

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Local Governments Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Local Government	Add people as a stress factor; different economic drivers for each state/area. Coastal communities must be adaptive and resilient; includes infrastructure such as bays and bayous. Contaminants and water quality are top priorities.
General Public	Lack of cohesion on direction; inertia due to a lack of understanding; and opposition groups can stall projects.
Local Government	Wetlands are the first line of defense for storm surges. The ecosystem includes people -- people need flood protection and infrastructure protection in order to survive and work in the Gulf Coast.
Local Government	Our economy depends on what the environment can produce for us. The main stress for our land loss is development and urbanization.
General Public	Streamline the process. Layers of processes waste time. Start with the central wetland area -- Plaquemines and St. Bernard are on the front line.
Local Government	Fisheries and land loss are priorities; lack of sediment is the main stressor.
General Public	US needs to value the Gulf Coast and feel like they own it, like the Grand Canyon.
General Public	Frustrated - feel like we're just doing another plan.
Local Government	Prevent and protect existing infrastructure, e.g. evacuation routes.



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General Public	St. Charles parish spent \$2.8 million to apply for a 404 permit in 1992; still no permit. Need streamlining.
Local Government	Priorities are wetlands and barriers to shoreline restoration -- fisheries, tourism, restoration produce a large portion of the area's income. The barrier islands have to be sustainable for the economy and ecosystem. Coastal wetlands help fisheries.
Local Government	Segmentation is the bureaucratic approach. Need a holistic, regional approach.
Local Government	Administer Jackson and the President have been great listeners.
General Public	Recommendation must include changes to the permitting process. The parish worked with the Corps to get a permit in 19 days - should be able to do so more often and expedite the process.
General Public	Parish can complete projects cheaper than the state, and the state can complete projects cheaper than the federal government.
General Public	Show that the Task Force has made some consensus. Let us know we're having real input and that our ideas are making their way into the strategy. Provide recommendations that address everyone's top concerns.
Academia	Need a multiyear funding vehicle that cannot be changed later by another Congress. Congress authorized a 50 year floodplan after Hurricane Betsey that was never implemented properly by the Corps.
General Public	Convince Congress and the American people what the Gulf means to the rest of the US. Need widespread education.



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Local Government	CIAP brought money to locals, then forced local governments to look at regional projects and leverage the money to benefit more people.
General Public	Each parish president has projects they know need to happen immediately. Make sure money goes down to the parishes.
General Public	Socioeconomic impediments: people will be displaced and fisheries will be impacted for a long time.
General Public	Need education and proactive outreach to the people -- lots of mistrust and I think there's a lack of transparency.
Non-governmental Organization	Use a regional approach and use mechanisms that won't go through the feds to reengage the public.