



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
New Orleans, LA 70130

January 17, 2024

Mr. Toby Baker
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Texas Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Baker:

As the chairperson of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, I am pleased to approve the Texas State Expenditure Plan Amendment No. 2 submitted pursuant to the Spill Impact Component of the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (33 U.S.C. §1321(t) and *note*).

This approval is based on the finding from the council's executive director, Mary Walker, that the amendment is complete and meets all requirements contained in the RESTORE Act, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's implementing regulations (31 C.F.R. Part 34) and the council's SEP Guidelines.

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

On behalf of the council, I applaud Texas on the development of the thoughtful and effective amendment and commend you for developing this amendment that will contribute substantially to the cause of Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration. Our collective efforts under the RESTORE Act will help to ensure the long-term health and resilience of the Gulf Coast ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Janet G. McCabe
Chairperson
Deputy Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency