



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
New Orleans, LA 70130

May 13, 2021

Mr. Noah Valenstein
Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Dear Mr. Valenstein:

As the Chair of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, I am pleased to approve the Florida State Expenditure Plan Amendment #3 (Amendment) 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) (RESTORE Act). This approval is based on the finding from the council's executive director, Mary S. Walker, that the amendment is complete and meets all requirements set forth 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 Florida SEP as amended. Approval and disbursement of funding for specific activities in the SEP will be done through the grant process and federal 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 Florida's 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. Your colleagues are most welcome to contact Amy Newbold from the EPA's Atlanta office at Newbold.Amy@epa.gov for any assistance you might require.

On behalf of the council, I commend Florida and the Gulf Consortium for developing the thoughtful and effective amendment, which 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 McCabe
RESTORE Council Federal Chairperson Designee