



# Council on Watershed Management Meeting

MARCH 11, 2020

**Meeting No. 13**

LOUISIANA  
**WATERSHED**  
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience





# Agenda

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Public Comment
- Consent Agenda Items
- Opening Remarks
- Updates
- Closing Remarks
- Adjournment



# Update: CDBG-MIT Action Plan





# Action Plan timeline

DATE	ACTION
October 2018 – August 2019	Engagement with local stakeholders
Aug. 30, 2019	Federal rules published
Sept. 19, 2019	Lafayette public hearing
Sept. 25, 2019	Baton Rouge public hearing
Oct. 16, 2019	Official public comment period opens
Oct. 24, 2019	Monroe public hearing
Oct. 29, 2019	Mandeville public hearing
Nov. 29, 2019	Official public comment period closes
Dec. 23, 2019	Action Plan submitted to HUD
Late 2019 – Early 2020	HUD review period (60 days max)
Feb. 3, 2020	Action Plan submittal deadline
Feb. 20, 2020	HUD approved Action Plan
Spring 2020	Grant agreement executed and line of credit established



# Action Plan

- Submitted to HUD Dec. 23, 2019
- **Received HUD approval Feb. 20, 2020**
- **\$1.2 billion** in CDBG-MIT funds to reduce statewide flood risk
- Funds must support **mitigation activities**
- Includes more than **\$970 million** for **watershed projects and programs**, as well as funding for improved **data gathering** and **scientific modeling**
- **Expect grant agreement/funds available this spring**



# Update: Regional Capacity Building Grant Program



# Fiscal agents

COORDINATING AND DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

KISATCHIE-DELTA REGIONAL PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

CALCASIEU PARISH POLICE JURY

ACADIANA PLANNING  
COMMISSION

SOUTH CENTRAL PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

OUACHITA PARISH POLICE JURY

CAPITAL REGION PLANNING  
COMMISSION

NEW ORLEANS REGIONAL  
PLANNING COMMISSION

[Watershed regions webpage](#)



# Regional steering committees

## COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

REGION	DATE
Region 4	Jan. 15, 2020
Region 5	Feb. 20, 2020
Region 1	March 10, 2020
Region 2	March 11, 2020
Region 8	March 16, 2020
Region 6	March 19, 2020
Region 3	March 20, 2020
Region 7	March 20, 2020

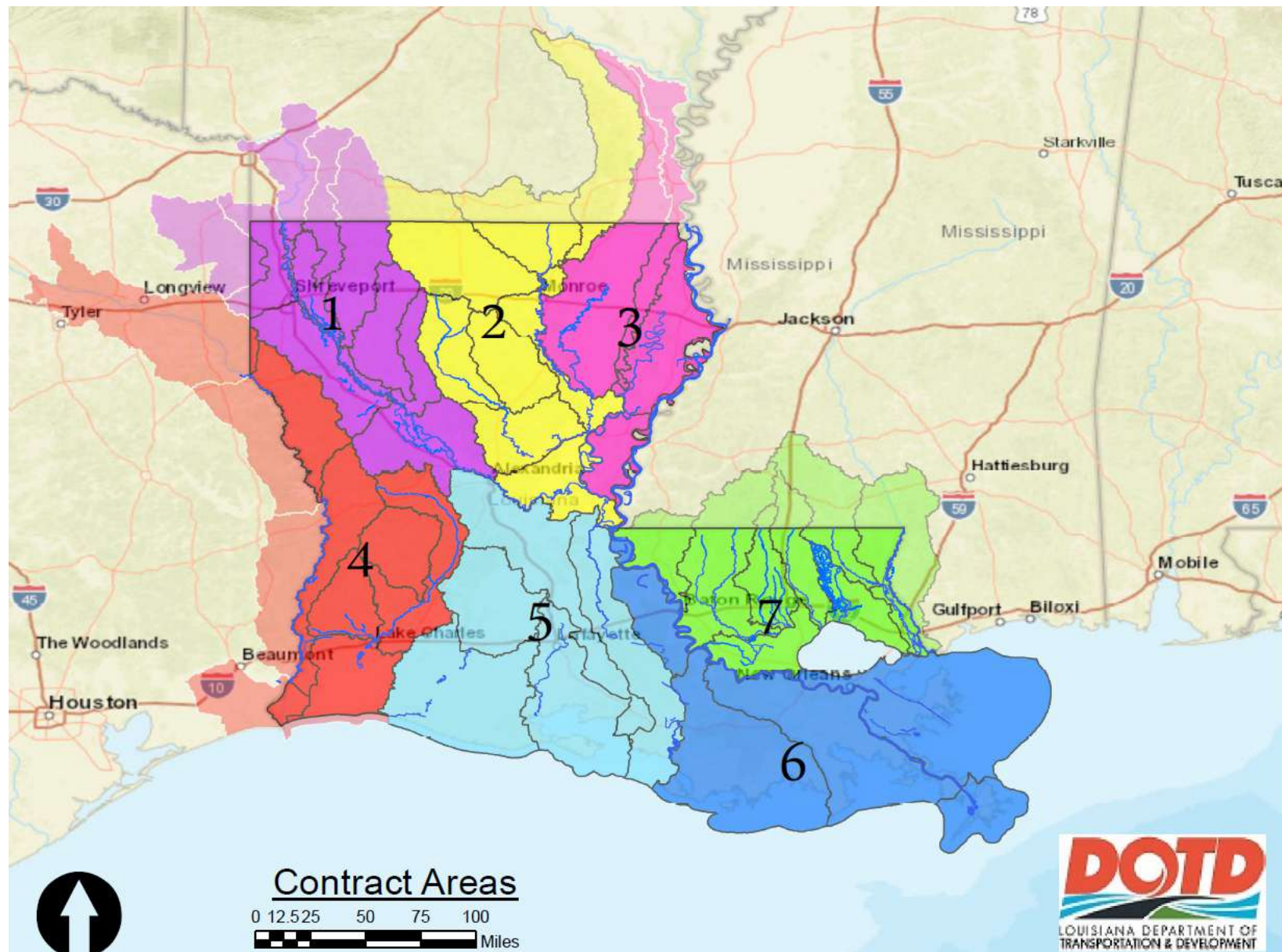




# Update: Watershed Mapping, Monitoring and Modeling Program



# Statewide modeling regions



# Statewide modeling contractors

REGION	CONTRACTOR
Region 1	Atkins
Region 2	Freese and Nichols
Region 3	Wood Environment and Infrastructure
Region 4	CH Fenstermaker and Associates
Region 5	HDR Engineering
Region 6	Michael Baker International
Region 7	Dewberry



# River and rain gauge network phases

## Design and Deployment

- Develop backbone network to address clear gaps
- Review with USGS and regional and local stakeholders
- Solicit requests for additional gauges from modeling contractors
- Engage DEQ and USGS to deploy gauges

## Operation and Maintenance

- Collect data and evaluate quality
- Use in model setup, calibration and validation
- Disseminate data through open-access web portals
- Incorporate real-time flood warning and forecasting systems
- Develop sustainability plans with regional and local partnerships
- Identify funding for long-term operations and maintenance





# How can you participate?

1

## PROPOSE LOCATIONS FOR NEW GAUGES

- Use our interactive web apps at [watershed.la.gov/gauge-network-program](https://watershed.la.gov/gauge-network-program) to mark desired locations
- Email [watershed@la.gov](mailto:watershed@la.gov) with proposed gauge locations in your area—provide specific coordinates, justification and variables to be measured

2

## PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON PRELIMINARY DESIGN

- Use our web apps to comment on proposed locations

**\*DEADLINE FOR FEEDBACK IS MARCH 27**

### 1. Enter Information

Name

Affiliation

Please provide justification for your suggested location.

Date/Time

Please indicate the level of need for this added location  
Select...  
▼

Attachment  
Select File

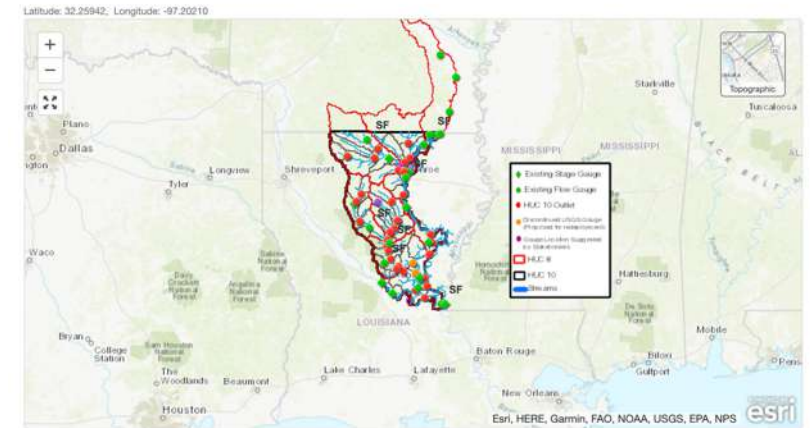
### 2. Select Location

Specify the location for this entry by clicking/tapping the map or by using one of the following options.

Search Lat/Lon

Find address or place

Latitude: 32.25942 Longitude: -97.20210



Map of Louisiana showing proposed gauge locations. The map includes a legend with symbols for Existing Stage Gauge, Existing Flow Gauge, HEC 10 Outlet, Streambed channel change, and Gauge location. The map also shows major cities and rivers in Louisiana.

### 3. Complete Form

Add this information to the map.

Preview of interactive web app



# How can you participate?

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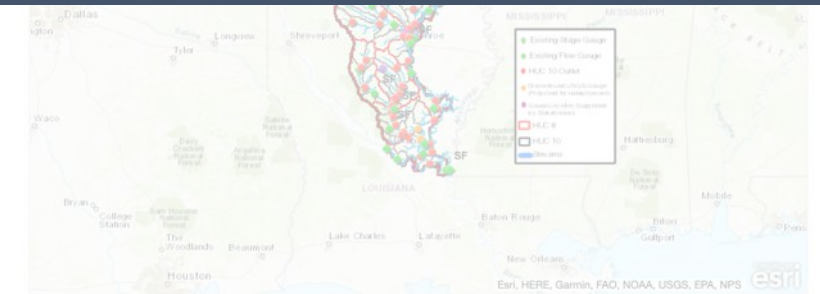
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# Webinar held Friday, March 6, to solicit feedback

*Deadline for feedback is COB Friday, March 27*

## PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON PRELIMINARY DESIGN

- Use our web apps to comment on proposed locations



**\*DEADLINE FOR FEEDBACK IS MARCH 27**

### 3. Complete Form

Preview of interactive web app

# Federal coordination

**FEMA**

- Review modeling guidance
- Consult on model creation

**USACE**

- Share existing models
- Lend expertise on modeling methodology, expense and data collection

**USGS**

- Build out and integrate gauge networks
- Manage installation, data collection and operations and maintenance



# Update: Watershed Projects Grant Program: Local and Regional - Round 1





# Pre-applications

- Nearly 400 submitted
- More than \$1.7 billion in funding requested
- Strong demand for flood risk reduction projects
- Received project pre-applications from every provisional watershed region
- A variety of traditional and nontraditional projects



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## Watershed Projects Grant Program: Local and Regional - Round 1

The state is reviewing applications from local and regional public entities to access \$100 million in anticipated federal funds for projects that will address immediate flood mitigation needs. The funding opportunity is part of the state's [Action Plan](#) to spend \$1.2 billion in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds, which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved Feb. 21.

### NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

View the notice of funding availability, or NOFA, to find out more about this round of projects funding. [View frequently asked questions](#) associated with this funding opportunity, and if you have any additional questions, please email [watershed@la.gov](mailto:watershed@la.gov).

[View the NOFA](#)

### PROJECT PRE-APPLICATION

Please note that the deadline for submitting pre-applications was 3 p.m. Jan. 17. Applicants must have completed a pre-application before completing a full application for funding.



# Progress and next steps

- Pre-application review complete
- Letters sent to applicants inviting them to proceed with the full application or notifying them of their ineligibility
- Updated program policies and procedures and FAQ released and available online at [watershed.la.gov](https://watershed.la.gov)
- **Mandatory webinar scheduled for 3 p.m. March 18 for applicants submitting full applications**



# Updated program timeline

## ROUND 1 LOCAL AND REGIONAL PROJECTS

EVENT	DATE
State issued NOFA and solicited project applications	Nov. 22, 2019
Deadline to submit project pre-applications	Jan. 17, 2020
Anticipated grant agreement between HUD and State of Louisiana	April 2020
Deadline to submit full project applications	Three months after grant agreement (estimated July 2020)
Awards announced for \$60 million in statewide projects	Following scoring process (estimated September 2020)
Regional selection recommendations due to OCD	Estimated October 2020
Grant agreements between OCD and grantees executed for awarded projects	Winter 2020



# Updated program timeline

## ROUND 1 LOCAL AND REGIONAL PROJECTS

EVENT	DATE
State issues NOFA and solicits project applications	Nov. 22, 2019

***Reminder:*** Save the date for mandatory webinar

Wednesday  
**March 18, 2020**

Register at [watershed.la.gov/round-1-projects](https://watershed.la.gov/round-1-projects)

Grant agreements between OCD and grantees executed for awarded projects	Winter 2020
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# Update: Non-Federal Cost Share Program



# Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

## GLOBAL MATCH

Federally Declared Disaster	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Allocation (Federal Share)	Non-Federal Cost Share	Potential Projects	Potential Projects (Value)
DR-4263 <i>(March 2016)</i>	\$28,992,576	\$9,664,192	9	\$20,551,442
DR-4277 <i>(August 2016)</i>	\$261,971,744	\$87,323,915	14	\$148,735,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$290,964,320</b>	<b>\$96,988,107</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>\$169,287,282</b>



# Update: Statewide Watershed Plan development



# State Watershed Plan development

## PLAN PURPOSE

Transform how Louisiana manages and reduces flood risk statewide through regional collaboration, science-based decision making and best practices in floodplain management

- Provide a blueprint for achieving the vision
- Inform, educate and engage
- Provide flexible and adaptive guidance for evolving issues, opportunities and needs





# Key elements

## LOUISIANA WATERSHED PLAN

- Guides actions of state agencies
- Informs, educates and engages relevant stakeholders
- Promotes consistency among regions

## TECHNICAL REPORT

- Provides detailed, science-based technical data and information
- A reference for state, regional and local decision-makers



# Plan development process

- Approach is based on LWI research and best practices from multiple statewide and regional plans
- Draft approach presented to technical advisory groups, or TAGs, in January
- Comments received and incorporated in February
- Refined draft reviewed in February and submitted to LWI staff

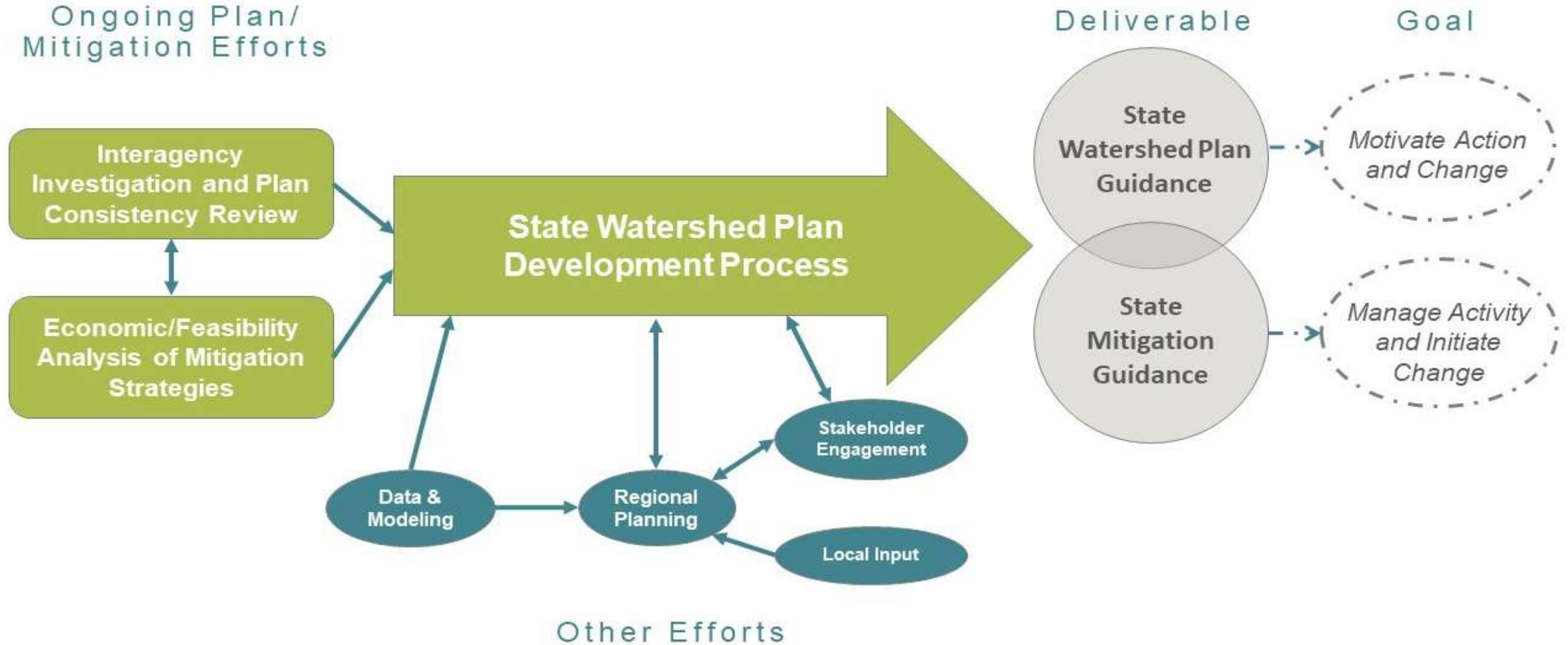


# Key comments on the approach

- Strengthen emphasis on stakeholder knowledge, education and engagement
- Ensure alignment with LWI's guiding principles
- Acknowledge the importance of plan consistency
- Describe roles of various federal, state and local agencies
- Highlight the relationship between the state plan and regional efforts
- Clarify the schedule for plan implementation



# LWI Process



# Timeline





# Public Comment

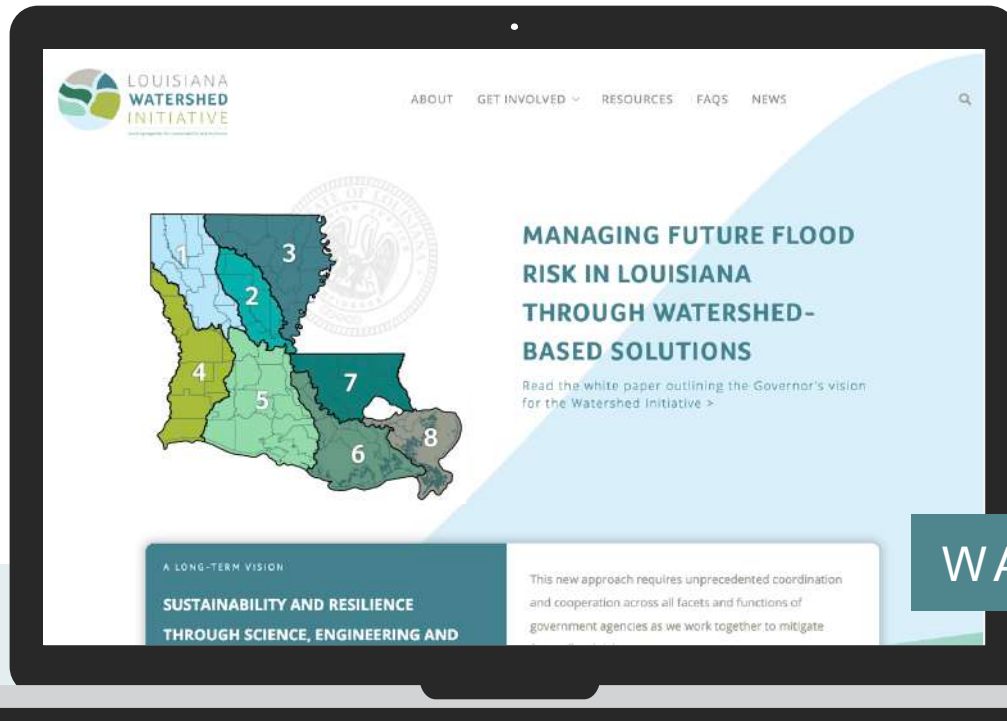


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# THANK YOU



Se pondrán a disposición los materiales en idioma español cuando se los solicite. Envíe las solicitudes a [watershed@la.gov](mailto:watershed@la.gov).

Khi có yêu cầu, tài liệu sẽ được cung cấp bằng tiếng Việt. Vui lòng gửi yêu cầu đến địa chỉ [watershed@la.gov](mailto:watershed@la.gov).

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