

**STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**BATON ROUGE**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EWE 94 - 6**

- WHEREAS,** Louisiana's expansive coastal and inland wetlands provide a variety of economic and environmental benefits to the citizens of our state and nation; and
- WHEREAS,** important societal benefits and values of the state's wetlands include, among others, their fundamental role in natural flood control, in providing coastal and inland shoreline stabilization, in the recharge of groundwater aquifers, and in filtering and absorbing pollutants that may degrade the water quality of the state's rivers, lakes and estuaries; and
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana's wetlands support commercial and recreational fishing, hunting and trapping industries worth annually in excess of a billion dollars; and
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana's wetlands provide essential habitats for the state's diverse and abundant marine, estuarine and freshwater plants and animals, including state and federally listed threatened and endangered species; and
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana has lost approximately eight million acres of coastal and inland wetlands since statehood; and
- WHEREAS,** the majority of existing wetlands in Louisiana are privately owned; and
- WHEREAS,** it is the intent of the state to improve coordination and cooperation among state and federal agencies, user groups and landowners and to establish consistency in wetland protection goals and objectives; and
- WHEREAS,** the extraordinary values of Louisiana's wetlands and their progressive loss compel the development of a coherent statewide wetlands conservation and management plan; and
- WHEREAS,** the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act of 1990 (P. L. 101-646) provides funding to pursue the development of a wetlands conservation plan that carries the opportunity to reduce the state's coast share for coastal restoration projects from 25% to 15% (about \$4 million savings/year) upon approval; and
- WHEREAS,** such a plan should consider various paths including incentives, regulations and acquisitions that might lead to greater protection of the state's critical wetland habitats, including, if prudent, state assumption of federal wetlands jurisdictional authority; and

**WHEREAS,** the development and implementation of an effective statewide wetlands plan will require a broad-based consensus of stakeholders representing diverse economic and environmental interests;

**NOW THEREFORE I, EDWIN W. EDWARDS,** Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the state Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby create the Louisiana Statewide Wetlands Advisory Task Force, which shall be domiciled in the Office of the Governor and hereinafter referred to as the Statewide Wetlands Advisory Task Force.

**FURTHER,** the Statewide Wetlands Advisory Task Force shall aid and assist the state in the development of a statewide Wetlands Conservation Plan that adequately considers diverse environmental and economic interests; and

**FURTHER,** the Statewide Wetlands Advisory Task Force shall promote the coordination and development of plans for wetlands protection within the lower Mississippi River Valley in conjunction with the seven delta states' wetland initiatives; and

**FURTHER,** the Statewide Wetlands Advisory Task Force shall assist in providing public input for promoting coordination and development of plans for wetlands protection within the lower Mississippi River Valley in conjunction with the seven delta states' wetland initiatives; and

**FURTHER,** the Statewide Wetlands Advisory Task Force shall be composed of the following to be appointed by and to serve at the pleasure of the Governor and the Governor shall select the Chairman from the following members:

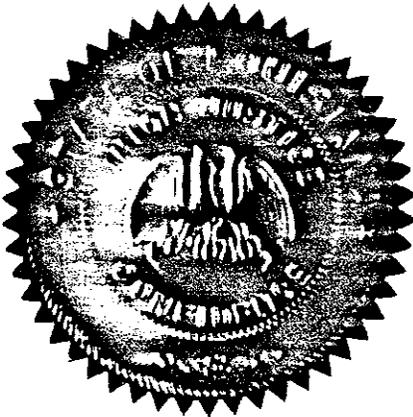
- 1) Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
- 2) Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources or his designee
- 3) Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or his designee
- 4) Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or his designee
- 5) A member of the Louisiana Nature Conservancy
- 6) A member of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- 7) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
- 8) LSU Sea Grant Legal Program
- 9) A representative of the Louisiana Landowners Association
- 10) A representative of Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association
- 11) A member of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation
- 12) A representative of the Pulp and Paper Association
- 13) A representative of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
- 14) A Louisiana Land Owner (Property in Coastal Zone)
- 15) A Louisiana Land Owner (Property Outside Coastal Zone)
- 16) A member of the Sierra Club (Delta Chapter)
- 17) A representative of the Louisiana Soil and Water Conservator. Districts
- 18) LSU Agriculture Center
- 19) A Representative of a National Estuary Program
- 20) A representative of the Louisiana Municipal Association

- 21) A member of the Louisiana Police Jury Association
- 22) A representative of the Louisiana Independent Oil and Gas Association
- 23) A Local Coastal Zone Management Area Representative
- 24) Three citizens residing in parishes outside the Coastal Zone
- 25) Three citizens residing in parishes wholly or partially in the Coastal Zone
- 26) Three representatives of local or municipal government located in the Coastal Zone
- 27) Three representatives of local or municipal government located outside the Coastal Zone

**FURTHER,**

I hereby invite participation by the appropriate federal natural resource agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service to provide assistance to the state in the development and implementation of a statewide Wetlands Conservation Plan.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 23rd day of February, 1994.



*Edwin Edwards*  
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GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY  
THE GOVERNOR

*Joseph P. Keithen*  
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SECRETARY OF STATE