

RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Matrix									OMB Approval No. 1505-0250		
Applicant Name:	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality										
1. MULTIYEAR PLAN VERSION (INITIAL OR AMENDMENT NUMBER):		Amendment #2	2a. DATE OF INITIAL MULTIYEAR PLAN ACCEPTANCE (mm/dd/yyyy):			5/19/2016	2b. DATE OF LAST MULTIYEAR PLAN ACCEPTANCE:		7/5/2017		
3. CUMULATIVE DIRECT COMPONENT ALLOCATION AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO APPLICANT:			\$87,310,315.88			4. TOTAL ALLOCATIONS PLUS KNOWN FUNDS NOT YET DEPOSITED IN TRUST FUND FOR DIRECT COMPONENT:				\$371,995,127.20	
5. Primary Direct Component Eligible Activity Further Described in Application (Static Field)	6. Activity Title (Static Field)	7. Location (Static Field)	8. Estimated Total Funding Contributions For Proposed Activity(ies)(refer to Instructions)				9. Proposed Start Date mm/dd/yyyy	10. Proposed End Date mm/dd/yyyy	11. Status (refer to Instructions)		
			8a. Direct Component Contribution	8b. Other RESTORE Act Contribution	8c. Other Third Party Contribution	8d. Total Contribution					
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #1: Stennis International Airport Hangar	Kiln, Mississippi	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,075,000.00	\$ 4,075,000.00	07/01/2016	07/01/2018	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Funded		
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #2: Port Bienville Trans-Loading Terminal Facility Completion	Bay St. Louis, Mississippi	\$ 8,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 775,000.00	\$ 8,775,000.00	05/01/2017	09/01/2019	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Funded		
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #3: Improved Fiber Optic Infrastructure	Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, Mississippi	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000.00	12/01/2016	11/30/2021	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Partially Funded		
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	Activity #4: Mississippi Aquarium	Gulfport, Mississippi	\$ 17,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 46,400,000.00	\$ 63,400,000.00	05/01/2017	12/01/2020	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Funded		
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #5: Jackson County Corridor Connector Road - Phase I	St. Martin/D'Iberville, Mississippi	\$ 10,200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,200,000.00	12/01/2016	12/01/2019	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Funded		
Workforce development and job creation	Activity #6: Work Ready Community Program	Long Beach, Mississippi	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000.00	01/01/2016	12/01/2020	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Funded		
Workforce development and job creation	Activity #7: Accreditation Support for William Carey University School of Pharmacy	Biloxi, Mississippi	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 4,000,000.00	07/01/2016	12/01/2018	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Funded		
Workforce development and job creation	Activity #8: Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program	Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, Mississippi	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000.00	01/01/2018	12/01/2020	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Funded		
Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region	Activity #9: Strategic Stream Restoration	Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, Mississippi	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000.00	01/01/2017	01/01/2020	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Funded		
Planning assistance	Activity #10: Planning Assistance - Project Management System	Jackson, Mississippi	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	07/01/2016	07/31/2021	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP)		

Planning assistance	Activity #10: Planning Assistance - Project Management System	Jackson, Mississippi	\$ (500,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (500,000.00)			Activity Deleted. Decreased by \$500,000. Total Amount \$0.00. (Amendment #1)
Planning assistance	Activity #11: Planning Assistance - MIP Amendment Development	Jackson, Mississippi	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400,000.00	07/01/2016	06/30/2021	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Funded
Planning assistance	Activity #11: Planning Assistance - MIP Amendment Development	Jackson, Mississippi	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	07/01/2016	06/30/2021	Activity Accepted (Amendment #1) to add \$500,000 (\$900,000 Total) to expand scope of work and budget, Amendment Submitted, and Activity Funded
Planning assistance	Activity #11: Planning Assistance - MIP Amendment Development	Jackson, Mississippi	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	07/01/2016	06/30/2021	Activity Amended (Amendment #2) to add \$500,000 (\$1,400,000 Total) to expand budget
Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region	Activity #12: Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program	Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi	\$ 11,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,000,000.00	08/01/2017	07/31/2022	Activity Accepted (MIP Amendment #1)
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #13: University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center	Perkinston, Stone County, Mississippi	\$ 7,700,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,700,000.00	09/01/2017	12/31/2018	Activity Accepted (MIP Amendment #1), Application Submitted, and Activity Partially Funded
Planning assistance	Activity #14: North Rail Connector - Planning Assistance	Jackson County, Mississippi	\$ 550,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 550,000.00	08/01/2017	07/31/2020	Activity Accepted (MIP Amendment #1)
Planning assistance	Activity #15: National Oceans and Applications Research Center (NOARC) - Planning Assistance	Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi	\$ 2,750,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,750,000.00	09/01/2017	08/30/2019	Activity Accepted (MIP Amendment #1)
Workforce development and job creation	Activity #16: Salvation Army Center of Hope	Gulfport, Mississippi	\$ 1,320,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,500,000.00	\$ 5,820,000.00	05/01/2019	04/30/2021	Activity Accepted (MIP Amendment #1), Proposed Start Date Updated
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #17: Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center Site Capacity Improvements	Biloxi, Mississippi	\$ 3,520,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,520,000.00	08/01/2017	07/31/2019	Activity Accepted (MIP Amendment #1)
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #18: Trent Lott International Airport Runway Improvements	Jackson County, Mississippi	\$ 6,850,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,850,000.00	10/01/2018	09/30/2020	New Activity (Amendment #2)

Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #19: Harrison County Bulkhead and Dock Construction	Harrison County, Mississippi	\$ 3,400,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,400,000.00	10/01/2018	03/31/2020	New Activity (Amendment #2)
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #20: Pearl River Community College Workforce Center	Hancock County, Mississippi	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000.00	05/01/2019	04/30/2024	New Activity (Amendment #2)
Planning assistance	Activity #21: Bayou Casotte Industrial Buffer Concept - Planning Assistance	Jackson County, Mississippi	\$ 550,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 550,000.00	10/01/2018	09/30/2020	New Activity (Amendment #2)
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	Activity #22: Gulf Coast Tourist Wayfinding and Informational Signage	Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi	\$ 1,100,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,100,000.00	10/01/2018	09/30/2023	New Activity (Amendment #2)
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #23: University of Southern Mississippi Marine Research Center	Harrison County, Mississippi	\$ 2,300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,300,000.00	10/01/2018	03/31/2020	New Activity (Amendment #2)
Workforce development and job creation	Activity #24: Gulf Coast Small Business Incubator Capacity Enhancement	Harrison County, Mississippi	\$ 700,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700,000.00	10/01/2018	09/30/2020	New Activity (Amendment #2)
	12. ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ACTIVITY(IES) (refer to Instructions)		\$99,340,000.00	\$0.00	\$56,750,000.00	\$156,090,000.00	Please note: Grant awards may reflect non-material changes in proposed dates and estimated funding.		

# RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

## Department of the Treasury

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

**Directions: Use this form for the Initial Multiyear Plan and any subsequent amendments to an accepted Multiyear Plan. For amendments, include only new and/or materially modified activities.**

Multiyear Plan Version (Initial or Amendment Number):	Amendment #2
Date of Initial Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	May 19, 2016
Date of Last Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	July 5, 2017

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:	Chris Wells
POC Title:	Acting Director, Office of Restoration
POC Email:	cwells@mdeq.ms.gov
POC Phone:	+1 (601) 961-5545

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:
1. A description of each activity, including the need, purpose, objective(s), milestones and location. Include map showing the location of each activity.
<p>A map showing the location of each activity is attached as Exhibit A.</p> <p>This second amendment to Mississippi's Multiyear Implementation Plan (MIP) adds seven projects and further amends one project (Activity #11). Projects may start earlier than the proposed start dates depending on the availability of funds.</p> <p><b><u>Activity #11: Planning Assistance – MIP Amendment Development</u></b></p> <p><b>Project Summary:</b></p> <p>This project was accepted under Mississippi's initial MIP to provide planning assistance to support the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in the development of multiple MIP amendments. MDEQ has received a planning assistance award from the U.S. Department of the Treasury for this project. The proposed project modification includes an increase in funding to the existing planning assistance award to support MDEQ in the development of future MIP amendments.</p> <p>Planning assistance will be used to support MDEQ in the identification and evaluation of projects, programs, and activities and 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 the existing MIP will be developed as additional funding for projects becomes available. Planning activities may include, but are not limited to, identifying and evaluating potential projects, programs, and activities for eligibility, development of project components, review of reasonableness, and stakeholder and public engagement. Activities may also include the development of the MIP narrative and oversight and management. The scope includes coordination activities with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as needed, and development and execution of grant awards between MDEQ and Treasury.</p> <p><b>Need:</b></p> <p>Projects, programs and activities need to be identified and evaluated for potential funding under the Direct Component. As additional funds become available under the Direct Component, amendments to the MIP will also be needed. MDEQ is taking an incremental approach to funding Activity #11 based on the availability of funding in the Trust Fund; as such, this funding increase for the current planning assistance award is incremental and MDEQ anticipates future funding increases to Activity #11 based on need. This \$500,000 increase in funding is needed to support MDEQ's development of future MIP amendments under this activity's scope of work. This funding increase is a current estimate based upon continuing refinement of level of effort for MIP amendment development to date (this is the second MIP amendment and additional amendment(s) are anticipated under the current award).</p>

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to provide planning assistance to identify and evaluate projects, programs, and activities, as well as to develop MIP amendments as needed.

**Objective:**

Support the identification and evaluation of projects, programs, and activities, as well as the development of MIP amendments, as needed.

**Milestones:**

- Identification of eligible projects, programs, and activities
- Evaluation of projects, programs, and activities
- Engagement of the public and stakeholders
- Development of MIP amendments, as needed

**Location:**

Hinds County, Mississippi

**Activity #18: Trent Lott International Airport Runway Improvements****Project Summary:**

This proposed project will support infrastructure benefitting the economy of the Gulf Coast Region by improving the runway at Trent Lott International Airport. Runway improvements will benefit the economy by enhancing economic development opportunities and supporting existing industry activities in Jackson County, Mississippi.

Trent Lott International Airport is the centerpiece of the Jackson County Aviation Technology Park, a vital asset that supports the region's efforts to grow the aerospace sector. The 230-acre master planned industrial park boasts existing industry such as Northrop Grumman's Unmanned Systems Center; however, the current capacity of the runway at Trent Lott International Airport is a limiting factor for existing industry expansion and attraction of new economic opportunities. The runway cannot currently accommodate medium and large cargo planes, which limits air cargo transportation for existing industry and Jackson County's ability to compete on aviation-related economic development projects with runway dependent uses. Runway limitations also prevent Trent Lott International Airport from expanding general aviation activities.

This proposed project will support construction of runway improvements, such as runway strengthening and/or widening, at Trent Lott International Airport. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, engineering and design, permitting, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and the sub-award between MDEQ and sub-recipient.

This proposed project aligns with the economic development and infrastructure priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:**

Improving the capacity of Trent Lott International Airport's runway is needed to support existing industry and enhance competitiveness for attraction of new opportunities.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to implement runway improvements to support larger airplanes enhancing the airport's ability to attract new industry, support existing industry, and increase aviation activities.

**Objective:**

Implement runway improvements at Trent Lott International Airport, benefitting the economy of Jackson County and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region.

**Milestones:**

- Completion of Engineering and Design
- Advertise for and Select a Contractor(s)
- Initiation of Construction
- Completion of Construction

**Location:**

Jackson County, Mississippi

**Activity #19: Harrison County Bulkhead and Dock Construction****Project Summary:**

This proposed project will provide additional infrastructure benefitting the economy of the Gulf Coast Region through the construction of a bulkhead and dock along the Industrial Seaway in the Bernard Bayou Industrial District (BBID) in Harrison County. The additional bulkhead and docking capacity will benefit the economy by enhancing maritime-related industry growth opportunities in Harrison County.

The BBID is the largest industrial park in Harrison County, serving over 200 companies that employ over 3,000 employees. Maritime-related industry is a designated “Target” growth industry for the Harrison County Development Commission (HCDC) and partner organizations in the region. The Industrial Seaway is a waterway that provides BBID tenants direct access to the Mississippi Sound, and a variety of maritime-related companies are currently situated on the Industrial Seaway. The ability of the HCDC to support existing industry and recruit new industry is limited by current bulkhead and docking capacity along the Industrial Seaway.

This proposed project will support the construction of additional bulkhead and docking capacity on the Industrial Seaway. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, engineering and design, permitting, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury, and the sub-award between MDEQ and sub-recipient.

This proposed project aligns with the economic development and infrastructure priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:**

Additional bulkhead and docking capacity is needed on the Industrial Seaway to support existing industry and recruitment of new maritime-related industry.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to expand infrastructure along the Industrial Seaway in BBID to support county and regional economic development opportunities.

**Objective:**

Increase available bulkhead and docking capacity to accommodate new tenant business, expansion of existing tenant business, or an increase in maritime-related industry activity to benefit the economy.

**Milestones:**

- Completion of Engineering and Design
- Advertise for and Select a Contractor(s)
- Initiation of Construction
- Completion of Construction

**Location:**

Harrison County, Mississippi

## **Activity #20: Pearl River Community College Workforce Center**

### **Project Summary:**

This proposed project will support infrastructure benefitting the economy of the Gulf Coast Region by supporting Pearl River Community College's (PRCC) construction of a Workforce Center to enhance workforce training capacity.

Hancock County leaders have identified increasing workforce development capacity strategically focused on existing and future industry demand, as a necessary component of the County's economic growth strategy. In Hancock County, PRCC currently provides workforce training and education services in a rented facility with limited capacity. The new facility will allow PRCC to deliver the technical skills training and education necessary to support existing industry and meet the requirements of identified growth sectors, such as the aerospace industry. PRCC will utilize the facility to establish training programs to address the gap between existing workforce knowledge and skills and industry-required competencies.

This proposed project will support the construction of this facility on PRCC property, which is strategically located adjacent to Stennis International Airport and Hancock County High School. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, engineering and design, permitting, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and sub-recipient.

This proposed project aligns with the economic development and workforce priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

### **Need:**

PRCC's current infrastructure capacity is limited in Hancock County and needs to be enhanced to meet the workforce training needs of existing industry and support industry growth.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to improve the infrastructure capacity of PRCC to provide the necessary workforce development to grow the economy.

### **Objective:**

Assist PRCC with the construction of a workforce center to benefit the economy.

### **Milestones:**

- Completion of Engineering and Design
- Advertise for and Select a Contractor(s)
- Initiation of Construction
- Completion of Construction

### **Location:**

Hancock County, Mississippi

## **Activity #21: Bayou Casotte Industrial Buffer Concept - Planning Assistance**

### **Project Summary:**

This proposed project will provide planning assistance for infrastructure to support the assessment of design concepts and options for the development of a buffer along Bayou Casotte Parkway in Pascagoula, MS, to minimize impacts common to industrialized areas.

The industries along the Bayou Casotte River Harbor support significant economic activity and jobs in the Gulf Coast Region and are critical to the sustainability and recovery of the regional economy. These industrial sites, located east of Bayou Casotte Parkway, are among the most important industrial areas in the state and region. A residential area is located west of Bayou Casotte Parkway.

A concept submitted in the Mississippi Restoration Project Idea Portal proposes to add buffers along areas of Bayou Casotte Parkway to minimize impacts common to industrialized areas on the nearby residential properties. Roadside vegetative and structural buffers have been implemented along busy roadways for years and multiple studies have analyzed the efficacy of options to mitigate roadway noise and other impacts on nearby communities.

The proposed planning activities will assist MDEQ and local stakeholders in assessing potential options specific to this area and potential benefits to the community and economy. Planning activities may include, but are not limited to, stakeholder engagement, due diligence on potential options, and preliminary engineering and design. Activities may also include program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury.

This proposed project aligns with the economic development, infrastructure and eco-restoration priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:**

Planning activities are needed to assess various options for developing a buffer, taking into consideration community stakeholder interests, and the efficacy and feasibility of options specific to this area to support infrastructure benefitting the economy or ecological resources.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to support planning activities to assess a buffer concept to determine the feasibility and potential benefits to the economy or ecological resources.

**Objective:**

Support planning activities to assess the Bayou Casotte Parkway Buffer concept.

**Milestones:**

- Initiation of planning activities
- Completion of planning activities

**Location:**

Jackson County, Mississippi

**Activity #22: Gulf Coast Tourist Wayfinding and Informational Signage**

**Project Summary:**

This proposed project will support the promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region by implementing tourist wayfinding and informational signage across the Mississippi Gulf Coast to attract visitors and enhance the visitor experience.

The GoCoast Tourism Committee identified the lack of directional and informational signage appealing to visitors as one of the gaps in the market inhibiting tourism promotion activities. Implementation of additional signage will increase awareness and visibility of the Mississippi Gulf Coast's many tourism attractions and opportunities. Improving wayfinding and informational signage will enhance the visitor experience, which encourages repeat visitation and longer length of stay. Also, tourist wayfinding and informational signage along major thoroughfares will help promote attractions and experiences available on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to travelers passing through the market. It is anticipated that this effort will be regionally coordinated to enhance and strengthen regional branding efforts.

This proposed project will support implementation of tourist wayfinding and informational signage. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, planning and coordination, installation, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and agreements between MDEQ and eligible entities.

This proposed project aligns with the tourism priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.



**Need:**

Additional tourist wayfinding and informational signage is needed to increase the visibility of the Mississippi Gulf Coast's many tourism assets and experiences to attract visitors and enhance the visitor experience.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to support tourism promotion on the Mississippi Gulf Coast through wayfinding and informational signage appealing to visitors.

**Objective:**

Implement additional tourist wayfinding and informational signage to attract visitors and enhance the visitor experience.

**Milestones:**

- Planning and Coordination for Wayfinding and Informational Signage
- Installation of Wayfinding and Informational Signage

**Location:**

Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties, Mississippi

**Activity #23: University of Southern Mississippi Marine Research Center****Project Summary:**

This proposed project will support infrastructure benefitting ecological resources by upgrading the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Marine Research Center at the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport. The USM Marine Research Center is being developed to support marine research and education activities, and support Mississippi's efforts to grow the maritime technology industry.

The USM Marine Research Center will serve as a marine operations, research and education facility for the USM School of Ocean Science and Technology. The Center will support the academic research and education activities associated with USM's ocean engineering and technology program and serve as the center of operations for the University's oceanographic research vessel, the Point Sur. The Point Sur is the only oceanographic class research vessel home-ported in the northern Gulf of Mexico east of the Mississippi River. The Center will also support the development, testing and training of advanced maritime systems and technology such as Unmanned Maritime Systems used by the U.S. Navy and other federal agencies and industry.

The Center is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in spring of 2018. This proposed project will upgrade the existing public facility and systems with the technology, equipment and other supporting components necessary to support the marine research, education/training, and economic development purposes of the Center (e.g. information and teaching technology, engineering and fabrication equipment, research vessel support equipment and lab and office equipment/furnishings). Activities may also include, but are not limited to, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and sub-recipient.

This proposed project aligns with the research and education priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:**

The USM Marine Research Center is an existing public facility at the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport. The facility and systems need to be upgraded with the technology, equipment and other supporting components necessary to optimize the facility's ability to support the marine research, education, training and economic development activities of the Center (e.g. information and teaching technology, engineering and fabrication equipment, research vessel support equipment and lab and office equipment/furnishings).

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to support infrastructure improvements benefitting the economy or ecological resources by upgrading the USM Marine Research Center public facility and systems with the technology, equipment and other components necessary to support the Center's marine research, education, training, and economic development activities.

**Objective:**

Assist USM with upgrades to the existing USM Marine Research Center facility and systems to support infrastructure improvements benefitting the economy or ecological resources.

**Milestones:**

- Identification of technology, equipment and other components
- Complete acquisition of necessary components
- Installation of components, if necessary

**Location:**

Harrison County, Mississippi

**Activity #24: Gulf Coast Small Business Incubator Capacity Enhancement****Project Summary:**

This proposed workforce development and job creation project will be for the planning, design, and implementation of additional small business incubator capacity on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to encourage regional small business development and growth. The planning, design, and implementation of additional small business incubator capacity (workforce development and/or job creation eligible programmatic support and necessary associated physical incubator building space and/or site improvements to an existing space) will be performed by an eligible subrecipient.

The small business community is an important component of the Mississippi Gulf Coast economy. Incubators nurture young businesses, helping them grow and prosper during the start-up period when they are most vulnerable. Incubators can provide a wide array of support, which may include hands-on management assistance, access to financing, and exposure to critical business or technical support services. They also offer entrepreneurial start-ups lower operating costs, shared office services, access to equipment, flexible leases, and expandable space. Small business incubator capacity on the Mississippi Gulf Coast is limited. For example, the Innovation Center in Biloxi is operating at near capacity. Additional small business incubator capacity would provide entrepreneurs expanded access to start-up support and services. MDEQ will work with stakeholders to assess the need, and then select a subrecipient to implement the most beneficial use of funds to maximize small business incubator capacity.

. This proposed project will support the development of additional small business incubator capacity, which will include workforce development and job creation RESTORE Act Direct Component eligible programmatic support on the Mississippi Gulf Coast with associated physical incubator building space and/or site improvements to an existing space. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, planning and due diligence, engineering and design, construction, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and sub-recipient. MDEQ will identify the most appropriate eligible subrecipient, location, and approach/specific eligible activities that will be implemented to meet the project's need, purpose, and objective of providing additional incubator resources/capacity

This proposed project aligns with the small business and economic development priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:**

Small business incubators capacity (workforce development and/or job creation programmatic support programming and with associated physical space) along the Mississippi Gulf Coast is limited, and additional incubator resources are needed to encourage and support regional small business development and growth.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this project is to provide additional small business incubator capacity to support small business development and growth, benefitting the economy of the Gulf Coast Region.

**Objective:**

Identify subrecipient(s) and create additional small business incubator capacity through workforce development and/or job creation programmatic support with associated physical incubator building space.

**Milestones:**

- Planning and Due Diligence for Increasing Incubator Capacity (e.g., identify eligible subrecipient, location and eligible activities needed to increase incubator capacity).
- Completion of Activities to Increase Incubator Capacity

**Location:**

Harrison County, Mississippi

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 multiyear plan was approved after consideration of all meaningful input from the public and submit documentation (e.g., a letter from the applicant's leadership approving submission of the multiyear plan to Treasury or a resolution approving the applicant's multiyear plan).

On November 14, 2017 Mississippi made available its amended MIP for public review and comment. The amended MIP was announced by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) at the 2017 Restoration Summit in Biloxi, MS. During the 2017 Restoration Summit, MDEQ representatives presented project information to the public and Vietnamese translation services were available. A notice was published in the Sun Herald and Clarion-Ledger newspapers informing the public that the amended MIP was available for public review and comment. An email blast and text message blast were also sent to those registered to receive notices. The amended MIP and a corresponding map were available through [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms) and made available in both English and Vietnamese. The amended 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 18, 2017, MDEQ delivered email messages to remind the public that the public review and comment period for the amended MIP would close on January 15, 2018. A final email was delivered to the public on January 10, 2018 as a reminder that the public review and comment period for the amended MIP would close on January 15, 2018.

During the public review and comment period, MDEQ received a total of one (1) letter with written comments from an organization signed by multiple individuals. MDEQ reviewed all comments. Similar or related comments have been grouped and summarized for purposes of response. 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 Amended MIP

Section 2: General Comments on Amended MIP

**SECTION 1: COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS ON AMENDED MIP**

**1.1 MDEQ received a comment suggesting that the Work Ready Community Program (Activity #6) incorporate the needs of the fishing communities and offer alternative focus areas for workforce training, such as ecosystem restoration, welding, and related careers.**

Activity #6 was included in the initial MIP which was accepted in May of 2016. 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. A grant was awarded for this activity and MDEQ entered into a subrecipient agreement with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) for implementation. MGCCC, as the eligible subrecipient, is currently implementing a basic skills training program and industry specific credential programs. MGCCC may add industry specific programs based on industry demand.

**1.2 MDEQ received a comment suggesting that more information is needed on the Off-Bottom Aquaculture Program (Activity #8) to evaluate the program.**

Activity #8 was included in the initial MIP which was accepted in May of 2016. The content of the MIP includes the required information described in 31 C.F.R. §34.303(b). A grant was awarded for this activity and MDEQ entered into a subrecipient agreement with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources for implementation. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is currently developing and implementing this program. The Off-Bottom Aquaculture Program will provide for skills-based training, while assisting with the restoration of oyster fisheries.

**Section 2: General Comments on Amended MIP**

**2.1 MDEQ received a comment suggesting that the MIP and public meetings should be more accessible particularly for Vietnamese-American fisher folks and that public meetings should be more frequent.**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges these comments. MDEQ has and will continue to take such requests into consideration. The amended MIP and a corresponding map were available through [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms) and made available in both English and Vietnamese. MDEQ provided materials and information related to the proposed MIP Amendment at the Mississippi Restoration Summit held on November 14, 2017, which was widely promoted and open to the public; these materials were made available in Vietnamese at the Mississippi Restoration Summit and throughout the entire public comment period. At the Mississippi Restoration Summit, MDEQ also provided Vietnamese translation services.

**2.2 MDEQ received a comment suggesting that MDEQ make the MIP readily accessible, particularly for those who lack access to computers.**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments. Members of the public without access to a computer or the internet were able to access the plan by calling MDEQ to obtain a hardcopy by mail. The amended MIP and a corresponding map were available through [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms) and made available in both English and Vietnamese. The amended MIP could also be requested via email, fax, telephone, or mail directly from MDEQ. MDEQ intends to make future MIPs directly available for public comment and review on the [restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms) website without making reviewers request a copy and will consider other methods of distribution.

**2.3 MDEQ received a comment concerning the public comment period.**

MDEQ acknowledges all comments. The public comment period for the proposed MIP Amendment was open from November 14, 2017, to January 15, 2018, for a total of 63 days, which exceeds the required 45-day comment period. The public comment period was advertised in newspapers, through a listserve, and on [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms), so that the public would be aware of the deadline.

**2.4 MDEQ received a comment stating that the MIP does not include information such as nexus to the oil spill, cost benefit analysis and potential economic benefits.**

Each activity on the MIP includes the required information described in 31 C.F.R. §34.303(b), the U.S. Department of Treasury's (Treasury) regulations regarding the RESTORE Act. The content of the MIP satisfies financial and administrative requirements in the RESTORE Act and the Treasury regulations. Each activity included on the MIP is proposed as an eligible activity for funding under the Direct Component of the RESTORE Act in accordance with applicable federal law and regulations.

**2.5 MDEQ received a comment that fishermen should be contracted for various restoration projects but have been excluded from restoration opportunities.**

MDEQ acknowledges all comments. MDEQ has and will continue to comply with the applicable state and/or federal laws and regulations regarding the selection of contractors to perform any services needed to implement Mississippi's restoration activities and projects. MDEQ has and will continue to engage with stakeholders, including fishermen, in an effort to make informed decisions regarding restoration activities. No person or group has been "excluded" from Mississippi's restoration efforts. MDEQ has hosted multiple stakeholder engagements to inform restoration priorities, which include, but are not limited to, the Annual Restoration Summit. Further, MDEQ has made available a project portal on the [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms) website for which the public can submit restoration project ideas; MDEQ utilizes such portal information to inform the respective decision-making processes.

**2.6 MDEQ received a comment that infrastructure projects should include construction of centrally located, affordable commercial fishing docks/harbors and investments/upgrades to dry docks.**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments. These suggestions will be taken into consideration during the development of subsequent MIPs. 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. MDEQ utilizes such portal information to inform the respective decision-making processes. The portal is available to the public year-round on [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms).

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan narrative meets all the requirements under the RESTORE Act, including a description of how each activity is eligible for funding based on the geographic location of each activity and how each activity qualifies for at least one of the eligible activities under the RESTORE Act.

**Activity #11: Planning Assistance - MIP Amendment Development:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2, as each severable part of the activity is primarily designed to restore or protect that geographic area. This project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding through 31 C.F.R. §34.201(j) - planning assistance and through 33 U.S.C. §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 C.F.R. §34.2.

**Activity #18: Trent Lott International Airport Runway Improvements:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This project will support runway improvements, which will benefit the economy by enhancing economic development opportunities and supporting existing industry activities in Jackson County, Mississippi; this project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding under 31 C.F.R. §34.201(f) - infrastructure benefitting the economy, and 33 U.S.C. §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VI) of the RESTORE Act. This activity will be implemented by the Jackson County Airport Authority and will comply with the definition of infrastructure in 31 C.F.R. §34.2.

**Activity #19: Harrison County Bulkhead and Dock Construction:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This project will create additional infrastructure (i.e., bulkhead and docking capacity) that will benefit the economy by enhancing maritime-related industry growth opportunities in Harrison County; this project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding under 31 C.F.R. §34.201(f) - infrastructure benefitting the economy, and 33 U.S.C. §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VI) of the RESTORE Act. This activity will be implemented by the Harrison County Development Commission and will comply with the definition of infrastructure in 31 C.F.R. §34.2.

**Activity #20: Pearl River Community College Workforce Center:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This project will support infrastructure benefitting the economy of the Gulf Coast Region by supporting the Pearl River Community College's (PRCC) construction of a Workforce Center to enhance workforce training capacity; this project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding under 31 C.F.R. §34.201(f) - infrastructure benefitting the economy or ecological resources, and 33 U.S.C. §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VI) of the RESTORE Act. This activity will be implemented by Pearl River Community College and will comply with the definition of infrastructure in 31 C.F.R. §34.2.

**Activity #21: Bayou Casotte Industrial Buffer Concept - Planning Assistance:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This project will provide planning assistance for infrastructure to support the assessment of design concepts and options for the development of a buffer along Bayou Casotte Parkway in Pascagoula, MS, to minimize impacts common to industrialized areas; this project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding through 31 C.F.R. §34.201(j) – planning assistance for infrastructure and through 33 U.S.C. §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 C.F.R. §34.2.

**Activity #22: Gulf Coast Tourist Wayfinding and Informational Signage:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This project will support the promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region by implementing tourist wayfinding and informational signage across the Mississippi Gulf Coast to attract visitors and enhance the visitor experience; this project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding through 31 C.F.R. §34.201(h) – promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including promotion of recreational fishing, and 33 U.S.C. §1321(t)(1)(B)(ii)(I) of the RESTORE Act. It is anticipated that this project will be implemented by MDEQ and/or an eligible sub-recipient(s).

**Activity #23: University of Southern Mississippi Marine Research Center:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This proposed project will support infrastructure benefitting the economy and ecological resources by upgrading the existing University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Marine Research Center facility and systems to support marine research, education, training and maritime technology industry economic development activities; this project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding through 31 C.F.R. §34.201(f) - infrastructure benefitting the economy or ecological resources, and 33 U.S.C. §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VI) of the RESTORE Act. This project will be implemented by the University of Southern Mississippi.

**Activity #24: Gulf Coast Small Business Incubator Capacity Enhancement:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This project will support developing additional small business incubator capacity on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to encourage regional small business development and growth; this project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding under 31 C.F.R. §34.201(d) - workforce development and job creation, and 33 U.S.C. §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(IV) of the RESTORE Act. It is anticipated that this project will be implemented by an eligible sub-recipient.

4. Criteria the applicant will use to measure the success of the activities included in the multiyear plan narrative in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast Region impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

**Activity #11: Planning Assistance – MIP Amendment Development Measures of Success:** Identification and evaluation of projects, programs, and activities; Issuance of amendments to the MIP, as needed.

**Activity #18: Trent Lott International Airport Runway Improvements Measure of Success:** Completion of runway improvements benefitting the economy in the Gulf Coast Region.

**Activity #19: Harrison County Bulkhead and Dock Construction Measure of Success:** Completion of construction to add additional bulkhead and docking capacity benefitting the economy of the Gulf Coast Region.

**Activity #20: Pearl River Community College Workforce Center Measure of Success:** Completion of construction of a facility which will be used to increase workforce training capacity benefitting the economy of the Gulf Coast Region.

**Activity #21: Bayou Casotte Industrial Buffer Concept - Planning Assistance Measure of Success:** Completion of planning activities for potential infrastructure benefitting the economy or ecological resources of the Gulf Coast Region.

**Activity #22: Gulf Coast Tourist Wayfinding and Informational Signage Measure of Success:** Completion of wayfinding and informational signage to promote tourism in the Gulf Coast Region.

**Activity #23: University of Southern Mississippi Marine Research Center Measure of Success:** Completion of the necessary technology, equipment and other components to upgrade infrastructure benefitting the economy or ecological resources of the Gulf Coast Region.

**Activity #24: Gulf Coast Small Business Incubator Capacity Enhancement Measure of Success:** Increase in small business incubator capacity benefitting the economy of the Gulf Coast Region.

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

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

1. All projects included on MIP Amendment #2 are eligible for RESTORE Act funding under the Direct Component eligible activities for: infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure; promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing; restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region; and planning assistance.
2. Mississippi utilized two stakeholder-driven components to identify and prioritize all projects for inclusion on MIP Amendment #2: The GoCoast 2020 Commission and the Restoration Project Idea Portal. Items (a) through (e) below provide 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 chairmen developed recommendations for these projects by reviewing project ideas that had been submitted in the Restoration Project Idea Portal against previously developed priorities and criteria. Each of the projects identified in MIP Amendment #2 were developed and informed directly from a project (or projects) submitted in the Restoration Project Idea Portal.

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. If applicable, describe the amount and current status of funding from other sources (e.g., other RESTORE Act contribution, other third-party contribution) and provide a description of the specific portion of the project to be funded by the RESTORE Act Direct Component.

**Activity #11: Planning Assistance – MIP Amendment Development:** Direct Component funds will be used to provide planning assistance for the identification and evaluation of projects, programs, and activities and the development of MIP amendments, as needed. Direct Component funds will also be used for project oversight and management activities and the development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Accepted project cost (MIP Amendment #1): \$900,000
- Funding change requested: \$500,000 increase
- Total estimated project cost: \$1,400,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$1,400,000

**Activity #18: Trent Lott International Airport Runway Improvements:** Direct Component funds will be used to support construction of runway improvements, such as runway strengthening and/or widening, at Trent Lott International Airport. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, engineering and design, permitting, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and the sub-award between MDEQ and sub-recipient. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated project costs: \$6,850,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$6,850,000

**Activity #19: Harrison County Bulkhead and Dock Construction:** Direct Component funds will support the construction of additional bulkhead and docking capacity on the Industrial Seaway. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, engineering and design, permitting, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury, and the sub-award between MDEQ and sub-recipient. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated project costs: \$3,400,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$3,400,000

**Activity #20: Pearl River Community College Workforce Center:** Direct Component funds will be used to support construction of the Pearl River Community College Workforce Center. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, engineering and design, permitting, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and sub-recipient. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated project cost: \$3,000,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$3,000,000



**Activity #21: Bayou Casotte Industrial Buffer Concept - Planning Assistance:** Direct Component funds will be used to support planning activities which may include, but are not limited to, stakeholder engagement, due diligence on potential options, and preliminary engineering and design. Activities may also include program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated project cost: \$550,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$550,000

**Activity #22: Gulf Coast Tourist Wayfinding and Informational Signage:** Direct Component funds will be used to support implementation of tourist wayfinding and informational signage in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, planning and coordination, installation, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and sub-recipient. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated project cost: \$1,100,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$1,100,000

**Activity #23: University of Southern Mississippi Marine Research Center:** Direct Component funds will be used to support upgrades to the USM Marine Research Center. Direct component activities may include, but are not limited to, enhancing/outfitting the facility with the technology, equipment and other supporting components necessary for operations and full optimization of the USM Marine Research Center. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and sub-recipient. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated project cost: \$2,300,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$2,300,000

**Activity #24: Gulf Coast Small Business Incubator Capacity Enhancement:** Direct Component funds will be used to support the development of additional small business incubator facility capacity (e.g., eligible programmatic support with incubator building space and/or site improvements). Activities may include, but are not limited to, planning and due diligence, engineering and design, construction, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and sub-recipient. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated project cost: \$700,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$700,000

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, Office of Gulf Coast Restoration, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC20220.



# Exhibit A - MIP Amendment #2 Project Locations

