



From the OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

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## **GOV. EDWARDS ANNOUNCES \$61.6 MILLION FOR 16 WATERSHED PROJECTS TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK**

**BATON ROUGE --** Gov. John Bel Edwards is announcing \$61.6 million in federal funding for 16 flood risk reduction projects throughout the state as part of the [Watershed Projects Grant Program: Local and Regional – Round 1](#). The Round 1 funding opportunity is part of the state's [Action Plan](#) to spend \$1.2 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds.

“Last week, heavy rains once again inundated flood-weary communities throughout Louisiana, underscoring our state’s increasing flood risk and urgent need for better flood risk reduction. Today, I’m heartened to announce relief is on the way,” Gov. Edwards said. “Through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, we are working to fight flooding on a large scale with immediate and long-term solutions. These projects move us in the right direction.”

Today’s funding announcement follows the state's March [award](#) of \$163 million for 15 projects and programs designed to address similar mitigation needs throughout the state. Combined, the awards total \$224 million awarded to 31 flood mitigation projects throughout Louisiana since the state received \$1.2 billion in federal mitigation funding in September.

This summer, regional steering committees will make project recommendations for the remaining \$40 million in Round 1 funding.

In addition, the state has directed more than \$100 million to buyout and elevation programs and an early launch of Round 2 as part of a Design Support Pilot. The buyouts and elevations will occur in flood-prone areas of Lake Charles, Denham Springs, Washington Parish, West Monroe and Scott as part of the LWI

nonstructural program. The Design Support Pilot will capitalize on opportunities associated with applications submitted to Round 1, where capacity or technical difficulties created hardship, and where investment in design support can enhance local project effectiveness.

With these announcements, LWI project awards will total more than \$450 million within the first year after the state received federal mitigation funding.

Members of the five state agencies represented on the [Council on Watershed Management](#) scored the Round 1 projects through a competitive process based on [evaluation and scoring criteria](#) and [program policies and procedures](#). The awarded projects align with the long-term resilience objectives of [LWI](#) and the state's [\\$1.2 billion CDBG-MIT Action Plan](#).

Future rounds of the Watershed Projects Grant Program will benefit from predictive watershed modeling tools in development and enhanced data collection capabilities, as part of the [Watershed Monitoring, Mapping and Modeling Program](#), as well as regional watershed-based floodplain management planning, as part of the [Regional Capacity Building Program](#).

The 16 awarded projects and requested funding amounts are as follows:

- \$10 million for Chatlin Lake Canal backwater overflow relief structure in Rapides Parish
- \$8.5 million for Bayou Duplantier floodplain acquisition in East Baton Rouge Parish
- \$5.7 million for Ward Creek floodplain acquisition in East Baton Rouge Parish
- \$5.36 million for Ockley Basin storage project in Caddo Parish
- \$5.3 million for Huffman Creek pump station and outfall improvements in Rapides Parish
- \$4.7 million for Coulee Mine East detention project in Lafayette Parish
- \$4.7 million for Cypress Bayou green infrastructure in East Baton Rouge Parish
- \$3.3 million for Dellwood drainage pump station hardening in St. Tammany Parish
- \$2.9 million for Church Point detention and flood proofing in Acadia Parish
- \$2.85 million for East Slidell ring levee in St. Tammany Parish
- \$1.9 million for emergency backup pumps for pump stations in Lafourche Parish
- \$1.9 million for Horseshoe Canal hardening project in Rapides Parish
- \$1.8 million for Lee Street drainage pump station hardening in St. Tammany Parish

- \$1.25 million for Bonadona-Cataldo subdivision drainage pump improvements in Ascension Parish
- \$749,000 for Coushatta Casino Resort wastewater treatment plant floodwall in Allen Parish
- \$659,500 for Maringouin drainage improvements in Iberville Parish

For more information about the Round 1 projects, click [here](#). For more information about LWI, visit the [website](#) or email [watershed@la.gov](mailto:watershed@la.gov).

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