



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

November 2, 2015

Mr. Gary Rikard
Executive Director
Designated Alternate of the Governor of Mississippi
to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
P.O. Box 2261
Jackson, MS 39225-2261

Dear Mr. Rikard:

Thank you for your submission of the Mississippi planning State Expenditure Plan for review and approval. As the Council's Chairperson, I am pleased to approve this planning State Expenditure Plan based on the Council staff's finding that it is complete and meets all requirements contained in the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act); the Council's *State Expenditure Plan Guidelines*; the Department of Treasury's implementing regulations (31 C.F.R. Part 34); the Council's Final Rule on the RESTORE Act Oil Spill Impact Component Planning Allocation (80 FR 1584); and the Council's Request for Applications for Planning Grants (79 FR 78779).

Approval of the Mississippi planning State Expenditure Plan does not constitute approval of specific procurement procedures, cost estimates, or other budget items detailed in the planning State Expenditure Plan. Review of a detailed budget and procurement procedures will be evaluated when a grant application is submitted under the standards established in 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

I applaud the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's endeavor to execute a transparent process and develop a thoughtful plan to restore the ecosystem and economy of Mississippi's Gulf Coast. Our collective efforts under the RESTORE Act will help to ensure the long-term health, prosperity, and resilience of the Gulf Coast.

Sincerely,

Penny Pritzker
Chairperson
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council