

# Financing Louisiana's Coast: Maximizing and Leveraging Funding for Future

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Updates to the SIQ:

- Restore or Retreat is pleased to see the diverse interest in our project in partnership with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. Because of the high level of interest, ROR may choose more than two teams to move forward with submitting a full proposal for review.
- Understanding your firm/team is important to us, so resumes will not count against the eight page limit for the proposal but please include as a separate appendix. Please keep resumes to a reasonable length, i.e. approximately two pages each.
- The Executive Summary and Cover Page is one page, and also will not count against the eight page limit.
- We also want to offer the firm/team selected a fair and reasonable amount of time to submit a full proposal for review, so we are open to extending the time somewhat between notification and deadline of full proposal submittal. However, we must kick off the effort in October 2017 so we can have influence on the FY19 Annual Plan and/or regular legislative session.

### Why is ROR leading this effort?

Restore or Retreat has long been interested in financing the State's Coastal Master Plan, and since our organization has deep roots in business and industry, it was a natural fit. Additionally, ROR is a trusted partner to Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, having led outreach efforts funded through major grants throughout the 2017 Coastal Master Plan development and approval process.

### Where can I find the latest information?

The latest information can be found at <https://restoreorretreat.org/coastal-finance>. Those who participated in the informational session via webinar or in person on Thursday, August 17, 2017, and elected to share their contact information will also be included on a mailing list to notify those interested of substantial updates to the website. Additionally, general updates may be shared on ROR's social media. If you would like to be added to the contact list and list serv, please send your contact information to [simone.maloz@nicholls.edu](mailto:simone.maloz@nicholls.edu).

### Who is funding this effort?

A national philanthropic foundation is supporting Restore or Retreat's effort.

### Who is negotiating the contract?

Restore or Retreat will be negotiating the contract with the firm/team selected, with guidance from ROR's own board of directors and in consultation with CPRA.

### Who is on the review team?

A review team has already been established, consisting of representatives from Restore or Retreat, Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, and one at-large member of the business community that has no conflict of interest.

**What is the selection timeline for teams to move on to submitting a full proposal?**

The team plans to review proposals submitted by the September 1, 2017, deadline in quick order, and notify participants by approximately September 15 if their firm/team has been selected to submit a full proposal.

**What will be required within the full proposal?**

Full proposal submittal guidelines and deadlines will be shared with the firms/teams that have been selected to submit a full proposal. That information will include, but may not be limited to, fixed costs, schedule of work, etc.

**Please clarify the statement in the SIQ related to: *project economic impact to the State and impacted communities.***

In this report, ROR and CPRA are not seeking information on the direct economic value a project might have on a particular community (i.e. \$45 million in payroll); rather, the return on investment scenarios that scope out current costs and returns on non-specific Master Plan projects compared to future cost/returns if implemented over the 15 year window for this project.

While it is of importance to CPRA and to Restore or Retreat to begin to articulate this value-added discussion; the priority for this initial report remains the development of recommendations for alternative financing scenarios and assessment of repayment plans using anticipated funding sources.

**Where does this effort fall in the process to deliver programmatic funding for the Coastal Master Plan?**

The goal of this project is to provide recommendations and a strategy to the CPRA as it considers its options for leveraging and maximizing its near-term revenue streams. Once this strategy is in place, the CPRA will determine what steps it will take toward the implementation of that strategy (bonding out certain revenues, for example). Once a path forward is decided upon, the State or the Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corporation will solicit and contract with the appropriate entities or firms.

**Does this preclude me from participating in future efforts?**

While Restore or Retreat and CPRA see this project as a first and separate step from the actual execution of debt issuance or some other financial transaction, neither are proficient with compliance requirements in the financial world and are not responsible for a firm precluding itself from future work. A member of the selection committee will have relevant experience to prevent unintentional conflicts but it is recommended that applicants weigh their own level of interest in this project vs. future opportunities. Firms/teams are encouraged to seek their own legal advice at their own expense on this issue.

**Is ROR and/or CPRA willing to match firms with similar skills?**

ROR and CPRA are not seeking to match firms in the SIQ process; however, in an effort to make it easier on those interested, ROR has and will share contact information for those who have elected to do so. This information will not be available on the ROR website, but instead has been and will be shared via email directly with those who have submitted their contact information and elected to share it.

**What information will the State make available during the SIQ, RFP, and project process?**

Resources and financial outlook presentations shared by CPRA and the Governor's Office are now posted on the ROR webpage for anyone interested in submitting an SIQ. ROR and CPRA will also make themselves available throughout the RFP process, and anticipate a deep dive with the winning firm/team.

## *About Restore or Retreat*

### **Who is Restore or Retreat?**

The birth of Restore or Retreat, Inc. (ROR) brought landowners, port commissions, parish governments, restoration advocates, levee experts, business owners and residents together for one purpose: to save our irreplaceable region.

From our inception in 2000, ROR has advocated for such projects as freshwater and sediment diversions into the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins, marsh creation, shoreline restoration, and barrier islands, just to name a few. And through it all, we have called for heightened federal and state attention to the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins through several different planning processes, including the State Master Plan and post-spill planning efforts like the RESTORE Act and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Process.

ROR is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, and is currently in good standing with the Louisiana Secretary of State's office.

### **What is your mission?**

Restore or Retreat (ROR) is a non-profit coastal advocacy group created by coastal Louisiana residents and stakeholders who recognize that the Barataria and Terrebonne basins are the two most rapidly eroding estuaries on earth, and that this erosion represents an economic and ecological crisis.

With a growing membership of businesses and individuals, ROR seeks to identify and expedite the implementation of aggressive, large-scale restoration projects to protect this irreplaceable region.

### **What are ROR's priorities?**

Since 2000 Restore or Retreat (ROR) is actively engaged in the day-to-day effort to aggressively implement sustainable restoration projects for our area. For 17 years, ROR has been working diligently to advocate on the state and federal level for comprehensive, sustainable restoration projects that our area so desperately needs and deserves:

- ROR has been a consistent voice for the Barataria and Terrebonne basins in planning efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Louisiana, including the 2012, and now the 2017, Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast.
- ROR has strived to be a resource to our members and community by hosting Community Conversations centered on the Master Plan in the Fall of 2016, served on the Framework Development Team to help craft the Master Plan, served on the Governor's Advisory Commission and as Vice-Chair of the Diversions Subcommittee, assisted in greater language access for the Master Plan into 3 additional languages, and is currently working on a project to increase coastal literacy across the state via partnership between CPRA and State Libraries of Louisiana.
- ROR is proactive in the development of our own "plan of action," consisting of the most important projects from our area compiled from the state's master plan, WRDA authorized projects, parish master plans, and the expertise of a technical and senior policy advisor.
- ROR has played an integral role in getting the Davis Pond freshwater diversion project operating to its maximum potential and is also focused on facilitating progress in restoring Bayou Lafourche.
- ROR also works throughout the year on other critical projects to our area, such as: long distance pipeline sediment delivery for the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins, Mississippi River Delta Management Study, Caminada Headland and Beach restoration, and the development of a long-term, large-scale regional restoration project.
- ROR has been engaged in the many planning efforts, post-spill, including the Natural Resources Damage Assessment Process, the effort to dedicate Clean Water Act penalties and fines to the Gulf Coast states and parishes, and the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, just to name a few.