

<b>RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Matrix — Department of the Treasury</b>		OMB Approval No. 1505-0250
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Applicant Name:	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
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1. CUMULATIVE DIRECT COMPONENT ALLOCATION AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO APPLICANT:			\$56,355,114.21		2. TOTAL ALLOCATIONS PLUS KNOWN FUNDS NOT YET DEPOSITED IN TRUST FUND FOR DIRECT COMPONENT:				\$56,355,114.21		
3. Primary Direct Component Eligible Activity Further Described in Application (Static Field)	4. Activity Number and Activity Title (Static Field)	5. Location - Municipality(ies) (Static Field, locations also shown on attached map)	6. Total Funding Resources For Activity Budget (refer to Instructions)				7. Proposed Start Date mm/yyyy	8. Actual Start Date mm/yyyy (Static Field)	9. Proposed End Date mm/yyyy	10. Actual End Date mm/yyyy (Static Field)	11. Proposed High Level Milestones Further Described in Application
			6a. Direct Component Contribution	6b. Other RESTORE Act Contribution	6c. Other Third Party Contribution	6d. Total Project Budget					
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Stennis International Airport Hangar	Kiln, Mississippi	\$2,000,000.00		\$2,075,000.00	\$4,075,000.00	Jul-16		Jul-18		Finalization of hangar design. Initiation of hangar construction. Completion of hangar construction to increase available capacity.
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Port Bienville Trans-Loading Terminal Facility Completion	Bay St. Louis, Mississippi	\$8,000,000.00		\$775,000.00	\$8,775,000.00	May-17		Sep-19		Completion of terminal facility improvement design. Initiation of construction. Completion of the trans-loading facility improvements to increase available capacity.
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Improved Fiber Optic Infrastructure	Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, Mississippi	\$5,000,000.00			\$5,000,000.00	Dec-16		Nov-21		Identification of needs in fiber optic infrastructure to enhance fiber optic capacity. Development of an action plan to apply appropriate solutions to the identified needs. Construct applicable infrastructure solutions.
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	Mississippi Aquarium	Gulfport, Mississippi	\$17,000,000.00		\$46,400,000.00	\$63,400,000.00	May-17		Dec-20		Planning and completion of aquarium design. Initiation of construction. Completion of construction of the Mississippi Aquarium.
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Jackson County Corridor Connector Road - Phase I	St. Martin/D'Iberville, Mississippi	\$10,200,000.00			\$10,200,000.00	Dec-16		Dec-19		Completion or design of the corridor connector road. Initiation of construction of the corridor connector road. Completion of 1.1 miles of corridor connector road.
Workforce development and job creation	Work Ready Community Program	Long Beach, Mississippi	\$4,000,000.00			\$4,000,000.00	Jan-16		Dec-20		Development of the program curriculum. Development of a participant recruiting plan. Completion of the program by participants.
Workforce development and job creation	Accreditation Support for William Carey University School of Pharmacy	Biloxi, Mississippi	\$1,000,000.00		\$3,000,000.00	\$4,000,000.00	Jul-16		Dec-18		Hiring appropriate faculty and staff. Development of curriculum. Receipt of accreditation.

Workforce development and job creation	Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program	Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, Mississippi	\$1,000,000.00			\$1,000,000.00	Jan-18		Dec-20	Creation of the program curriculum. Development of an off-bottom oyster farm for use in the program. Completion of the program by participants.
Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region	Strategic Stream Restoration	Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, Mississippi	\$5,000,000.00			\$5,000,000.00	Jan-17		Jan-20	Identification of restoration actions for stream improvements. Implementation of applicable restoration actions.
Planning assistance	Planning Assistance - Project Management System	Jackson, Mississippi	\$500,000.00			\$500,000.00	Jul-16		Jun-21	Process design and documentation. Software design. Development and testing of the system.
Planning assistance	Planning Assistance - MIP Amendment Development	Jackson, Mississippi	\$400,000.00			\$400,000.00	Jul-16		Jun-21	Identification of eligible projects, programs and activities. Engagement of the public and stakeholders. Public comment period. Completion and submission to Treasury.
12. TOTAL FUNDING FOR BUDGET (refer to Instructions)			\$54,100,000.00	\$0.00	\$52,250,000.00	\$106,350,000.00				

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, RESTORE Act Program, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.

# RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Eligible Applicant Name: Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

## Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:

POC Name: Marc Wyatt

POC Title: Director, Office of Restoration

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## B. PROVIDE A BRIEF NARRATIVE THAT DEMONSTRATES:

### 1. The need, purpose, and objectives for each activity, including a detailed description of each activity.

Need, purpose and objective for each activity is included below.

#### Activity #1: Stennis International Airport Hangar

**Project Summary:** This proposed project will provide additional infrastructure that will benefit the economy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region by constructing a hangar facility at Stennis International Airport. An additional hangar facility will benefit the economy by creating economic opportunities in Hancock County, including increased job opportunities.

Stennis International Airport is a unique facility in that its primary focus is the growth and development of the aeronautic industry in Hancock County. It is home more than 50 public and private entities that employ more than 150 local residents. Stennis International Airport is currently leased to capacity with no additional facilities available for new industry or expansion and growth of existing industry. The proposed project will support the need for increased capacity by constructing a new hangar facility that can accommodate new and existing tenants.

Direct Component funds will be used for planning and construction of the proposed hangar facility which would be approx. 24,000 square feet and include office space and may accommodate maintenance, repair, and overhaul operations for tenants. This project aligns with the economic development and infrastructure priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:** Stennis International Airport regularly receives inquiries seeking hangar space and is unable to meet those needs because the airport is currently at capacity. In order to maintain the needs of the existing tenants and to attract new tenants, an additional hangar facility is needed.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to accommodate and attract additional aeronautical industry opportunities to Hancock County that would bolster county and coastal economic development as well as provide technical and specialized jobs to the local community.

**Objective:** Increase square footage of hangar capacity at Stennis International Airport to accommodate new tenant business or expansion of existing tenant business.

Estimated project cost is based on a constructability analysis and discussions with project sponsor.

#### Activity #2: Port Bienville Trans-Loading Terminal Facility Completion

**Project Summary:** This proposed project will provide additional infrastructure that will benefit the economy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region by completing the construction of the trans-loading terminal facility at Port Bienville Industrial Park. The trans-loading terminal will allow for shipments to be moved from one mode of transportation to another.

Port Bienville Industrial Park is a 3,600-acre industrial park in Hancock County, Mississippi. The park is home to 13 leading industries employing more than 1,200 local area residents. Today, major industry has leased every piece of dock space in Port Bienville Industrial Park. Without additional dock space and improvements, industrial development in Hancock County will be severely hampered, as one of the Port's primary competitive advantages is the ability to transport raw material by barge. The proposed project will support the need for increased capacity by constructing additional dock space and extending rail service to the waterfront to accommodate tenants. This project will improve the terminal for use in trans-loading of materials and will support container-on-barge operations. The terminal may also be used to support supply vessels in the offshore industry.

Direct Component funds will be used for planning and constructing a bulkhead with mooring facilities and extending an existing rail line for use as a trans-loading terminal facility. The proposed project will foster regional economic growth by creating transportation and access efficiencies for existing and prospective industry. This project aligns with the economic development and infrastructure priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:** Port Bienville is in need of improvements to the current trans-loading terminal facilities to support current and additional tenants. Port Bienville regularly receives inquiries from companies considering the port's location, but has been unable to meet the needs due to lack of port infrastructure and capacity. Without additional dock space and improvements, industrial development in Hancock County will be severely hampered, as one of the Port's primary competitive advantages is the ability to transport raw material by barge.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to expand the port infrastructure to accommodate and attract tenants that would bolster county and coastal economic development as well as provide technical and specialized jobs to the local community.

Objective: Improve trans-loading infrastructure at Port Bienville to accommodate new tenant business or expansion of existing tenant business.

Estimated project cost is based on a constructability analysis and discussions with project sponsor.

#### Activity #3: Improved Fiber Optic Infrastructure

Project Summary: This proposed project will provide additional infrastructure that will benefit the economy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region by identifying the needs to improve fiber optic infrastructure and applicable solutions within the region.

Traditionally, television and internet communications travel along copper or cable networks. Copper and cable networks are limited as to the speed at which data can travel. The amount and speed of data uploaded and downloaded is a primary factor affecting internet performance on these networks. Other limiting factors include distance from an information processing center and use by others sharing the same network infrastructure. Fiber optic networks are not affected by these factors. In a fiber optic network, data can be uploaded and downloaded at the same speeds resulting in a faster internet connection. Similarly, distance and shared infrastructure do not affect fiber optic network performance.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Region has fiber optic networks in place that lack in infrastructure components such as end point connections. Where available, data is transmitted on the existing fiber optic networks but then transferred to copper or cable infrastructure which delivers data to the end user. This creates a bottleneck for data since speeds are slower on copper and cable networks. Fiber infrastructure needed to complete the end point connection has historically been the most expensive to build but is necessary to realizing the benefits of fiber optic infrastructure.

Fiber optic networks can have significant impacts on a community. Cities and towns across the country are seeing benefits related to economic development, workforce development and retention, as well as educational and research opportunities. This proposed project could benefit the economy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast by positioning it as a premier location for businesses and industry, as well as create new educational opportunities for Mississippi students. Additionally, fiber optic networks can be less expensive to maintain than copper or cable networks and are more durable. Fiber optic infrastructure has proven to be less susceptible to damage during weather events and accidents such as unintentional cuts. Unlike copper and cable network infrastructure, fiber optic networks can withstand multiple failures in the infrastructure without causing service outages.

Direct Component funds will be used to identify the needs (i.e.: planning) to improve fiber optic infrastructure and construct applicable infrastructure solutions. This project aligns with the economic development and infrastructure priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

Need: The Mississippi Gulf Coast Region has fiber optic networks in place that lack in infrastructure components such as end point connections. To support a diverse and sustainable economy, the Mississippi Gulf Coast needs improvements to the existing fiber optic infrastructure network.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to identify the needs and applicable solutions to improve fiber optic infrastructure on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This proposed project could position the Mississippi Gulf Coast as a premier location for businesses and industry, as well as create new educational opportunities for Mississippi students.

Objective: Identify needs and applicable solutions to improve fiber optic infrastructure.

Estimated project cost developed by MDEQ.

#### Activity #4: Mississippi Aquarium

Project Summary: The proposed project will support the construction of the Mississippi Aquarium, which will promote tourism in the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region by providing visitors with interactive science, education, interpretive and research opportunities for exploring marine habitats and fisheries in the Gulf ecosystem.

In the wake of recent disasters, the Mississippi Gulf Coast lacks diverse tourism opportunities. The City of Gulfport proposes the Mississippi Aquarium to be built along Highway 90 in downtown Gulfport, on approximately 14 acres of land owned by the city, which overlooks the \$40,000,000 redeveloped Jones Park and Small Craft Harbor. The proposed project is anticipated to have a significant impact on tourism and economic development across the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

In addition to the promotion of tourism along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the proposed Mississippi Aquarium will have the capacity to partner with universities and colleges to bring marine research and education programs to the aquarium. These partnerships may provide opportunities for veterinary students and marine science students to study a wide variety of habitats and marine life, including marine mammals. This will also provide veterinary support to the Mississippi Aquarium. The emphasis on interactive encounters and the focus of the ecological resources of the Mississippi Sound will enhance the public's awareness and appreciation of those resources and provide a wealth of ecological education and research opportunities in marine and coastal ecosystems.

Direct Component funds will be used for planning and construction of the proposed Mississippi Aquarium. The proposed Mississippi Aquarium is anticipated to be approximately 60,000 square feet with an estimated capacity of 400,000 gallons and may feature exhibits, attractions, event space, guest services, and marine life services. This project aligns with the economic development, tourism, infrastructure, and research and education priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

Need: In the wake of recent disasters, Mississippi Gulf Coast lacks diverse tourism opportunities. The Mississippi Gulf Coast is in need of accessible family-related tourism opportunities that offer educational and recreational experiences.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to create an attraction that will result in a more extensive visitor experience in understanding the benefits of a healthy ecosystem and provide additional tourism opportunities on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Objective: Promote tourism in the Gulf Coast Region by developing the Mississippi Aquarium.

Estimated project cost is based on a constructability analysis and discussions with project sponsor.

#### Activity #5: Jackson County Corridor Connector Road - Phase I

**Project Summary:** The proposed project will provide additional infrastructure that will benefit the economy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region by constructing an east-west corridor in Jackson County, running parallel to Interstate 10 (I-10) to the north along Mallett Road/Sangani Boulevard to Cook Road/Highway 609.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast has seen significant development near the intersection of I-10 and I-110 in recent years. Existing transportation networks have also developed in order to support the increase in traffic to the area; however, traffic congestion, system continuity and traveler safety are still pose challenges. The proposed project would provide support to the existing transportation networks by constructing 1.1 miles of road that would connect Mallett Road/Sangani Boulevard to Cook Road. This road would create a corridor providing an additional route in Jackson County to and from the area thereby reducing traffic congestion along the existing transportation networks, enhancing the safety of travelers, and increasing accessibility to existing developments.

Direct Component funds will be used for planning and construction of the proposed corridor connector road. This represents Phase I of a multi-phased project which would construct a multi-lane roadway. A significant amount of work has already been completed, including a full environmental assessment that identified the most advantageous route for the new road. Preliminary engineering and design has been initiated and right-of-way acquisitions are more than 92% complete, with 100% completion expected by the beginning of 2016. This project aligns with the economic development and infrastructure priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:** Jackson County is in need of improvements to existing transportation networks in the area of intersection of I-10, Highway 67, and Highway 609 to ease traffic congestion, enhance traveler safety, and increase accessibility to existing retail developments.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to improve existing transportation networks.

**Objective:** Decrease traffic congestion, enhance traveler safety, and improve access to existing retail developments in the area of I-10, Highway 67 and Highway 609.

Estimated project cost is based on a constructability analysis and discussions with project sponsor.

#### Activity #6: Work Ready Community Program

**Project Summary:** This proposed project will support workforce development and job creation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast by creating the Mississippi Gulf Coast Work Ready Community Program. The project will develop and implement the Work Ready Community Program, including development of the curriculum, recruitment plans, and the work ready credential. The Work Ready Community Program will provide basic skills training that could lead to industry-specific training or potential employment/internship opportunities. The Mississippi Gulf Coast has a diverse economy that provides a wide range of employment opportunities in industries such as the maritime, hospitality and energy sectors. A trained and educated workforce is critical to supporting and growing industries and the economy. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) proposes the Work Ready Community Program which will provide a range of skills development opportunities beginning with basic competency and employment skills, resulting in recognized credentials and the opportunity for additional training. The proposed project has two components; the credential component and the industry training component.

The credential component will be open to all. Over four weeks, participants will receive development skills training (math, reading, writing), employability skills training (interview skills, résumé development), and a skills assessment to help participants determine future training and employment options. A work ready credential, to be developed by MGCCC and local industries, will be awarded to participants that complete this component. Following completion of the credential component, participants may enter the workforce or continue to the industry training component. The industry training component offers participants skills training specific to local industries. Anticipated industries for skills training include, but are not limited to, personal services, advanced manufacturing, and transportation/oil and gas sectors. MGCCC will work with local industry to assist participants with employment opportunities following training completion. The credential component will be offered on a four week cycle at no cost to participants. The industry training component will admit participants twice per year with training programs lasting one to two years, depending on the industry. There will be no cost for the industry training component to participants during the grant period.

Direct Component funds will be used to develop and implement the Work Ready Community Program, including development of the curriculum, recruitment plans, and the work ready credential. The proposed project aligns with Mississippi Works, an economic development initiative of the Governor of Mississippi, the workforce development goals of the GoCoast 2020 Commission and the state's federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act plan.

**Need:** A workforce training program is needed to support the labor needs of existing and expanding industry sectors on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the program is to create a workforce training program to cultivate a more qualified workforce on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

**Objective:** Develop a workforce training program to provide basic and industry-specific training to coast residents.

Estimated project cost based on discussions with project sponsor.

#### Activity #7: Accreditation Support for William Carey University School of Pharmacy

**Project Summary:** This proposed project will support workforce development and job creation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast by hiring faculty and staff as part of the accreditation process for the William Carey University School of Pharmacy who will educate and train the future pharmacist workforce.

In January 2015, the Associated Press reported that Mississippi will see a workforce shortage of more than 400 pharmacists over the next two years. To support the need for future pharmacists, William Carey University plans to establish a School of Pharmacy at its Tradition Campus. The first step in establishing a pharmacy program is gaining accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The ACPE accreditation application requires a plan describing the proposed pharmacy program curriculum and the faculty and staff who will deliver the curriculum. Faculty and staff will be hired during the accreditation process. The proposed



project will support William Carey University in gaining accreditation from ACPE.

Direct Component funds will be used to create jobs required for faculty and staff positions as part of the ACPE accreditation process. The proposed project will support the development of a professional degree program on the Mississippi Gulf Coast that will supplement the pharmacist workforce and is anticipated to create more than 40 faculty and staff jobs. This project aligns with the workforce development priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

Need: It is anticipated that Mississippi will see a workforce shortage of more than 400 pharmacists over the next two years.

Development of pharmacist workforce is needed to support this shortage.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to assist William Carey University in gaining accreditation for a pharmacy program. Once accreditation has been achieved, the School of Pharmacy at the Tradition Campus will be constructed and anticipates 60 pharmacy graduates annually, creating new jobs through faculty and support services.

Objective: Support the development of the pharmacist workforce in the Gulf Coast Region by assisting William Carey University in hiring faculty and staff positions required to obtain accreditation for the School of Pharmacy.

Estimated project cost based on discussions with project sponsor.

#### Activity #8: Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program

Project Summary: This proposed project will support workforce development and job creation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast by creating an off-bottom oyster aquaculture workforce training program. The program will develop and implement a two phase program for qualified and interested individuals to learn the ecological, economic, and business components of initiating and maintaining an off-bottom aquaculture operation. The Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program will provide future oystermen and fishermen with the training needed to start an off-bottom oyster aquaculture operation.

The oyster industry along the Mississippi Sound is currently limited to harvestable reefs. Decreased density of harvestable oysters has limited the number of oystermen and fishermen engaged in this economic sector. Diversifying the oyster industry by training oystermen and fishermen in off-bottom aquaculture will support and grow the oyster industry and the overall Mississippi economy. The Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program will provide training in off-bottom oyster aquaculture operations, including business development and aquaculture methodologies, and will result in hands-on training on state-owned farms. Diversification of the oyster industry using off-bottom aquaculture techniques that use racks, cages, rafts, or longlines to grow oysters has proven very successful for enhancing workforce development and job creation in other states. The proposed project has two phases that will occur over a two year period. Phase 1 includes classroom and field education on aquaculture, business operations and demonstrations of off-bottom aquaculture techniques, while an optional Phase 2 allows participants a more hands-on opportunity to implement aquaculture methodologies.

Phase 1 of the Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program will be open to qualified and interested individuals who meet age, residency and work experience criteria that will be determined while developing the program curriculum. After completing Phase 1, participants will have the option to continue to Phase 2 of the program or open their own off-bottom oyster aquaculture operation. In Phase 2, participants will utilize off-bottom oyster aquaculture farms to continue training with instruction from the program to refine skills before beginning an individual operation. Oysters grown in the program may be transported to harvestable and non-harvestable oyster grounds to be available for harvest for the next growing season.

Direct Component funds will be used to develop and implement the Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program, including development of the curriculum and training materials. The proposed project aligns with the seafood, economic development, and workforce development priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

Need: The oyster industry along the Mississippi Sound is currently limited to harvestable reefs. Decreased density of harvestable oysters has limited the number of oystermen and fishermen engaged in this economic sector. An off-bottom oyster aquaculture program is needed to support training of the seafood and maritime workforce in alternative methods of oyster harvesting on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Purpose: The purpose of this program is to create an off-bottom oyster aquaculture program to train and develop a new workforce that is able to support diversifying the oyster industry on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Objective: Create an off-bottom oyster aquaculture program to provide training in alternative methods of oyster harvesting on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Estimated project cost based on discussions with project sponsor.

#### Activity #9: Strategic Stream Restoration

Project Summary: This proposed project will restore and protect natural resources by supporting strategic stream restoration on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Coastal stream degradation and water quality improvement are pervasive problems across the Mississippi coastal counties. Water quality entering the Mississippi Sound can be improved with strategic stream restoration projects. Common threats and stressors to coastal streams are urban development, invasive species and sedimentation which impact ecological function and decrease water quality moving into the Mississippi Sound.

The proposed project will leverage the Coastal Stream and Habitat Initiative project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF). The NFWF GEBF project partnered with The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Mississippi to engage stakeholders across the Mississippi landscape to examine and formulate a plan to restore coastal streams. Nine streams were targeted in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties. The outcome of the NFWF GEBF project will be a set of coast-wide restoration strategies and actions for coastal streams to improve ecosystem health, integrity, and downstream water quality. These strategies and actions will be used to inform restoration activities conducted in this proposed project.

Investing in stream restoration provides multiple ecological benefits including water quality improvements, habitat restoration and

enhancement, improved storm water management, and enhanced outdoor recreation areas for residents and tourists. Restoration actions associated with stream restoration could encompass but are not limited to, land conservation strategies, habitat restoration actions of invasive species management, reconnecting streams with floodplains, creating riparian buffers of native plant species, as well as wetland creation and restoration within the stream channel. Restoration measures could also include hydrological restoration of original channel shapes, recontouring stream banks, and creating impoundments to reduce scour and erosive power of streams during storm events. Some restoration actions will require additional planning and engineering and design before implementation. Direct Component funds will be used for planning, engineering and design, and implementation of stream restoration actions on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This project aligns with the eco-restoration priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

Need: Coastal streams and watersheds have been impacted by urban development, hydrologic alterations, erosion, invasive species and other factors that have led to a decrease in water quality entering into the Mississippi Sound.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to implement coastal stream restoration strategies in the three Mississippi coastal counties to improve water quality entering the Mississippi Sound, as well as increase ecosystem function of the streams.

Objective: Reduce water quality impairments entering the Mississippi Sound, enhance ecological function, improve stormwater management, and provide residents and tourists natural areas for outdoor recreation across the Mississippi coastal landscape.

Estimated project cost developed by MDEQ.

#### Activity #10: Planning Assistance - Project Management System

Project Summary: This proposed project will provide planning assistance to support the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in the development of a project management system.

As the state's lead agency for oil spill recovery and restoration, MDEQ oversees numerous projects carried out in the Gulf Coast Region. Projects generate information pertaining to proposals, planning, funding, development, correspondence, and monitoring. The proposed project management system will support the need for a platform to manage and access project information, and provide for the collection of information for projects primarily designed to restore and protect the Gulf Coast Region.

Direct Component funds will be used to provide planning assistance to MDEQ for the development of a project management system. Requirements of the system will be developed to fit the needs of Direct Component projects. The system will be used for projects funded outside of the Direct Component. If unique requirements are identified, the associated costs will be allocated to the projects/funding sources that will benefit.

Need: Restoration projects will generate large amounts of information and data such as proposals, grant applications, grant awards and contracts, financial information, project designs, and monitoring information. To assist in the management of projects and information, MDEQ needs a dedicated system designed to capture and store project information.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to provide planning assistance to MDEQ to develop a dedicated and integrated software system designed to assist MDEQ in the review of grant applications, award of grants, monitoring of grant awards, audit compliance, and management of project information.

Objective: Collect and organize project information for management of projects primarily designed to restore and protect the Gulf Coast Region.

Estimated project cost developed by MDEQ.

#### Activity #11: Planning Assistance - MIP Amendment Development

Project Summary: This proposed project will provide planning assistance to support the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in the development of MIP amendments.

Planning assistance will be used to support MDEQ in the development of MIP amendments. The RESTORE Act requires the state to develop a MIP describing the projects, programs, and activities for which Mississippi will seek funding under the Direct Component. Amendments to an existing MIP will be developed as additional funding for projects becomes available. Activities involved in the development of a MIP include identifying and evaluating potential projects, programs, and activities for eligibility, development of project components, review of reasonableness, stakeholder and public engagement, and development of the MIP narrative.

Direct Component funds will be used to provide planning assistance for the development of MIP amendments.

Need: As additional funds become available under the Direct Component, amendments to an existing MIP will be needed to identify projects, programs and activities for funding.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to provide planning assistance to MDEQ to develop amendments to an existing MIP.

Objective: Support the development of amendments to an existing MIP as needed.

Estimated project cost developed by MDEQ.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of all meaningful input from the public.

On December 9, 2015, MDEQ made available the State of Mississippi's initial Multiyear Implementation Plan (MIP). The MIP was announced by Governor Phil Bryant at a press conference in Biloxi, MS. A notice was published in the Clarion-Ledger newspaper informing the public that the MIP was available for public review and comment (See Attachment A). An email blast and text message blast were also sent to those registered to receive such notices (See Attachment A). The MIP and a corresponding map were posted to [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms) and made available in both English and Vietnamese. The MIP could also be requested via email, fax, telephone or mail directly from MDEQ. Submission of public input was accepted electronically via [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms), as well as via email, fax, telephone or

mail directly to MDEQ. On December 17, 2015, the U.S. Department of the Treasury made a recommendation to MDEQ via telephone to post the MIP matrix which includes anticipated project start dates. MIP Addendum 1 was prepared and made available to all new requests of the MIP on December 18, 2015. MIP Addendum 1 was also delivered via email to those who had previously requested a copy of the MIP. MIP Addendum 1 was translated into Vietnamese and made available to all new requests of the Vietnamese MIP. At the time MIP Addendum 1 was made available there had been no requests for the Vietnamese MIP. On January 8, 2016, a notice was published in the Clarion-Ledger and the Sun Herald newspapers informing the public that an addendum to the MIP was available and that the public comment period had been extended and would close on February 5, 2016 (See Attachment A). On January 12, 2016, MDEQ delivered email messages and text messages to notify the public that an addendum to the MIP was available and that the public comment period had been extended and would close on February 5, 2016 (See Attachment A). On February 3, 2016, MDEQ delivered an email message and text message to remind the public that the public comment period for the MIP would close on February 5, 2016 (See Attachment A).

During the public review and comment period, MDEQ received a total of 12 sets of comments. MDEQ reviewed all comments. Similar or related comments have been grouped and summarized for purposes of response and are represented in parentheses behind the comment. All comments submitted during the public review and comment period were considered by MDEQ and each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of meaningful input from the public. MDEQ drafted summary comment statements to consolidate groups of similar comments into one statement or to summarize a particularly long comment.

This document includes the following sections:

Section 1: Comments on Specific Projects on Initial MIP

Section 2: General Comments on Current MIP

Section 3: Comments on Future MIP Process

Section 4: Comments on Future MIP Projects

Section 5: Changes to the Initial MIP

## SECTION 1: COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS ON INITIAL MIP

1.1 MDEQ received a comment in support of the state's planning as a vital step to ensure a robust, comprehensive Gulf restoration process. (1)

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments.

1.2 MDEQ received a comment requesting an update on how the planning assistance funds were used in the development of this initial MIP. (1)

MDEQ utilized planning assistance funds to support the development of the required MIP, specifically the information described in 31 CFR §34.303(b)(1-7). The start date of the grant was September 1, 2015 and the grant will be closed-out after approval of the MIP by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

1.3 MDEQ received a comment requesting information on how any remaining MIP Planning Grant funds will be applied to future MIP rounds. (1)

Upon approval of the MIP by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, MDEQ's planning assistance grant will be closed-out, and unexpended funds will be returned to Mississippi's allocation of the Direct Component in the Trust Fund. In order to receive funds to develop future MIPs, the State of Mississippi will be required to apply for new planning assistance grants.

1.4 MDEQ received a comment requesting that the Project Management System (Activity #10) include performance, adaptive management, information on milestone achievement, and synergy with other projects. (1)

The Project Management System will be developed to include information needed to review grant applications, award grants, monitor grants after award, and audit compliance with respect to eligible activities under the Direct Component.

1.5 MDEQ received comments regarding the viability and success of the Off-Bottom Aquaculture Program (Activity #8). (2)

The design of the Off-Bottom Aquaculture Program is based on similar and successful programs. An off-bottom aquaculture program has been demonstrated to have significant positive economic benefit to local and regional economies. Further collateral effects of these projects include positive environmental benefits including water quality improvement (reducing turbidity and nutrient loads), as well as improved habitat for secondary productivity (including annelids, maxillopoda, and autotrophs).

1.6 A commenter suggested that the Off-Bottom Aquaculture Program (Activity #8) be available and accessible to all education, skill-level, and cultures. (1)

The Off-Bottom Aquaculture Program will be open to qualified and interested individuals.

1.7 Comments also discussed the potential environmental impacts of the Off-Bottom Aquaculture Program (Activity #8). (1)

All projects, including the Off-Bottom Aquaculture Program, will be subject to all respective environmental compliance requirements.

1.8 MDEQ received a comment supporting the Off-Bottom Aquaculture Program (Activity #8). (1)

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments.

1.9 MDEQ received several comments supporting the purpose and vision of the Work Ready Community Program (Activity #6). (2)

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments.

1.10 MDEQ also received comments suggesting that the Work Ready Community Program (Activity #6) offer alternative focus areas for workforce training, such as ecosystem restoration, welding, and related careers. (6)

The industries described in the MIP Project Summary are examples of industry-specific workforce training, and are not limited to the industries described in the MIP. The project narrative for the Work Ready Community Program has been updated in the MIP.

1.11 Commenters also encourage the Work Ready Community Program (Activity #6) be available to all education, skill-level, and backgrounds. (1)

The Work Ready Community Program will be available to all education, skill level, and backgrounds who meet requirements



determined by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

1.12 MDEQ received several comments supporting the connectivity of the Strategic Stream Restoration project (Activity #9) to existing stream restoration, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funded stream restoration project, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy. (2)

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments.

1.13 MDEQ received a comment discussing the need for research on the economic impact of aquariums relative to their cost. (1)

The City of Gulfport is working with aquarium experts from around the country in the development of the Mississippi Aquarium project to maximize the economic benefit on the Mississippi Gulf Coast region.

1.14 MDEQ received a comment regarding the budget for the Jackson County Corridor Connector Road (Activity #5). The commenter requested more information on the Direct Component investment amount. (1)

Jackson County submitted a proposal into the Restoration Project Idea Portal on January 26, 2015 that reflected the needs of the project at that time. After submitting the proposal, Jackson County continued to develop the Corridor Connector Road and used other funding for engineering and design, environmental review, and right-of-way acquisition in preparation for construction of the roadway. MDEQ determined that this project was an eligible activity under the Direct Component and contacted the county to verify project parameters. To determine the amount of funds needed from the Direct Component, and as part of the due diligence process undertaken during the development of this MIP, a constructability analysis was conducted. The constructability analysis on the multi-phased Jackson County Corridor Connector Road estimated that the cost of planning and construction of Phase I of the Corridor Connector Road would be \$10.2 million.

Additional clarification has been added to the Jackson County Corridor Connector Road narrative in the MIP.

1.15 MDEQ received a comment requesting more information about how the \$5 million obligated to the Improved Fiber Optic Infrastructure project (Activity #3) will be spent. (1)

Direct Component funds will be used to identify the needs (i.e.: planning) to improve fiber optic infrastructure and applicable solutions. It is anticipated that the initial planning and analysis will identify next steps and future investment needs.

1.16 MDEQ received a comment requesting clarification on the project selection process in regards to the Port Bienville Trans-Loading Terminal Facility Completion project (Activity #2). (1)

As discussed in the "Process of Selecting and Prioritizing Projects" section of the MIP, each respective GoTeam received a list of all project ideas submitted to the Restoration Project Idea Portal applicable to their focus area. The Economic Development and Infrastructure GoTeams identified job creation, retention and enhancing existing industries as criteria for prioritizing asset development and infrastructure investments. Port Bienville identified that dock space is inadequate, and it is necessary to expand capacity by completing the Trans-Loading Terminal Facility. The GoCoast 2020 report identified the tangible connection and importance between economic development and infrastructure within the three coastal counties of Mississippi.

1.17 MDEQ received a comment suggesting partnership opportunities with local workforce training organizations. (2)

MDEQ encourages workforce development project sponsors to collaborate with stakeholders.

## SECTION 2: GENERAL COMMENTS ON CURRENT MIP

2.1 Commenters suggested that the MIP should identify the source of leveraged funds and provide a more detailed budget. (3)

Additional information has been added to the MIP narrative regarding the source of leveraged funds, where available. More detailed budgets are a requirement of the grant application and will be provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury during the grant application phase.

2.2 MDEQ received a comment supporting the leverage opportunities included in this initial MIP. (1)

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments.

2.3 What was the actual date of the comment period deadline? (1)

The original comment period deadline was January 23, 2016. On January 12, 2016 an extension of the public comment period was announced. The extended final comment period deadline was February 5, 2016.

2.4 MDEQ received a comment supporting public and private stakeholder involvement in the development of this initial MIP. (1)

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments.

2.5 How did the Governor's office and MDEQ consider and rank MsCIP projects when the MIP list was made? (1)

MDEQ and the Governor's office considered all projects submitted to the Restoration Project Idea Portal for inclusion on this MIP, including Mississippi Coastal Improvement Plan (MsCIP) projects submitted into the Project Portal. Priorities and criteria determined by GoCoast2020 were used to identify projects for the initial MIP.

2.6 MDEQ received a comment stating that the MIP does not demonstrate that projects have a direct nexus to the oil spill disaster. (1)  
Each activity included on the MIP is eligible for funding under the Direct Component of the RESTORE Act.

2.7 MDEQ received comments suggesting that the MIP projects are not connected to reflect a unified plan or vision for investing funds for economic and ecological recovery. (3)

The GoCoast 2020 Commission charted a vision and developed a framework of recommendations to support recovery from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Each activity included on the MIP addresses one or more of the priorities and criteria determined by the GoCoast 2020 Commission to help achieve the vision and lay the foundation for long-term recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. MDEQ, as the implementing agency for Mississippi, recognizes the importance of coordination between NFWF, NRDA, and RESTORE funded restoration efforts to increase restoration synergies. MDEQ is committed to a holistic approach to restoration in Mississippi, and the initial MIP projects contribute to a restored Mississippi Gulf Coast.

2.8 Comments were received about expanding the MIP narrative to provide more detail, such as a cost-benefit analysis, feasibility study, or monitoring and adaptive management protocols. (6)

Each activity on the MIP includes the required information described in 31 C.F.R. §34.303(b). The content of the MIP satisfies financial

and administrative requirements in the RESTORE Act and the Treasury regulations.

2.9 Comments were received suggesting that initial and future MIP projects be selected, designed, and implemented with sustainability and longevity in mind, thinking especially about how projects will react to sea level rise, future storm events, and other human or natural stressors. (7)

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments.

2.10 MDEQ received comments suggesting that the projects on this initial MIP will not restore decimated fisheries. (2)

While fishery restoration is not the primary focus of any projects proposed for this initial MIP, secondary benefits of the projects may support fishery restoration. For example, the Off-Bottom Aquaculture Program will provide for skills-based training, while assisting with the restoration of oyster fisheries.

2.11 Mississippi received several comments suggesting that water quality be acknowledged and addressed in this MIP. (7)

Mississippi's initial MIP includes a project which supports water quality improvement along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Strategic Stream Restoration project will leverage a current NFWF project to invest in water quality improvements, habitat restoration and enhancement, improved stormwater management, and enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities. The State of Mississippi is evaluating potential water quality projects across all Deepwater Horizon funding streams.

2.12 Can you provide a copy of the GoCoast 2020 current membership with contact information? (1)

A list of the current GoCoast 2020 Commission can be found on [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms).

2.13 MDEQ received several comments suggesting the use of Direct Component funds as the required non-federal share for Mississippi Coastal Improvement Plan (MsCIP) projects, specifically the Forrest Heights levee. (4)

Although the MsCIP program has been Congressionally authorized, there is currently no federal funding budgeted or appropriated for project implementation, except for the barrier island restoration components which are 100% federally funded with no required state share. MDEQ recognizes the value and importance of the vetted projects included in MsCIP. MDEQ will continue to monitor the availability of the required federal share for potential leveraging opportunities.

2.14 MDEQ received comments urging the State of Mississippi to reconvene the GoCoast 2020 Commission. (2)

It is anticipated that GoCoast 2020 will be reconvened in the future.

2.15 MDEQ received comments stating that no funds should be given to projects that have a negative environmental impact. (2)

All projects will be subject to all respective environmental compliance requirements.

2.16 MDEQ received a comment suggesting that projects outside of the Gulf Coast Region should be considered when a project provides benefits to coastal waters. (1)

All projects submitted into the Restoration Project Idea Portal were considered for inclusion on this initial MIP, including those outside of the Gulf Coast Region.

2.17 MDEQ received a comment recommending that this MIP be revised to include adequate detail to show how projects were evaluated and prioritized. (1)

Detailed information about the process used to evaluate and prioritize projects can be found in the "Process of Prioritizing and Selecting Projects" section of the MIP.

### SECTION 3: COMMENTS ON FUTURE MIP PROCESS

3.1 MDEQ received comments suggesting the State of Mississippi provide opportunities for the public to help identify, develop, and provide input on project ideas for future MIPs well in advance of initiating a 45-day public comment period, as well as making public the specific criteria being used by decision-makers for project evaluation, prioritization, selection, and identification of measures of success. (2)

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments on the development of future MIPs. These suggestions will be taken into consideration during the development of subsequent MIPs. Additionally, the existing Restoration Project Idea Portal is a tool for the public to use to identify project ideas for all Deepwater Horizon restoration funding sources. The portal is available to the public year-round on [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms).

3.2 MDEQ received a comment encouraging future MIPs to seek opportunities to coordinate and leverage proposals and projects in a way that complements and increases net benefits of restoration. (1)

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments on the development of future MIPs. These suggestions will be taken into consideration during the development of subsequent MIPs. The final goal of all projects is restoration of the economic losses and ecological injuries resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. MDEQ, as the implementing agency for Mississippi, recognizes the importance of coordination between NFWF, NRDA, and RESTORE funded restoration efforts to increase restoration synergies. MDEQ is committed to a holistic approach to restoration in Mississippi.

### SECTION 4: COMMENTS ON FUTURE MIP PROJECTS

4.1 Mississippi received comments related to considerations for future MIP Projects Suggested project themes included: flood prevention, flood/wind mitigation, infrastructure related to sewer upgrades and commercial fishing, stormwater run-off, leverage of congressionally authorized MSCIP projects, and an increased investment in ecological projects. (9)

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments on the development of future MIPs. These suggestions will be taken into consideration during the development of subsequent MIPs.

4.2 MDEQ received comments suggesting that future MIPs include a stronger scientific context and accompanying details. (2)

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments on the development of future MIPs. These suggestions will be taken into consideration during the development of subsequent MIPs.

4.3 MDEQ received comments requesting that future MIPs be directly downloadable from [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms). (3)

MDEQ will make future MIPs available for public comment and review in a manner that is consistent with other MDEQ-administered

public comment periods related to Deepwater Horizon.

#### SECTION 5: CHANGES TO THE INITIAL MIP

The State of Mississippi has taken all comments and suggestions into consideration and has made adjustments in the MIP document where necessary and appropriate. Revisions to the MIP document are noted in Sections 1-4 above.

#### 3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix is eligible for funding and meets all requirements under the RESTORE Act.

Activity #1: Stennis International Airport Hangar - Eligible under activity (f) Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure as defined in 31 CFR §34.201 and 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VI) of the RESTORE Act. This activity will be implemented by the Hancock County Harbor and Port Commission and will comply with the definition of infrastructure in 31 CFR §34.2.

Activity #2: Port Bienville Trans-Loading Terminal Facility Completion - Eligible under activity (f) Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure as defined in 31 CFR §34.201 and 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VI) of the RESTORE Act. This activity will be implemented by the Hancock County Harbor and Port Commission and will comply with the definition of infrastructure in 31 CFR §34.2.

Activity #3: Improved Fiber Optic Infrastructure - Eligible under activity (f) Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure as defined in 31 CFR §34.201 and 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VI) of the RESTORE Act. This activity may be implemented by a consortium of cities and/or counties that may own and operate the infrastructure and it will comply with the definition of infrastructure in 31 CFR §34.2.

Activity #4: Mississippi Aquarium - Eligible under activity (h) Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including promotion of recreational fishing; and (f) Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure as defined in 31 CFR §34.201, 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(ii)(I), and 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VI) of the RESTORE Act. This activity will be implemented by the City of Gulfport and will comply with the definition of infrastructure in 31 CFR §34.2.

Activity #5: Jackson County Corridor Connector Road - Phase I - Eligible under activity (f) Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure as defined in 31 CFR §34.201 and 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VI) of the RESTORE Act. This activity will be implemented by Jackson County and will comply with the definition of infrastructure in 31 CFR §34.2.

Activity #6: Work Ready Community Program - Eligible under activity (d) Workforce development and job creation as defined in 31 CFR §34.201 and 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(IV) of the RESTORE Act. This project will be implemented by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Activity #7: Accreditation Support for William Carey University School of Pharmacy - Eligible under activity (d) Workforce development and job creation as defined in 31 CFR §34.201 and 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(IV) of the RESTORE Act. This project will be implemented by William Carey University.

Activity #8: Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program - Eligible under activity (d) Workforce development and job creation as defined in 31 CFR §34.201 and 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(IV) of the RESTORE Act. This project will be implemented by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

Activity #9: Strategic Stream Restoration - Eligible under activity (a) Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region as defined in 31 CFR §34.201 and 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(I) of the RESTORE Act. This project will be implemented by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

Activity #10: Planning Assistance - Project Management System - Eligible under activity (j) Planning assistance as defined in 31 CFR §34.201 and 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VIII) of the RESTORE Act. This project will be implemented by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and will comply with the definition of planning assistance in 31 CFR §34.2.

Activity #11: Planning Assistance - MIP Amendment Development - Eligible under activity (j) Planning assistance as defined in 31 CFR §34.201 and 33 USC §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VIII) of the RESTORE Act. This project will be implemented by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

#### 4. How the applicant will evaluate success of the activities included in the matrix.

Activity #1: Stennis International Airport Hangar Measure of Success: Construction of approximately 24,000-square-foot state-of-the-art hangar facility at Stennis International Airport to increase available capacity.

Activity #2: Port Bienville Trans-Loading Terminal Facility Completion Measure of Success: Completion of the trans-loading terminal

facility at Port Bienville to increase available capacity.

Activity #3: Improved Fiber Optic Infrastructure Measures of Success: Identify the needs to improve fiber optic infrastructure; and Construct applicable infrastructure solutions to fill the identified needs to better serve businesses and industry and students.

Activity #4: Mississippi Aquarium Measure of Success: Construction of approximately 60,000-square-foot aquarium facility on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to provide a family-related tourism opportunity.

Activity #5: Jackson County Corridor Connector Road - Phase I Measure of Success: Construction of 1.1 miles of road creating a corridor between Mallett Road/Sangani Boulevard and Cook Road to ease traffic congestion.

Activity #6: Work Ready Community Program Measure of Success: Implementation of the Work Ready Community Program to support the labor needs of existing and expanding industry sectors.

Activity #7: Accreditation Support for William Carey University School of Pharmacy Measure of Success: Receipt of accreditation for the School of Pharmacy from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education to address a shortage of pharmacists.

Activity #8: Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program Measure of Success: Implementation of the Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program to support training in alternative oyster harvesting methods.

Activity #9: Strategic Stream Restoration Measure of Success: Enhanced ecological function of Mississippi coastal streams.

Activity #10: Planning Assistance - Project Management System Measure of Success: Creation of the project management system that is operational and generates reports.

Activity #11: Planning Assistance - MIP Amendment Development Measure of Success: Completion of amendments to an existing MIP that meets requirements.

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and the criteria used to establish the priorities.

The projects were prioritized using the following two (2) criteria.

1. All eleven (11) projects that are submitted in this MIP are Eligible Activities for RESTORE Act funding under the Direct Component for workforce development and job creation; for infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure; and for restoring natural resources. In addition to the above activities, the Mississippi Aquarium promotes tourism in the Gulf Coast Region; and the projects Grants Management System is eligible for planning assistance.

2. Mississippi utilized two stakeholder-driven components to identify and prioritize all projects for inclusion on this initial MIP: GoCoast 2020 Commission and the Restoration Project Idea Portal. See a-e below for explanation.

a) Governor Phil Bryant created GoCoast 2020 to serve as an advisory body to the Governor for the allocation of funds received by Mississippi under the RESTORE Act.

b) GoCoast 2020 is comprised of more than one-hundred business and community leaders, and elected officials from across the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

c) GoCoast 2020 formed eight committees that focused on eight key areas related to the activities specified in the RESTORE Act (eco-restoration, economic development, infrastructure, research and education, seafood, small business, tourism, and workforce development).

d) GoCoast 2020 produced a report with recommendations and priorities for selecting projects under the Direct Component. See the GoCoast 2020 Final Report for additional information at <http://www.gocoast2020.com/gocoast-2020-final-report/>.

e) GoCoast 2020 developed recommendations for these first eleven projects by reviewing more than 680 project ideas that had been submitted in the Restoration Project Idea Portal against their previously developed priorities and criteria. Each of the projects identified in this initial MIP were developed and informed directly from a project(s) submitted in the Restoration Project Idea Portal.

f) Additionally, preliminary due diligence performed on each project included a review of anticipated project activities and estimates of costs, reasonableness, and compliance with applicable rules, laws and regulations.

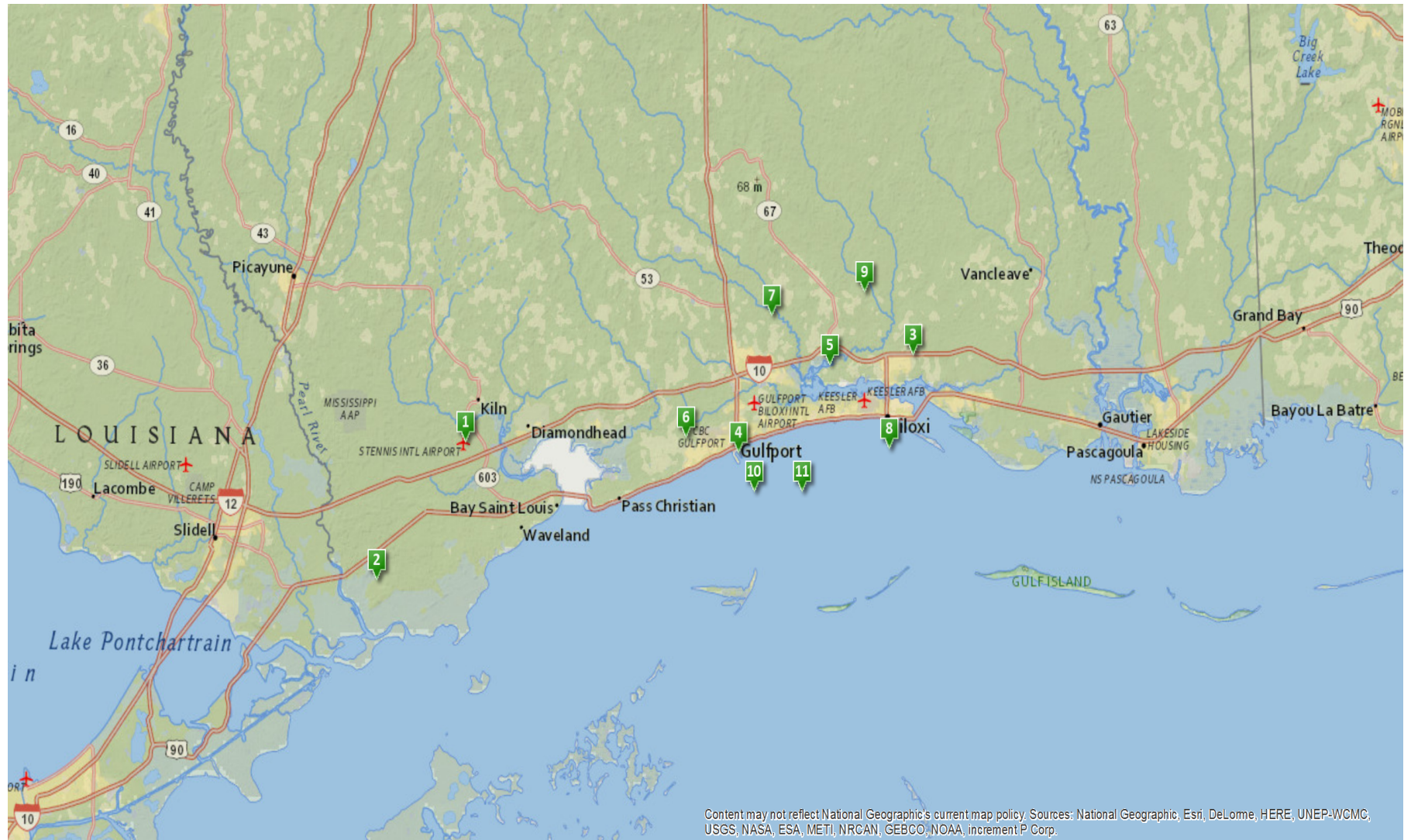
6. The relationship, if any, between the activities the applicant included in the multiyear plan matrix and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

At this time there is no relationship between the activities included on Mississippi's Initial Multiyear Implementation Plan and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, RESTORE Act Program, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.



# Mississippi Multiyear Implementation Plan Project Location Map



December 2015