



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

New Orleans, LA 70130

August 27, 2018

The Honorable Christopher M. Blankenship
Commissioner
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
64 North Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Commissioner Blankenship:

As chair of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, I am pleased to approve the Alabama Planning State Expenditure Plan submitted pursuant to the Spill Impact Component of the *Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012*, 33 U.S.C. §1321(t).

This approval is based on the written finding from the council's executive director that the PSEP is complete and meets all requirements contained in the RESTORE Act, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's implementing regulations (31 C.F.R. Part 34) and the council's SEP guidelines. On behalf of the council, I commend the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council for developing a PSEP that will help advance the cause of Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration.

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

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Wheeler
Chair