



CDBG-MIT Action Plan Overview

OCT. 24, 2019

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Louisiana Office of Community
Development

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en idioma español cuando se los
solicite. Envíe las solicitudes a
watershed@la.gov.

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cấp bằng tiếng Việt. Vui lòng gửi yêu
cầu đến địa chỉ watershed@la.gov.

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Agenda

- Background on the Louisiana Watershed Initiative
- CDBG-MIT funds and federal rules
- Draft Action Plan
- Next steps
- Public comment

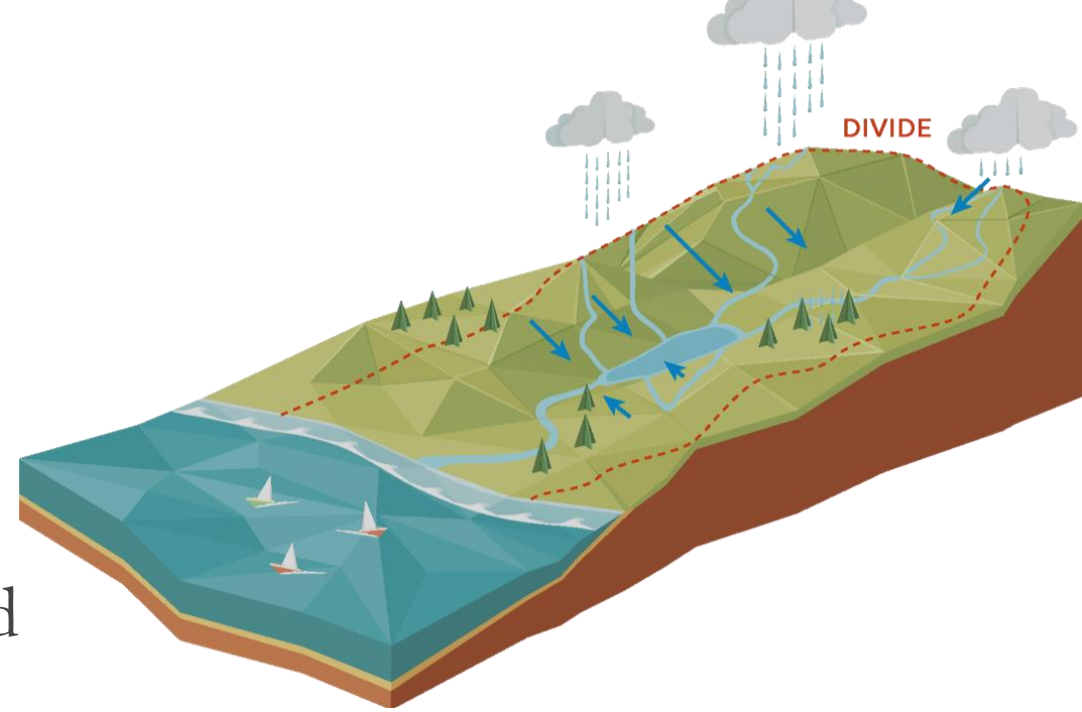
Background on the Louisiana Watershed Initiative

Context

- Louisiana's landscape is **very flat**, has many **water** bodies, and receives a lot of **rain**—the sources of our floods are **complex**.
- Our flood risk is changing—places are flooding now that have never flooded before.
- Flood risk is **interconnected**—where the rain falls is not necessarily where flooding will occur.
- We must understand and address how **actions taken in one community** can impact regional flood risk.

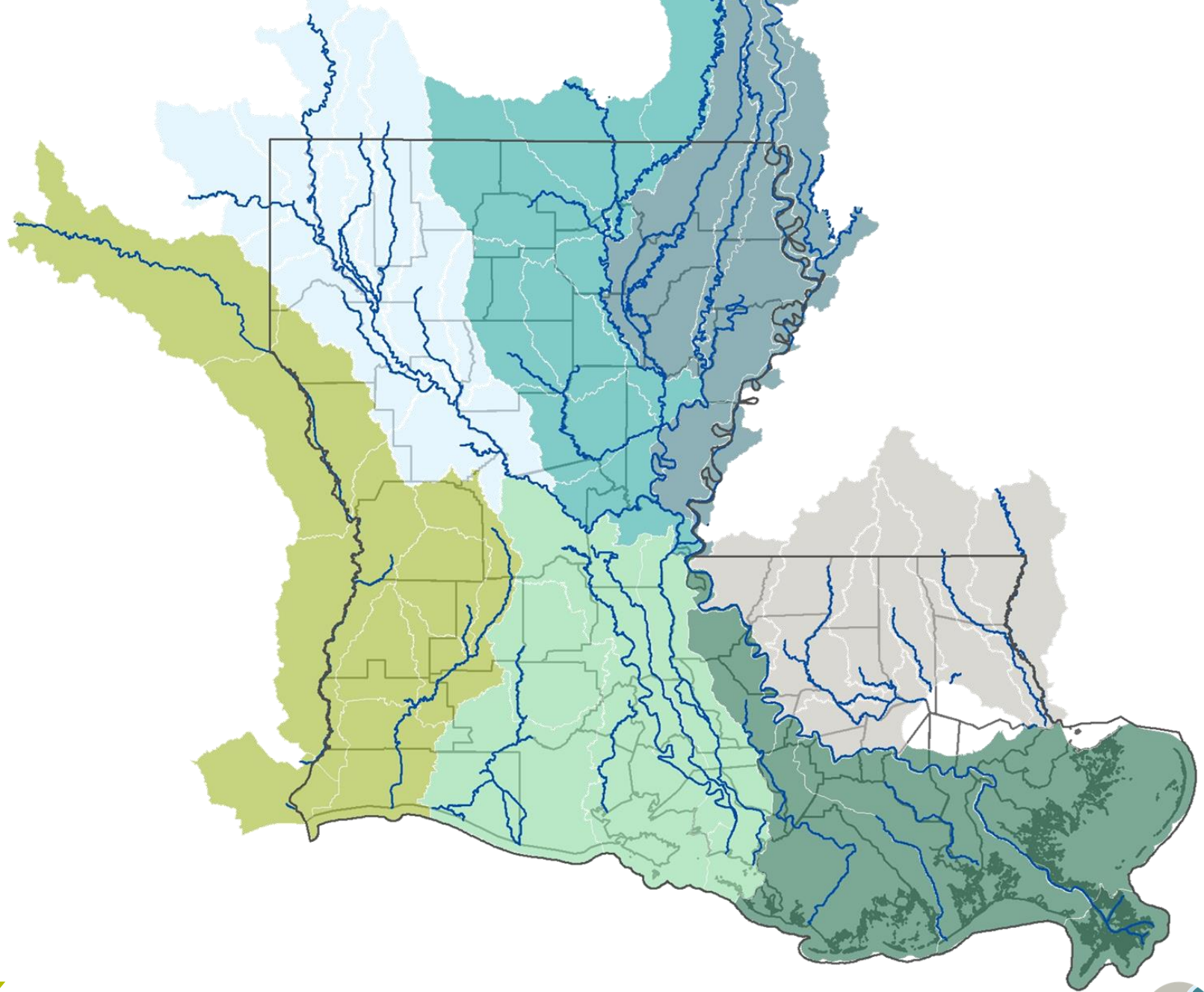
Watershed-Based Floodplain Management

- A **watershed**, drainage basin or catchment, is an area of land that drains all streams and rainfall to a common point.
- Large watersheds, like the Mississippi River basin, contain thousands of smaller watersheds. Natural ridges are often the boundaries between watersheds.
- Managing flood risk based on watersheds helps communities understand and address how decisions may impact upstream or downstream areas.



The Challenge

Louisiana's watersheds are not defined by political boundaries.



Louisiana's approach to addressing flood risk relies on several key elements

- Better data and modeling capabilities.
- Watershed-based coordination at all levels of government.
- Investments in evidence-based flood risk reduction projects.
- New or modified approaches to development.

Platform for Change

“It’s harder. It requires more work. It’s politically risky, but it is the right thing to do.”

- Gov. John Bel Edwards



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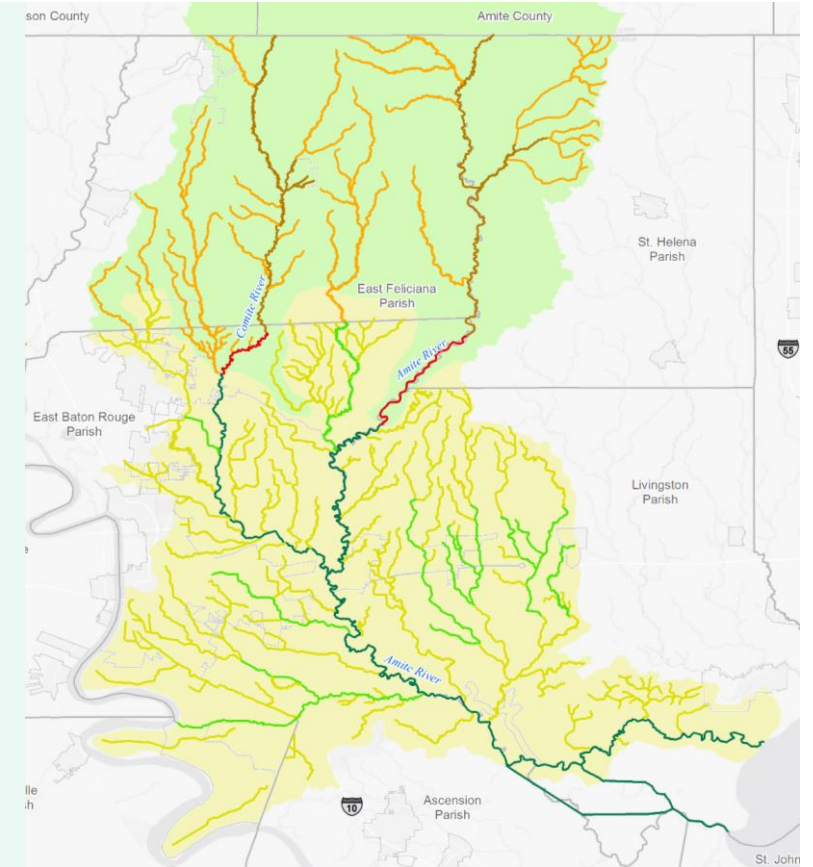
About the Louisiana Watershed Initiative

- **Fundamental reform** of state flood-risk management
 - Regional management scale
 - Based on natural watersheds
 - Science-based decision-making via “living” watershed computer modeling, tools and data
- Supports expenditure of other existing and future funding sources, including **\$1.2 billion in federal flood mitigation funds**
- **Looks to long-term solutions** (tools, management structures and improved decision-making)

Watershed Modeling is Underway

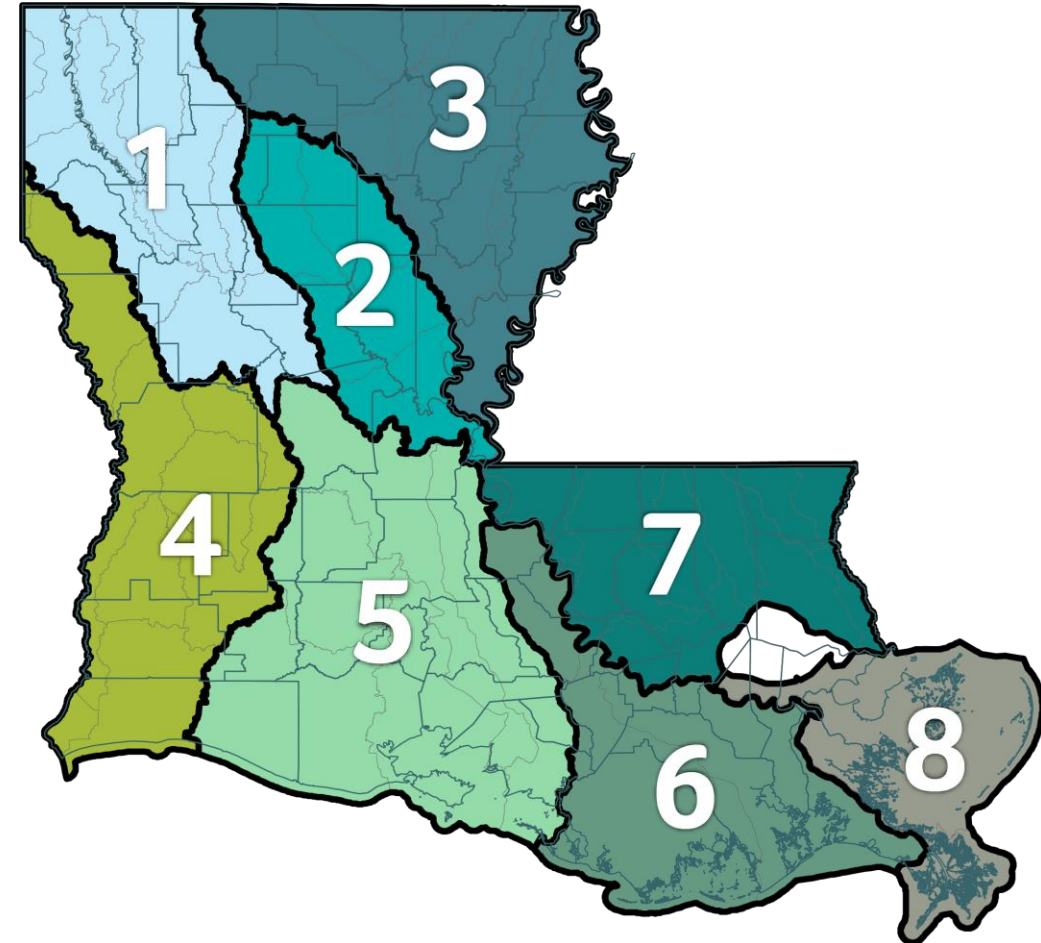
SCIENCE-BASED UNDERSTANDING OF RISK

- The state is collaborating with experts throughout the country to build world-class models for all of Louisiana's watersheds.
- The recently completed Amite River Basin model is an example.
- DOTD recently selected engineering firms to develop watershed models for four areas of the state and will soon select firms to develop models for the remainder of the state's watersheds.



Local Leaders are Coordinating WATERSHED-BASED DECISION MAKING

- Eight watershed regions will coordinate modeling and planning activities throughout the state.
- The state is offering grant funding to build local technical capacity for watershed and floodplain management activities, with awards expected in January 2020.



\$1.2 Billion in Mitigation Funds

Congressional Allocation in 2018

HUD Guidance Published Aug. 30, 2019

Draft Action Plan Posted Online Sept. 26, 2019

45-Day Public Comment Period Oct. 16 – Nov. 29



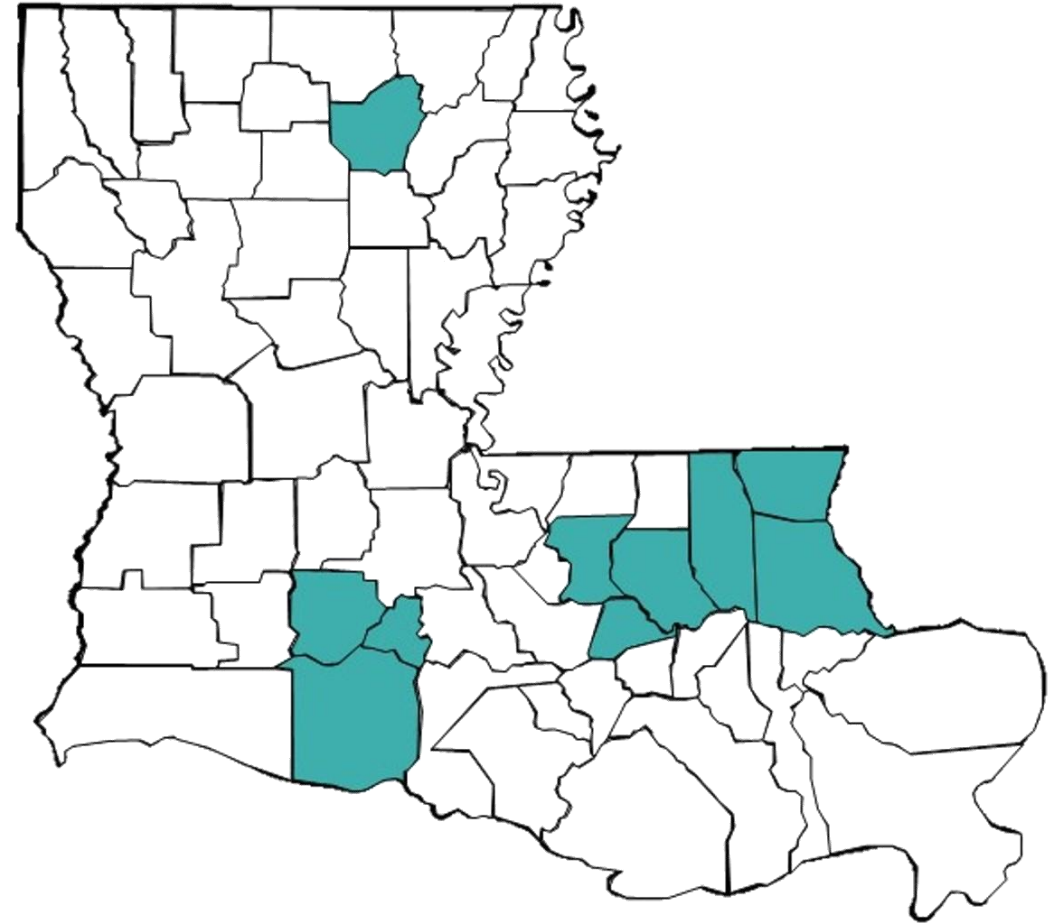
HUD Rules Overview

- All funds must be used for **mitigation activities**.
- At least 50 percent of funds must benefit **most impacted and distressed areas**, or MIDs, as identified by HUD.
- HUD must approve the state's **Action Plan** before funds are available.
- The Action Plan describes unmet mitigation needs and allocation of funds.
- The state is holding four **public hearings** to gather input and public comment.
- The draft Action Plan was posted online Oct. 16, with comments accepted until Nov. 29 as part of HUD's **45-day public comment period**.



HUD Most Impacted or Distressed Areas

- MIDs include:
East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Ascension, Tangipahoa, Ouachita, Lafayette, Vermilion, Acadia, Washington and St. Tammany parishes
- At least \$607 million (50 percent of these funds) must be spent in or benefit these areas.



Louisiana's Draft Action Plan



Action Plan Overview

- Details the state's approach for using the funds.
- Includes draft projects, data collection and modeling programs.
- Incentivizes policy measures to advance community resilience.



Draft Action Plan

- **\$1.2 billion** in CDBG-MIT funds to **reduce** statewide flood risk.
- Invest in **mitigation activities** and improve development standards.
- Includes more than **\$970 million** for **watershed projects and programs**, as well as funding for **improved data gathering and modeling**.



Draft Action Plan

DATA DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

- High-quality gauge network.
- Watershed models that empower local decision making.
- Informed decisions based on science.

WATERSHED MODELING



Draft Action Plan

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WATERSHED MODELING

PROJECTS THAT REDUCE FLOOD RISK

- Enhanced natural retention and local drainage functions.
- Focus on helping to move people out of harm's way.

FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS



Draft Action Plan

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WATERSHED MODELING

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FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

COLLABORATION IS KEY

- Regional watershed management that empowers collaboration between stakeholders and decision makers.
- Building better to mitigate the next disaster's impact.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS



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. 24, 2019	Monroe public hearing
Oct. 29, 2019	Mandeville public hearing
Fall 2019	Action Plan submitted to HUD
Late 2019 – Early 2020	HUD review period
Feb. 3, 2020	Action Plan submittal deadline
Spring 2020	Grant agreement executed and line of credit established



Next Steps



Public Hearing Schedule

THURSDAY
SEP
19

LAFAYETTE

City-Parish Council Auditorium
Lafayette Consolidated Government
705 W. University Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70506

WEDNESDAY
SEP
25

BATON ROUGE

House Committee Room 5
Louisiana State Capitol
900 N. Third St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

THURSDAY
OCT
24

WEST MONROE

1:30 p.m.
Ouachita Parish Emergency
Operations Center
Fire Department Training Center
1000 New Natchitoches Road
West Monroe, LA 71292

TUESDAY
OCT
29

MANDEVILLE

6 p.m.
Council Chambers, Building A
St. Tammany Parish Government
Administrative Complex
21490 Koop Drive
Mandeville, LA 70471



Public Comment

3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT

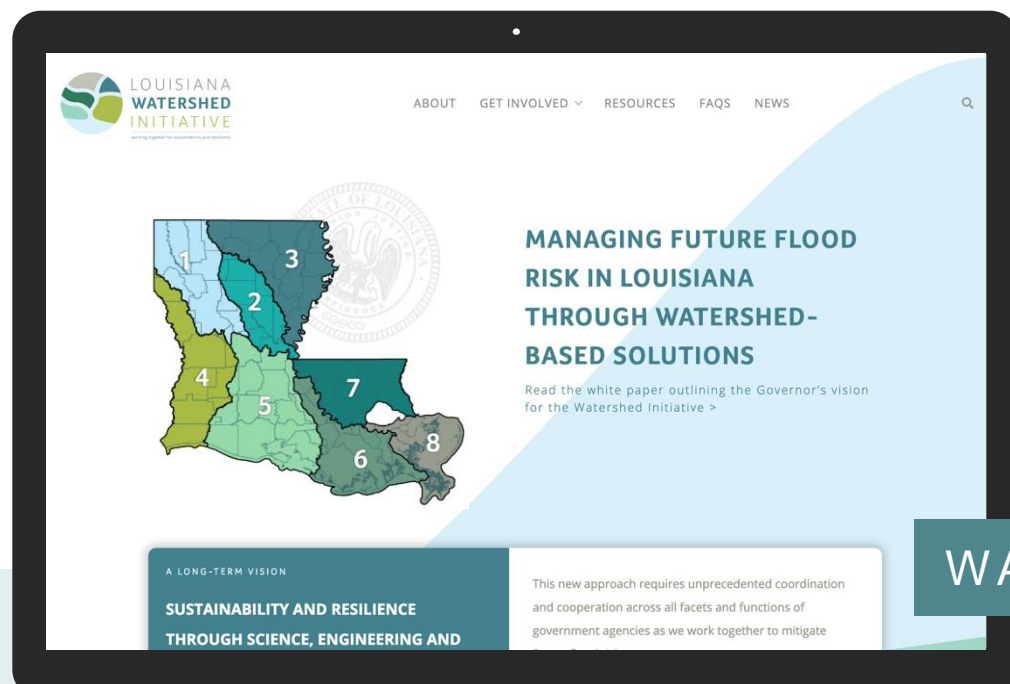


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THANK YOU



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