



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
New Orleans, LA 70130

April 23, 2018

The Honorable Noah Valenstein
Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As the chair of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, I am pleased to approve the Florida Stand-Up 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). This approval is based on the finding from the council's acting Executive Director, Ben Scaggs, that the Stand-Up 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 council, I commend Florida and the Gulf Consortium for developing a Stand-Up SEP that will help advance the cause of Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration.

The council is committed to ensuring an efficient and effective process for funding the activities in the Stand-Up SEP. Approval and disbursement of funding for specific activities in the Stand-Up SEP will be done through the grant process and standards established in 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Council staff are available to assist the Gulf Consortium with this grant process to help ensure that it proceeds as expeditiously as possible.

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

Respectfully yours,

E. Scott Pruitt
Chair