

REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE EMAIL REQUEST

Dear Parish President/Local Legislator,

I am pleased to share that the Region 6 Steering Committee formally accepted the  [2026 Louisiana Region 6 Watershed Plan](#) last month.

Meeting Request

As we move into implementation, we ask that you coordinate with the South Central Planning and Development Commission and Desire Line, copied here, to schedule a brief 30-minute meeting via Teams or in person. The meeting will provide an opportunity to:

- Discuss local adoption and implementation of the Watershed Plan;
- Identify potential credit under FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS);
- Discuss priority projects and opportunities for regional coordination; and
- Coordinate on Region 6's legislative strategy and regional priorities.

Project Abstract

As part of implementation, the Region 6 Steering Committee is advancing the **Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot**, a proposed **\$2.5 million state investment** to put existing watershed models, planning efforts, technical tools, and partnerships to work.

The Pilot would:

- Establish a consistent regional method for **measuring changes in flood risk**;
- Create a **Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System** for tracking mitigation and disaster impacts;
- Provide **technical assistance to local governments** for floodplain management, damage assessments, project development, funding, and implementation; and
- Develop a **CRS-aligned regional framework** for risk reduction, floodplain management, and insurance that provides shared technical capacity while keeping implementation local.

The proposed investment includes **\$1.5 million to CPRA** to apply existing watershed models to evaluate projects, strategies, coastal and inland watershed interactions, and regional benefits, and **\$1.0 million to DOTD/CURRENT** to support local and regional implementation,

technical assistance, data management, floodplain management, risk-reduction tracking, insurance strategies, project development, and funding readiness.

Together, these investments would connect watershed modeling with local decisions and projects and provide a consistent way to **measure and document risk reduction across Region 6**.

Letter of Support Request

We are also requesting **letters of support from Region 6 local governments and legislators** for the Pilot and proposed \$2.5 million state investment. These letters will help demonstrate regional coordination and support for moving the Watershed Plan into implementation.

For your convenience, the Region 6 team can provide a **draft letter of support** that can be customized for your jurisdiction or office.

Your participation will help move the Watershed Plan from planning into coordinated implementation across Region 6. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to working with you on this next phase.

Best,

RSC Member

2027 Legislative Session and Budgeting Strategy

IN SUPPORT OF REGION 6 WATERSHED PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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1.0 Background

1.1 Purpose

On August 12, 2026, the Region 6 Steering Committee formally accepted the **2026 Louisiana Region 6 Watershed Plan**, establishing a coordinated framework for managing flood risk across 16 parishes. With the Plan complete, the Region’s priority is now implementation: putting the State’s investments in watershed planning, modeling, project identification, mitigation, and local capacity to work and demonstrating measurable results.

The purpose of the **2027 Legislative Session and Budgeting Strategy** is to secure state support to establish Region 6 as an **Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot** focused not only on identifying and implementing actions that reduce flood risk, but on developing the systems necessary to **measure, track, and communicate those reductions over time**.

The pilot would provide Region 6 and its local governments with the technical capacity, planning and program-management support, data systems, and implementation tools necessary to connect watershed modeling with real-world decisions. This includes evaluating the effects of infrastructure projects and land-development patterns; tracking mitigation investments and activities; establishing consistent regional approaches to damage and risk data; strengthening local disaster-response and floodplain-management capacity; and measuring changes in exposure, vulnerability, and flood risk.

A central objective of the pilot is to demonstrate how this information can be translated into meaningful outcomes for residents, businesses, and communities. Rather than treating flood-risk management primarily as an administrative or regulatory exercise, Region 6 would develop and test a regional framework for **CRS-aligned risk reduction, mitigation tracking, and insurance communication** that operates closer to the communities where risk-management decisions occur while maintaining regional standards, consistency, and economies of scale.

The resulting information would provide a clearer and more credible record of how communities are managing and reducing risk and could be communicated to FEMA, insurers, lenders, businesses, investors, and other public-and private-sector partners. Over time, demonstrating measurable reductions in risk can support improved insurability, more informed investment decisions, stronger funding applications, and greater confidence in the long-term resilience of Louisiana communities.

Region 6 therefore provides Louisiana with an opportunity to move beyond planning and demonstrate a complete implementation cycle: **Understand Risk → Plan → Prioritize → Invest → Implement → Measure → Communicate Results**

The goal is not simply to implement another watershed plan. It is to establish and test a practical regional system for managing risk—one that connects local actions with regional data and state investments and demonstrates how measurable risk reduction can help make Louisiana communities safer, more insurable, and more investable.

1.2 Messaging

The Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot will be presented as an opportunity to move the recently accepted Region 6 Watershed Plan into implementation and demonstrate how Louisiana's existing investments in watershed modeling, planning, mitigation, and local capacity can produce measurable reductions in flood risk.

Region 6 will serve as a pilot for connecting watershed modeling and project evaluation with local planning, mitigation tracking, damage-data collection, floodplain management, and implementation. The goal is to establish a **practical regional framework** for measuring and communicating risk reduction while **improving local capacity, supporting insurance and investment outcomes, and reducing unnecessary administrative burden.**

Because Region 6 spans the transition between coastal and inland watershed systems, lessons from the pilot can help establish a practical framework for coordinated water management in other watershed transition areas across the state.

The **Funding Request in Exhibit A** provides additional detail on the proposed investment and outcomes. **Exhibit B includes the proposed Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot legislation and FY 2027–2028 budget request to advance this work.**

1.3 Legislation

The 2027 Legislative Package detailed in **Exhibit B** will seek approximately \$2.5 million in coordinated state funding for a **Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot**, using existing state authorities rather than creating a new watershed authority or program.

The request will include **two complementary scopes of work: approximately \$1.5 million to CPRA to support application of existing watershed models and development of the technical framework necessary to measure changes in flood risk; and approximately \$1 million to DOTD/CURRENT to support regional implementation, development of the Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System, local implementation and disaster-response capacity, CRS-aligned activities, risk communication, project development, and funding readiness.**

Region 6, through the designated regional implementing entity, would coordinate and contract for Pilot implementation, while CPRA and DOTD/CURRENT would provide state implementation oversight for the portions supported through their respective appropriations. Together, these investments will demonstrate how existing state, regional, and local resources can be integrated to implement the Region 6 Watershed Plan and produce measurable risk-reduction outcomes.

2.0 Schedule

The strategy schedule will begin with **early outreach to elected officials representing the 16-parish Region 6 area**, followed by coordination with CPRA and DOTD/CURRENT leadership, presentations to the respective state boards, broader legislative committee engagement, and ultimately advancement of the funding request through the FY 2027–2028 budget process.

Early regional legislative engagement is particularly important because the proposed Pilot would place substantial responsibility for implementation, contracting, regional coordination, and delivery of Pilot outcomes within Region 6. Legislators representing participating communities should understand the proposed structure, the benefits to their districts, and the safeguards for state oversight before the proposal advances through the formal agency and legislative process.

2.1 Regional Legislative and Local Leadership Outreach

September–October 2026

Conduct targeted one-on-one briefings with legislators representing the 16-parish Region 6 area, with an initial focus on members whose districts overlap participating communities and who serve on transportation, natural resources, appropriations, finance, or other relevant committees.

Outreach should:

- Introduce the Region 6 Watershed Plan and August 12, 2026 Plan acceptance;
- Explain the proposed Pilot and the four specific deliverables;
- Clearly describe Region 6/SCPDC's implementation role and CPRA/DOTD-CURRENT state oversight roles;
- Identify how individual parishes and communities would benefit;
- Build support for the proposed \$2.5 million FY 2027–2028 investment;
- Identify potential bill authors, co-authors, and legislative champions; and
- Seek regional support before formal committee and budget consideration.

Where appropriate, coordinate outreach with Parish Presidents, local governing authorities, and Region 6 Steering Committee members so legislators hear directly from the communities they represent.

2.2 State Agency Leadership Coordination

October –November 2026

Following or concurrent with initial regional legislative outreach, conduct one-on-one meetings with CPRA, DOTD/CURRENT, OCD, and other appropriate state leadership to refine agency roles, implementation oversight, appropriation structure, and Pilot deliverables.

2.2.1 CPRA Leadership Meeting – October 21st, 11:00am

Present to Oneil Malbrough, Gordy Dove, Tony Alford, and other appropriate CPRA leadership.

Contact: Oneil Malbrough; P: (985) 219-1000; E: oneilm@gisv.com

2.2.2 DOTD/CURRENT Authority Leadership Meeting – October 19th, 11:15am

Present to Secretary Ledet, Billy Williamson, Ed Knight and other appropriate DOTD leadership

Contact: Austin Vaughn; P: (225) 379-1303; E: Austin.Vaughn@la.gov

2.2.3 USACE Leadership

Present Plan, program goals, implementation metrics and discuss alignment opportunities with USACE ongoing activities

Contact: Dave Ramirez

2.3 State Board Presentations

November – December 2026

2.3.1 CPRA Board Meeting

- Date and time: November 18, 2026, 9:30am
- Location: Louisiana State Capitol, House Committee Room 1, 900 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
- Contact: Enger Kinchen, Administrative Staff Officer; P: (225) 342-7669; E: Enger.kinchen@la.gov
- Champion: Gordy Dove
- Goal: Present the Region 6 Pilot as an implementation-ready extension of existing state watershed and coastal investments, with particular emphasis on watershed modeling, risk-reduction measurement, and coordination across the coastal-to-inland transition.

2.3.2 CURRENT Authority Board Meeting

- Date and time: Tentative: November 5, 2026, Alexandria
- Location: Tentative: Alexandria
- Contact: Ed Knight; P: (225) 379-3015; E: Edward.Knight@la.gov
- Champion: Ed Knight
- Purpose: Present the implementation-ready tools and capabilities already developed or underway in Region 6—including the R3 technology platform in Terrebonne, damage-assessment training, watershed models and data, planning tools, and CRS-aligned resources—and request state funding for a Region 6 Pilot to deploy, integrate, and expand these resources through a Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System and coordinated Watershed Plan implementation program.

2.4 Regional Legislative Coalition Building

November 2026–January 2027

Following initial one-on-one briefings and state agency coordination, return to Region 6 legislators with the refined Pilot structure and funding request. The objective of this phase is to:

- Confirm legislative champions;
- Secure a primary House or Senate author;
- Build a bipartisan group of Region 6 co-authors and supporters;
- Coordinate support from Parish Presidents and local governments;
- Prepare legislators for relevant committee and budget hearings; and

- Demonstrate that the request is supported across the Region rather than by a single agency or entity.

2.5 Early Budget Engagement Opportunity with Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget

December 2026

- Website: <https://jlcb.legis.la.gov/>
- Contact: Jaymi Foster; Committee Administrative Assistant; P: (225) 342-1964; E: fosterj@legis.la.gov
- Date and time: December 10, 2026, 10:00am
- Location: Louisiana State Capitol, House Committee Room 5, 900 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
- Champions:
 - Berly Amedee (Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, and Terrebonne); P: (985) 858-2967; E: amedeeb@legis.la.gov
 - Michael “Big Mike” Fesi (Lafourche and Terrebonne); P: (985) 858-2979; E: sen20@legis.la.gov
- Purpose: Introduce the Region 6 Pilot and funding request early in the budget process, build awareness of the two-agency appropriation structure, and identify budget-placement considerations before the 2027 Session

2.6 Policy Committee Engagement

January–April 2027

Advance the proposal with members and leadership of the:

- **House Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committee**
 - Website: https://house.louisiana.gov/H_Cmtes/Transportation
 - Contact: Debra Carter, Executive Assistant; P: (225) 342-2452
 - Champions:
 - Jerome Zeringue (Terrebonne); P: (985) 876-8823; E: zeringue@legis.la.gov
 - Bryan Fontenot (Lafourche); P: (985) 447-0999; E: hse055@legis.la.gov
 - Jacob Braud (Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines); P: (504) 230-2360; E: hse105@legis.la.gov
 - Chasity Martinez (Assumption and Iberville); P: (225) 401-4079; E: hse060@legis.la.gov
 - Matt Johns (Rapides Area Planning Commission); P: (318) 487-5401; E: matt@rapc.info
- **Senate Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committee**
 - Website: https://senate.la.gov/Sen_Committees/Transportation
 - Contact: Serena Mohammad, Secretary; P: (225) 342-0655; E: sthpw@legis.la.gov
 - Champions:
 - Pat Connick (Jefferson); (504) 371-0240; connickp@legis.la.gov
 - Gregory A. Miller (Jefferson, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist); (985) 764-9991; E: sen19@legis.la.gov
- **House Natural Resources and Environment Committee**

- **Website:** https://house.louisiana.gov/H_Cmtes/NaturalResources
- **Contact:** Ashley Davillier, Committee Administrative Assistant; P: (225) 342-2411
- **Champion:** Jessica Domangue (Terrebonne); P: (985) 858-2970; E: hse053@legis.la.gov
- **Senate Natural Resources Committee**
 - **Website:** https://senate.la.gov/Sen_Committees/NaturalResources
 - **Contact:** Trinicia Bryant, Senior Secretary; P: (225) 342-9703; E: snatr@legis.la.gov
 - **Champion:**
 - Michael “Big Mike” Fesi (Lafourche and Terrebonne); P: (985) 858-2979; E: sen20@legis.la.gov
 - Robert Allain (Assumption, Iberia, Lafourche, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne); P: (337) 828-9107; P: (985) 850-2738; E: sen21@legis.la.gov

Region 6 legislators identified during the earlier outreach phase should serve as primary champions and messengers during this phase.

2.7 Funding Approval – Primary Budget Committees

Note: Monitor House and Senate committee calendars as the 2027 Session approaches.

2.7.1 House Committee on Appropriations

- **Website:** https://house.louisiana.gov/H_Cmtes/Appropriations
- **Contact:** Jaymi Foster, Committee Administrative Assistant; P: (225) 342-1964; E: fosterj@legis.la.gov
- **Champion:** Berly Amedee (Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, and Terrebonne), P: (985) 858-2967; amedeeb@legis.la.gov

2.7.2 Senate Committee on Finance

- **Website:** https://senate.la.gov/Sen_Committees/Finance
- **Contact:** Jessica Y. Miller, Senior Secretary; P: (225) 342-0674; E: sfnce@legis.la.gov
- **Champion:** Michael “Big Mike” Fesi (Lafourche and Terrebonne); P: (985) 858-2979; E: sen20@legis.la.gov

Exhibit A – Funding Request and **Exhibit B – 2027 Legislative Package** provide the framework for advancing this strategy. Once the initial meetings are completed, the next phase will focus on building legislative support, advocating for the proposed legislation, and working with legislative partners to advance the bill through the House and Senate.

EXHIBIT A – FUNDING REQUEST

Subject: Request for State Investment in the Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot

Dear Members of the Louisiana Senate and House Committees:

On behalf of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) Region 6 Steering Committee, we respectfully request \$2.5 million in state funding for a **Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot** to move the recently accepted Region 6 Watershed Plan into implementation.

Louisiana has already invested significantly in watershed models, regional planning, priority projects, technical tools, and local partnerships. With the Region 6 Watershed Plan accepted on August 12, 2026, the next step is to put those investments to work—using them to inform decisions, advance projects, strengthen local capacity, and measure whether public and private actions are actually reducing flood risk.

The Pilot would produce four practical outcomes:

- **A regional system for measuring risk reduction.** Establish baseline conditions and develop a consistent methodology for evaluating how infrastructure projects, mitigation investments, land-development decisions, policy changes, and other actions increase or reduce flood risk over time.
- **A Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System.** Provide participating communities with shared tools, data standards, and procedures to collect, manage, track, and communicate mitigation and damage information consistently—both before and following disaster events.
- **Stronger local implementation capacity.** Provide communities with the technical support necessary to use watershed models and risk information, improve floodplain management, develop and prioritize projects, document benefits, pursue funding, conduct damage assessments, and maintain the information necessary to demonstrate progress.
- **A Regional CRS-Aligned Risk Reduction and Insurance Framework.** Test a more efficient framework for mitigation tracking, floodplain management, and risk communication that keeps implementation close to local communities while using the regional structure to establish consistent standards, share technical capacity, reduce duplication, and achieve economies of scale.

Together, these outcomes would allow Region 6 to move beyond documenting activities and begin demonstrating results—providing a measurable record of how investments, policies, development decisions, and mitigation actions are changing flood risk across the Region.

We respectfully request two complementary investments:

- **\$1.5 million to CPRA** to support the application of existing watershed models in Region 6, including evaluation of regional projects and risk-reduction strategies, analysis of coastal and inland watershed interactions, and technical analysis needed to compare impacts, prioritize investments, and measure regional benefits.

- **\$1.0 million to DOTD/CURRENT** to support implementation of the Region 6 Watershed Plan, including community and regional planning; technical assistance to local governments; standardized mitigation and damage-data collection and management; local disaster damage-assessment capacity; floodplain-management and CRS-aligned activities; mitigation and risk-reduction outcome tracking; insurance and insurability strategies; project development; and funding readiness.

Together, these investments would **connect watershed modeling and technical analysis with the decisions and activities that occur on the ground**. Region 6 would develop a consistent framework for evaluating how infrastructure investments, mitigation activities, land-development decisions, and other actions affect flood risk—and for tracking and communicating those results over time.

The pilot would also test a regional approach that keeps implementation close to local communities while providing shared technical capacity, consistent data standards, common tools, and economies of scale across the Region. This approach can strengthen local flood-risk management while **reducing unnecessary duplication and administrative burden**.

Most importantly, the pilot would help Region 6 build a **credible record of measurable risk reduction that can be communicated to residents, FEMA, insurers, lenders, businesses, and investors**. Better documentation of how risk is being managed and reduced can strengthen funding decisions, support improved insurance outcomes, and help position Louisiana communities as safer and more attractive places to live, invest, and grow.

This request does not create a new authority or duplicate existing programs. It puts Louisiana's existing investments and authorities to work through an implementation-ready regional framework. Because Region 6 spans the transition between coastal and inland watershed systems, lessons from Region 6 can help establish a practical framework for coordinated water management in other watershed transition areas across the state.

We respectfully request the Legislature's support for this coordinated investment to demonstrate how Louisiana can **move from planning and modeling to implementation, measurable risk reduction, and stronger insurance and investment outcomes**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Gordon, Sr., CFM
Chief Planning Officer
South Central Planning and Development Commission
On behalf of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 6 Steering Committee

EXHIBIT B – 2027 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

REGION 6 INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION PILOT

B.1 SCOPE SHEET:

PROPOSED FY 2027–2028 BUDGET AMENDMENT

TOTAL REQUEST: \$2.5 MILLION

The Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot will move the accepted Region 6 Watershed Plan into implementation by connecting existing watershed models and technical analysis with local planning, project development, damage and mitigation data, floodplain management, and measurable risk reduction.

COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY - \$1.5 MILLION

Apply Existing Watershed Models and Measure Risk Reduction

Appropriate **\$1,500,000 State General Fund (Direct)** to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for the application of existing watershed models within Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 6 and development of the technical framework necessary to evaluate and measure changes in flood risk. Funding may support:

- Application of existing LWI watershed models;
- Establishment of baseline flood-risk conditions and indicators;
- Evaluation of regional flood-risk reduction projects and strategies;
- Analysis of coastal and inland watershed interactions;
- Evaluation of infrastructure, mitigation, and development scenarios that may affect flood risk;
- Development of consistent methodologies for measuring changes in risk, exposure, and vulnerability;
- Testing of projects or actions that may affect multiple jurisdictions or watershed systems; and
- Technical analysis supporting project prioritization, funding, and investment decisions.

This work will establish the technical baseline, modeling, and measurement methods needed to quantify how projects, development patterns, investments, policies, and other actions affect flood risk across Region 6. CPRA shall provide state implementation oversight for this work and coordinate, as appropriate, with Region 6, DOTD/CURRENT, OCD, participating political subdivisions, and other appropriate partners.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT / CURRENT AUTHORITY - \$1 MILLION

Move From Technical Analysis to Regional and Local Implementation

Appropriate **\$1,000,000 State General Fund (Direct)** to the Department of Transportation and Development, in coordination with the CURRENT Authority, to support implementation of the Region 6 Watershed Plan and development of the regional systems and local capacity necessary to manage, measure, and communicate flood-risk reduction. Funding may support:

- Development and deployment of a Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System;
- Standardized regional methods and tools for collecting, managing, and communicating mitigation and damage data;
- Pre- and post-disaster damage-assessment capacity, training, and technical assistance for local governments;
- Tracking of mitigation activities, projects, investments, and measurable risk-reduction outcomes;
- Community and regional watershed planning and implementation;

- Technical assistance to local governments;
- Floodplain-management, NFIP, and CRS-aligned activities;
- Development and testing of more efficient regional approaches to mitigation tracking, risk management, and CRS-related activities;
- Insurance, insurability, and risk-communication strategies;
- Development and prioritization of implementable projects;
- Grant and funding readiness; and
- Coordination among local governments, drainage and levee districts, regional entities, state agencies, FEMA, and other partners.

This work will translate technical information into implementation by providing participating communities with the shared data system, tools, technical assistance, and capacity needed to track mitigation and damage, advance risk-reduction actions, and document results over time.

DOTD/CURRENT shall provide state implementation oversight for this work in coordination with Region 6, CPRA, OCD, GOHSEP, FEMA, participating political subdivisions, and other appropriate partners.

PILOT DELIVERABLES

The Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot will produce **four primary deliverables**, all of which implement the Region 6 Watershed Plan.

1. Regional Risk-Reduction Measurement Framework

Establish a consistent methodology for evaluating how infrastructure projects, mitigation investments, land-development decisions, policy changes, and other actions affect flood risk, exposure, and vulnerability over time.

2. Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System

Develop and deploy a shared regional system that allows participating communities to consistently collect, manage, track, and communicate risk, mitigation, project, and damage information before and after disasters. The system should support local data collection while creating consistent regional standards that allow information to be aggregated, analyzed, and communicated across jurisdictions.

3. Local Implementation and Disaster-Response Capacity

Build the capacity of participating communities to use watershed models and risk information, conduct and document damage assessments, improve floodplain management, track mitigation activities, develop projects, pursue funding, and maintain the information necessary to demonstrate progress.

4. Regional CRS-Aligned Risk Reduction and Insurance Framework

Develop and test a new regional approach to mitigation tracking, floodplain management, and risk communication that keeps implementation close to local communities while providing shared technical capacity, consistent standards, common tools, and economies of scale. The framework will evaluate opportunities to reduce administrative burden while improving the ability of communities to demonstrate meaningful risk-reduction outcomes to FEMA, insurers, residents, businesses, lenders, and investors.

At the conclusion of the Pilot, Region 6 will share tools, demonstrate measurable outcomes, and leverage work to support applying successful elements of the Pilot in other watershed regions across Louisiana.

B.2 TAKE AWAY: REGION 6 INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION PILOT

REQUEST: \$2.5 MILLION IN COORDINATED STATE FUNDING

\$1.5 MILLION — CPRA

Watershed Model Application + Risk-Reduction Measurement

\$1.0 MILLION — DOTD / CURRENT

Regional Implementation + Risk Reduction and Damage Data System + Local Capacity

WHAT THE STATE RECEIVES

MEASURE

A consistent framework for determining whether projects, investments, development decisions, and mitigation actions are actually reducing flood risk.

TRACK

A Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System providing common tools and standards for mitigation and damage information across participating communities.

IMPLEMENT

Stronger local capacity to use risk information, manage floodplains, assess disaster damages, advance projects, pursue funding, and document results.

DEMONSTRATE

A regional CRS-aligned and insurance-focused framework designed to improve risk communication, reduce unnecessary administrative burden, and demonstrate meaningful outcomes for residents and businesses.

WHY REGION 6?

Region 6 is ready to move from planning to implementation. The Region already has:

- An accepted 16-parish Watershed Plan;
- Existing watershed models, data, and project priorities in place and in use;
- Established state, regional, and local partnerships willing and able to work together; and
- An accepted framework focused on measurable risk reduction, insurance, and investment.

The State is not being asked to fund another planning process. ***Region 6 is ready to implement, test, and measure.***

Region 6 also includes both coastal and inland watershed systems, making it an appropriate pilot for demonstrating how CPRA and DOTD/CURRENT can coordinate across Louisiana's watershed transition area.

WHY NOW?

Louisiana does not need to start over. The State has already invested in the models, plans, tools, and partnerships needed to better understand flood risk. ***The next step is to put those investments to work.***

Region 6 provides an opportunity to demonstrate how technology, science, data, and local experience and expertise can work together to lower flood risk, measure results, improve insurability, and attract investment—while creating a practical model that can inform similar efforts across Louisiana and the nation.

LEGISLATIVE GOAL: Provide \$2.5 million in FY 2027–2028 to move Region 6 through the complete risk-reduction cycle:

Understand Risk → Plan → Prioritize → Invest → **IMPLEMENT** → **REDUCE RISK** → **MEASURE RESULTS** → **IMPROVE INSURABILITY** → **SUPPORT INVESTMENT**

Region 6 will provide Louisiana with a real-world demonstration of how existing state investments, regional coordination, technology, and local implementation can work together to reduce flood risk and help make communities safer, more insurable, and more investable.

B.3 DRAFT LEGISLATION

REGION 6 INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION PILOT

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

BY REPRESENTATIVE _____

AN ACT

To appropriate funds for Fiscal Year 2027–2028 to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the Department of Transportation and Development, in coordination with the CURRENT Authority, for implementation of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 6 Watershed Plan through a Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot; to provide for application of existing watershed models and measurement of flood-risk reduction; to provide for development and deployment of a Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System; to strengthen regional and local implementation and disaster-response capacity; to support floodplain management, Community Rating System-aligned activities, insurance and risk-communication strategies, and project development; to provide for regional and interagency coordination; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has made significant investments in watershed modeling, regional planning, project development, mitigation, technical tools, and local capacity through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative; and

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2026, the Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 6 Steering Committee accepted the 2026 Region 6 Watershed Plan, establishing a regional framework for coordinated watershed management and implementation across participating communities; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana should build upon its existing investments in models, plans, data, technology, and local capacity rather than duplicate prior planning efforts or start over; and

WHEREAS, effective watershed management requires not only identifying projects and mitigation activities, but measuring whether infrastructure investments, development decisions, policies, and other actions measurably increase or reduce flood risk, exposure, and vulnerability over time; and

WHEREAS, consistent collection and management of risk, mitigation, project, and disaster-damage information can strengthen local disaster response, floodplain management, project development, investment decisions, and long-term measurement of risk-reduction outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Region 6 includes both coastal and inland watershed systems and provides an opportunity to demonstrate how state agencies, regional entities, and local governments can coordinate across Louisiana's coastal-to-upland transition while operating within their respective authorities; and

WHEREAS, Region 6 can demonstrate how technology, science, data, and local experience and expertise can be combined to lower flood risk, improve insurability, attract investment, and establish practices that may inform similar efforts elsewhere in Louisiana.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA:

Section 1. Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot

The **Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot** is hereby funded for Fiscal Year 2027-2028 for the purpose of implementing the Region 6 Watershed Plan and demonstrating a coordinated regional framework for understanding, managing, reducing, measuring, and communicating flood risk. The pilot shall utilize and build upon existing state and regional programs and authorities and shall not create a new state authority or political subdivision. Participating state agencies shall carry out

DESIRE LINE

activities within their respective statutory jurisdictions and shall coordinate implementation across Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 6 to the maximum extent practicable.

Section 2. CPRA – Watershed Modeling and Risk-Reduction Measurement

The sum of **One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000)** is hereby appropriated out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to support continued application of existing watershed models and development of the technical framework necessary to evaluate and measure flood-risk reduction within Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 6, consistent with the authority granted to CPRA by law.

Funds appropriated pursuant to this Section may be used for:

1. Application and analysis of existing watershed models and data;
2. Evaluation of regional flood risk reduction projects and strategies;
3. Analysis of interactions among coastal and upland watershed systems;
4. Evaluation of infrastructure, mitigation, development, and other scenarios affecting flood risk;
5. Development and application of consistent methodologies for measuring changes in flood risk, exposure, and vulnerability;
6. Evaluation of projects or conditions affecting multiple jurisdictions or watershed systems; and
7. Development of technical information to support project prioritization, funding, and investment decisions.

CPRA shall provide state implementation oversight for these activities, as appropriate, with the Department of Transportation and Development, the CURRENT Authority, the Office of Community Development, the Regional Implementation Entity, participating political subdivisions, and other appropriate state and federal partners. This work will establish the technical baseline, modeling, and measurement methods needed to quantify how projects, development patterns, investments, and other actions affect flood risk across Region 6.

Section 3. DOTD/CURRENT – Regional Implementation and Risk-Reduction Capacity

The sum of **One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000)** is hereby appropriated out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Department of Transportation and Development, in coordination with the CURRENT Authority, to support implementation of the Region 6 Watershed Plan and development of the regional systems and local capacity necessary to manage, measure, and communicate flood-risk reduction, consistent with applicable law.

Funds appropriated pursuant to this Section may be used for:

1. Development and deployment of a Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System;
2. Development of consistent regional standards, tools, and procedures for collecting, managing, tracking, analyzing, and communicating mitigation and disaster-damage information;
3. Pre-disaster and post-disaster damage-assessment capacity, training, and technical assistance;
4. Tracking of mitigation activities, projects, investments, and measurable risk-reduction outcomes;
5. Regional and community watershed planning and implementation;
6. Technical assistance to participating political subdivisions;
7. Floodplain-management, National Flood Insurance Program, and Community Rating System-aligned activities;
8. Development and testing of more efficient approaches to mitigation tracking, risk management, and CRS-related activities;
9. Insurance, insurability, and risk-communication strategies;
10. Development and prioritization of implementable projects;

11. Grant development and funding readiness; and
12. Coordination among participating communities, regional entities, drainage and levee districts, state agencies, federal agencies, and other partners.

DOTD/CURRENT shall provide state implementation oversight for these activities, as appropriate, with CPRA, the Office of Community Development, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, FEMA, regional planning entities, participating political subdivisions, and other appropriate partners. This work will translate technical information into implementation by providing participating communities with the shared data system, tools, technical assistance, and capacity needed to track mitigation and damage, advance risk-reduction actions, and document results over time.

Section 4. Regional Implementation and Pilot Deliverables

Implementation of the Pilot shall be coordinated through Region 6 and administered by the regional entity designated to implement the Region 6 Watershed Plan (the “**Regional Implementing Entity**”). The Regional Implementing Entity shall have primary responsibility for contracting, procurement, consultant management, coordination with participating political subdivisions, day-to-day Pilot administration, integration of Pilot activities, and preparation of required progress and performance information.

CPRA and DOTD/CURRENT shall coordinate with the Regional Implementing Entity and with one another to avoid duplication, align technical and implementation activities, and ensure that the Pilot produces measurable outcomes capable of informing similar efforts elsewhere in Louisiana.

CPRA and DOTD/CURRENT shall provide state implementation oversight for the portions of the Pilot supported through their respective appropriations. The designated oversight agency for each deliverable (described in Sections 4.1 - 4.4) shall be responsible for coordinating with Regional Implementing Entity, confirming consistency with the authorized scope of work, providing appropriate technical and programmatic guidance, and reviewing progress and deliverables associated with the use of state funds.

4.1 Regional Risk-Reduction Measurement Framework

Regional Implementation: Regional Implementing Entity

State Implementation Oversight: CPRA

Supporting State Agency: DOTD/CURRENT

The Regional Implementing Entity shall coordinate development of a consistent methodology for evaluating how projects, investments, land-development decisions, mitigation activities, policies, and other actions affect flood risk, exposure, and vulnerability over time.

CPRA shall provide implementation oversight for this work, including support and coordination related to watershed models, technical methodologies, risk indicators, and measurement of changes in flood risk.

DOTD/CURRENT shall support integration of the framework with community implementation, project development, mitigation tracking, and local risk-management activities.

4.2 Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System

Regional Implementation: Regional Implementing Entity

State Implementation Oversight: DOTD/CURRENT

Supporting State Agency: CPRA

The Regional Implementing Entity shall coordinate development, deployment, and regional use of the Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System, including common tools, data standards, procedures, and technical resources for collecting, managing, tracking, analyzing, and communicating risk, mitigation, project, and disaster-damage information.

DOTD/CURRENT shall provide implementation oversight for development and deployment of the System and its use to support regional and local risk-reduction, mitigation, disaster-response, and implementation activities.

CPRA shall support integration of watershed-modeling data, technical risk information, and risk-reduction indicators into the System.

4.3 Local Implementation and Disaster-Response Capacity

Regional Implementation: Regional Implementing Entity

State Implementation Oversight: DOTD/CURRENT

Supporting State Agency: CPRA

The Regional Implementing Entity shall coordinate technical assistance and capacity-building for participating communities, including disaster damage assessment, floodplain management, mitigation tracking, project development, grant and funding readiness, use of risk information, and implementation of Watershed Plan recommendations.

DOTD/CURRENT shall provide implementation oversight for these regional and local capacity-building activities.

CPRA shall provide technical support related to watershed modeling, flood-risk information, project evaluation, and application of the regional risk-reduction measurement framework.

4.4 Regional CRS-Aligned Risk Reduction and Insurance Framework

Regional Implementation: Regional Implementing Entity

State Implementation Oversight: DOTD/CURRENT

Supporting State Agency: CPRA

The Regional Implementing Entity shall coordinate development and testing of a regional framework for CRS-aligned activities, mitigation tracking, floodplain management, insurance and insurability strategies, and communication of measurable risk-reduction outcomes.

DOTD/CURRENT shall provide implementation oversight for this work, including evaluation of approaches that improve local and regional capacity, increase efficiency, reduce unnecessary administrative burden, and strengthen communication of risk-reduction outcomes.

CPRA shall support the framework through technical risk information, modeling results, and risk-reduction measurement methodologies.

Section 5. Reporting and Evaluation

On or before **March 1, 2028**, the Regional Implementing Entity shall prepare an interim report on implementation of the Region 6 Integrated Watershed Management and Risk Reduction Pilot, and CPRA and DOTD/CURRENT shall jointly transmit the report to the appropriate committees of the Louisiana Legislature.

On or before **December 31, 2028**, the Regional Implementing Entity shall prepare a final Pilot report, and CPRA and DOTD/CURRENT shall jointly transmit the report to the appropriate committees of the Louisiana Legislature. The final report shall document:

- Pilot deliverables completed;
- Measurable risk-reduction methodologies and outcomes developed or demonstrated;
- Implementation and use of the Regional Risk Reduction and Damage Data System;
- Improvements in local implementation and disaster-response capacity;
- Findings related to CRS-aligned risk reduction, insurance, and risk communication;
- Efficiencies, administrative improvements, and lessons learned;
- Additional public or private investment leveraged or positioned for investment; and
- Recommendations for continued implementation or application of successful approaches in other watershed transition areas of Louisiana.

Section 6. Preservation of Existing Authority

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to create a new state authority or political subdivision or to diminish, expand, or otherwise alter the existing statutory jurisdiction, powers, or responsibilities of CPRA, DOTD, the CURRENT Authority, participating political subdivisions, levee districts, drainage districts, regional planning entities, or other participating entities.

Section 7. Effective Date

This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2027; if vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2027, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.