



GULF CONSORTIUM AWARDED \$4.6 MILLION TO DEVELOP FLORIDA'S STATE EXPENDITURE PLAN

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council has awarded the Gulf Consortium \$4.6 million towards the development of Florida's State Expenditure Plan. Established in 2012 as a part of the RESTORE Act, Congress charged the Gulf Consortium with developing a state expenditure plan for Florida to implement economic and environmental restoration projects needed as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010.

"This is a giant leap forward for full economic and environmental restoration due to the oil spill damage in the Gulf of Mexico from Deepwater Horizon's explosion." Said Gulf Consortium Chair and Escambia County Commissioner Grover Robinson, "With the award of this grant, planning can begin for investing in environmental and economic projects along Florida's Gulf Coast."

The parties responsible for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill were fined as a part of the Clean Water Act. The RESTORE Act was established to ensure that those fine monies were allotted to the areas impacted as a result of this tragedy. The planning grant awarded allows for the development of Florida's State Expenditure Plan.

"While the stains of oil may no longer be visible, the impact of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill remains in our communities. With the development of the state expenditure plan, Florida's Gulf Coast can begin to look forward and invest these dollars on restoring and improving their communities." Said Robinson.

As required by the RESTORE Act, Florida's 23 Gulf Coast Counties will work through the Gulf Consortium, using the Restoration Council's grant award yesterday to develop an expenditure plan for Florida that will identify, study, coordinate and propose projects, programs and activities for further environmental and economic restoration along Florida's Gulf Coast. The Gulf Consortium, seeking coordination with the Governor and Florida's Department of Environmental Protection will identify, study, and publicly vet projects, ensuring they meet the requirements established in the RESTORE Act. When the Gulf Consortium completes Florida's State

Expenditure Plan, it will be presented to the Governor for submission to the Restoration Council.

The plan will then be funded through future grants, using the fine monies from the oil spill's responsible parties.

Operating in the Sunshine, the Gulf Consortium is committed to full transparency. A copy of the planning grant can be found [here](#). Documents related to the Consortium since its inception in 2012 can be found at www.facrestore.com. To better understand the allocation of RESTORE Act fine monies, please [click here](#).

Established as a part of the RESTORE Act in 2012, the Gulf Consortium is made up of representatives from Florida's 23 Gulf Coast counties and six gubernatorial appointees. The Gulf Consortium is responsible for developing a 'state expenditure plan' that outlines environmental or economic projects to be completed with Clean Water Act fine monies imposed on the responsible parties from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010.

Gulf Consortium | 850-922-4300 | gdelegal@fl-counties.com | <http://www.FACRestore.com>
c/o Florida Association of Counties
100 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

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