**PLAQUEMINES HARBOR OF REFUGE**

**PROPOSAL**

Plaquemines Parish is a Sportsman’s Paradise with some of the world’s best commercial and recreational fishing areas. The seafood industry is one of the leading employers in Louisiana, and Plaquemines Parish produces millions of pounds of shrimp, oysters, crabs and fish annually. However, as flood risk increases and land loss continues to occur, this industry faces significant threats to its viability — specifically to vital equipment and infrastructure. This proposal would create a harbor of refuge for vessels to shelter in place during disaster events, incorporating marina amenities, wet-and dry-docking facilities as well as green infrastructure to help manage stormwater.

*Enhances quality of life in surrounding area, providing facility for local markets and venue for local vendors.*

*Provides safe harboring and storage capacity for vessels operating in local waterways; protects seafood industry supply chain.*

*Grows the direct seafood to consumer market and provides fishermen and farmers with a permanent location to sell and market goods.*

*Enhances arts and festival opportunities in the parish and creates eco-tourism opportunity.*

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**Key Info**

- **Project Area**: Approx. 11 acres
- **LA SAFE Investment**: Up to $6.0M
- **Estimated Project Cost**: $6.0M - $14.8M
- **Partners**: Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana SeaGrant

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**Community Benefits**

- Reduces potential flooding in surrounding areas by expanding detention capacity on site through pervious paving, bioswales and rain gardens.
- Provides safe harboring and storage capacity for vessels operating in local waterways; protects seafood industry supply chain.
- Enhances the direct seafood to consumer market and provides fishermen and farmers with a permanent location to sell and market goods.
- Enhances arts and festival opportunities in the parish and creates eco-tourism opportunity.

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**Prototype Plan View**

- Harbor of Refuge and Boat Docks
- Picnic Pavilion (optional)
- Raised Convenience Store and Restrooms (optional)
- Seafood market (optional)
- Permeable parking and bioswales
- Tree plantings and bioswales
The Belle Chasse Wetland Park — half of which is in the floodplain and situated on lands that are on average three feet below sea level — diverts and temporarily stores water during heavy rain events to mitigate flooding and subsidence in the surrounding area. The design provides vehicular access from Avenue A to the east, from Olson Dr. to the southwest in Phase II, and by bike or on foot from the neighborhood to the north along Good News Ave. While the project’s main purpose is to reduce risk by increasing water storage capacity in the park, it also provides paths and boardwalks for viewing natural habitats and the opportunity to experience military jet flights overhead from the adjacent Naval Air Station. A new walking and bike path also extends to the segment of Planter’s Canal west of the park, creating a new connection between a beautiful existing waterway and the new park amenity.

Key Info

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Area</th>
<th>90 acres</th>
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<td>Partners</td>
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The Belle Chasse Wetland Park — half of which is in the floodplain and situated on lands that are on average three feet below sea level — diverts and temporarily stores water during heavy rain events to mitigate flooding and subsidence in the surrounding area. The design provides vehicular access from Avenue A to the east, from Olson Dr. to the southwest in Phase II, and by bike or on foot from the neighborhood to the north along Good News Ave. While the project’s main purpose is to reduce risk by increasing water storage capacity in the park, it also provides paths and boardwalks for viewing natural habitats and the opportunity to experience military jet flights overhead from the adjacent Naval Air Station. A new walking and bike path also extends to the segment of Planter’s Canal west of the park, creating a new connection between a beautiful existing waterway and the new park amenity.

Plan View

Phase I

- Stormwater Ponds and Recreational Areas that double as Water Storage
- Pathway network with Educational Signage in Forested Wetland
- Linear Park with Native Pathway
- Pedestrian Bridge to connect neighborhood to wetland park
- Permeable Parking and Bioswales
- Open Lawn Area

Phase II

- Permeable Parking and Bioswales
- Open Lawn Area
- Constructed Wetlands for Water Storage
- Linear Park with Educational Signage in Forested Wetland
- Future Nature & Conference Center
- Existing Stormwater Ponds that can be converted to Fishing Pond
- Future Expansion of Path network to integrate into existing park pathways
- Future Recreational Pavilion

Future Vision

- Creates a park and natural walking amenities to the benefit of adjacent neighborhoods and developments.
- Reduces the potential for street flooding and danger to nearby motorists by detaining stormwater runoff; increases neighborhood connectivity to nature.
- Creates a community asset and educational tool for nearby schools to highlight the benefit of stormwater management.
- Provides green space, walking paths and natural habitat.
This proposed project is modeled after Propeller, a business incubator in New Orleans that offers a training program for accelerating new business development, as well as office space and amenities for small-business owners. The Plaquemines incubator will support businesses that address: alternative energy, coastal restoration, eco-tourism, and locally produced food.

**Key Info**

- **LA SAFE investment**: Up to $4 million
- **Estimated Project Cost**: $2 million for accelerator program development; $2 million for facility construction or renovation
- **Location**: TBD
- **Potential Partners**: Propeller, Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.), Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry (PABI), Delgado Community College

**Community Benefits**

- Incentivizes the development of new firms and emergent technologies in coastal restoration.
- The development of this incubator will use smart building strategies that respond to the environment and mitigate stormwater on site.
- The accelerator promotes small business development and economic diversity, creating jobs in growing industrial sectors.
- Eco-tourism and the growth of small local businesses provide the opportunity to share and strengthen local culture.

**PROPOSAL**

Economic resilience is a cornerstone of LA SAFE. A business incubator will help launch new businesses, diversifying the economy with industries that will strengthen the region in the future.

As part of the accelerator program, entrepreneurs will have access to a mentor in their field to help guide them through the program as they start their business. The incubator provides a co-working space with access to shared office equipment and a communal kitchen.

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Fishermen Loans
Supporting Louisiana Seafood is a goal that LA SAFE heard across the coast. Fishermen struggle with changing ecosystems, increasing risk to their equipment, and cheap imported competition. They often need boat repairs and upgrades prior to fishing season. Due to the seasonal nature of the industry, conventional loans do not always meet their needs. This program will provide low-interest loans with a flexible repayment schedule that matches the fishing season. By supporting fishermen, this program also supports the Louisiana seafood industry as a whole, a cornerstone of Louisiana economy and culture.

Citrus Farmer Loans
Citrus farming has been a staple of Plaquemines Parish’s economy and culture for several generations, as memorialized by the annual Orange Festival, dating back to 1947. These low interest loans will be made available to citrus farmers to support the industry.

PROPOSAL
This program provides technical assistance and loans of up to $50,000 to residents in the fishing or citrus farming industries who do not have access to traditional lines of credit. Fishermen may use these loans to improve or repair boats and equipment, diversify into charter service or tourism, implement approved best practices or invest in product quality enhancement equipment. Loans would be low-interest and borrowers may be eligible for flexible repayment options based on seasonal income.

Key Info
- LA SAFE Investment: Up to $3 million
- Estimated Project Cost: $3 million
- Partners: Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), Coastal Communities Consulting (CCC), local Credit Union, or local non-profit
- Location: All of Plaquemines Parish

Community Benefits
- Loans can be used to retrofit vessels to travel further distances and protect the seafood industry’s supply chain.
- Loan program would bolster economic resilience for vulnerable, yet vital, industries and provide adaptation support as environmental conditions change.
- Loans could be used by boat owners to diversify their business activities into charter or tour businesses. Supporting citrus helps support the Orange Festival.
Services provided by Community C.A.R.E. Centers

These are two areas of service that Community C.A.R.E. Centers provides that would be applicable for funding under this program.

**Substance Abuse Center for Adolescents & Adults**
- Assessments
- Education
- Counseling
- Intensive IOP Programs

**Behavioral Health & Wellness Center**
- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Anger Management
- Mind/Body Skills training
- Play Therapy
- Child Psychiatry
- Disaster Counseling

Areas projected to be subject to high future flood risk are, in many cases, currently experiencing significant environmental, cultural, economic and social challenges. Severe, repetitive flooding events in recent years have devastated many low-lying communities along our coast, especially in Plaquemines Parish. As these events have occurred, populations have already started moving upland, disrupting community cultural connections and the coast's broader social fabric. These impacts, compounded with unfavorable future projections, have taken a significant emotional toll. This program will provide case management services for residents struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues. These services will help disadvantaged populations living in at-risk, low-lying communities work through the emotional impacts of past disaster events and future increased flood risk.

**Community Benefits**

Mental health and substance abuse treatment is associated with improved performance and productivity at work and school. It reduces the number of absences and helps increase the local workforce.

Treating drug abuse and mental illness reduces negative impacts from disaster-related trauma and anxiety about future risk. These benefits are also correlated with a decline in instances of violent crimes, suicide, and improvements to community health and well-being.

**Key Info**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>$6 million</th>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential Partners</td>
<td>Plaquemines C.A.R.E Centers, Plaquemians in Action Coalition, Metropolitan Human Service District, Plaquemines Medical Center Drug Free Coalition</td>
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Mixed-Use Buildings in low-risk areas attract local businesses like coffee shops, restaurants and retail stores to neighborhoods. Multistory buildings accommodate more people while preserving green space for recreation and stormwater management. In turn, more residents are likely to patronize businesses within walking distance.

Low flood risk areas are well positioned to receive population and economic growth. Medium-density, affordable, residential and mixed-use developments should be prioritized. LA SAFE has identified the Red Star Yeast building in Belle Chasse as the potential location for this type of renovation development. This project will incorporate approximately 30 housing units and ground floor retail and office space for neighborhood amenities like restaurants or grocery stores. Landscaping and shared green space will manage stormwater while adding beauty to the surrounding neighborhood. Roughly half the units will be market rate and the rest will be affordable to residents earning 20%, 30%, and 50% of area median income.

Incorporates green infrastructure to manage all stormwater on site.

Provides quality, affordable housing and commercial development.

Proximity to the Belle Chasse ferry adds to the amenities accessible to commuters and pedestrians.

Opportunities for jobs in the ground floor commercial space.

Includes public amenities, such as community gathering and market space, pavilion, walking and biking paths.

**PROPOSAL**

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- Incorporates green infrastructure to manage all stormwater on site.
- Provides quality, affordable housing and commercial development.
- Proximity to the Belle Chasse ferry adds to the amenities accessible to commuters and pedestrians.
- Opportunities for jobs in the ground floor commercial space.
- Includes public amenities, such as community gathering and market space, pavilion, walking and biking paths.

**Key Info**

- **Housing Units Created**: Approx. 30 units
- **Commercial Space**: Approx. 12,000 sf
- **LA SAFE Investment**: Up to $6 million
- **Estimated Project Cost**: $13-15 million
- **Location**: Belle Chasse
- **Potential Partners**: Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District, Private Developer