



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
New Orleans, LA 70130

March 29, 2019

Mr. Christopher M. Blankenship
Commissioner
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources
64 North Union Street, Suite 468
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Mr. Blankenship:

As Chair of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, I am pleased to approve the Alabama State Expenditure Plan submitted pursuant to the Spill Impact Component of the *Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012*, 33 U.S.C. §1321(t) and note (RESTORE Act).

This approval is based on the finding from the council's Executive Director, Ben Scaggs, that the SEP is complete and meets all requirements contained in the RESTORE Act, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's implementing regulations (31 C.F.R. Part 34) and the council's SEP Guidelines. On behalf of the council, I commend Alabama for developing a SEP that will help advance the cause of Gulf Coast restoration.

The council is committed to ensuring an efficient and effective process for funding the activities in the SEP. Approval and disbursement of funding for specific activities in the SEP will be done through the grant process and standards established in 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Please note that funds for implementation of an activity in the approved SEP will be disbursed only after grant approval and verification of compliance with all applicable federal environmental and other laws. Council staff members are available to assist Alabama with this grant process to help ensure that it proceeds as expeditiously as possible.

Once again, I applaud Alabama on the development of a thoughtful and effective SEP. Our collective efforts under the RESTORE Act will help to ensure the long-term health and resilience of the Gulf Coast.

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Wheeler
Chair