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SCOTT A. ANGELLE
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

March 14, 2012

Ms. Stephanie L. Willis
Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Section
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
263 13th Avenue South, Suite 177
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

RE: Draft 1 Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Phase 1 DERP)

Dear Ms. Willis:

The Office of Coastal Management (OCM) of the Department of Natural Resources has received your March 1, 2012 letter requesting early consideration of two projects proposed for implementation for early restoration within Louisiana's coastal zone. As your letter states, the two proposed projects are the Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project and the Louisiana Oyster Cultch Project. The letters states that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and United States Department of the Interior (DOI) are seeking an early consideration as to whether these two proposed projects, as currently proposed, are broadly consistent with the approved Louisiana Coastal Resource Program (LCRP). The OCM acknowledges that neither NOAA nor DOI will be the eventual applicants for these two projects nor will the projects be a direct federal action.

After a review of the draft Phase 1 DERP, I am pleased to convey that we have not identified any issues in the draft Plan that would serve to bar our eventual concurrence with the determination that these projects are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the LCRP. Once we receive the final consistency determination or Coastal Use Permit application from the eventual applicant, this office will provide a final determination. The State of Louisiana enjoys its positive working relationship with NOAA and DOI and looks forward to the implementation of these two early restoration projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Lovell".

Keith O. Lovell,
Acting Administrator
Interagency Affairs & Field Services Division

KOL

cc: Harriet M. Deal, DOI
Kelli Braud, LOSCO