effectiveness.”

The partnership agreement said: “We acknowledge and embrace the shared vision that the future of Louisiana’s coastal area is of local, regional and national importance.

“We commit to work together, guided by the recommendations of the Chief of Engineers Report on the Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana Ecosystem Restoration Study,” the agreement said.

The five-volume LCA Study is a near-term plan, developed over the last 18 months, that stands on the shoulders of decades of work and cooperation of numerous people and agencies. The near-term plan identifies 15 projects on which it is hoped that construction may begin within 10 years. Of the 15 projects, five are named as requiring immediate action to avoid higher costs in the future.

The study has a number of other recommendations, including a science and technology program, demonstration projects, and beneficial use of dredged material projects.