Environmental Defense Fund (19,167 messages total):

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Dear Restoration Council,

I appreciate that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan provides more details on the Council's 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment.

In the spirit of the promises made by the President and leaders in Congress, the Council must reject any projects that do not support this goal. I urge you to include language in the Final Initial Comprehensive Plan that provides clear direction to the Gulf states that restoring the Gulf ecosystem is the best use of BP's oil spill fine money, which will, in turn, create jobs and restore the Gulf's resource-based economy.

I'm also pleased that you have indicated you will seek further public comment on a project list as it becomes available. It's important for stakeholders to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact their communities and inevitably have a national impact.

Sincerely,

Alterations:

Nancy Ambers Massar [barryallen@woh.rr.com] added: B.P. should
not be permitted to air advertisements saying how great the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill clean-up is progressing until the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council plans meet ecosystem rehabilitation standards of habitat biologists that are informed of the health of the gulf region impacted by this industrial pollution. The land sea interface deserves protection for the future of humankind's gulf food resources.

The Gulf Coast must be returned to full function as an area that can support the naturally occurring life forms so that humankind can once again reap the benefits of food and recreation from this special place on Earth.

Business interests should never come before quality of life impact. Thanks for your time.

Dean Sigler [muchcatfur@comcast.net] added: Since there are reports of massive further layers of oil in the depths of the Gulf, it would seem we haven't finished the cleanup at all.
Please direct the fines toward that goal.

John Ventre [jv3free@yahoo.com] added: President Obama, most of the Senators, Congress people, Governors, and state leaders are Christians. Christianity teaches that the natural world called the

Garden of Eden was created by God in a purity to last forever. Also, support human life to ultimate health.. It is the responsibility of present day Christians to respect and honor god's original plan.

Bert Whitehair [bpwhitehair@netzero.com] added: It's for the restoration of impacted ecosystem, not for a new highway to no where.

Norman Morley [nmorley39@sbcglobal.net] added: Personally speaking, 100% should go to the restoration of the Gulf, as all those other projects are side shows intended to siphon off funds that belong to the restoring what the BP spill killed, which is still poisoning the Gulf and the food chain. I won't eat any Gulf fish because of that poisoning.

Thomas Fusco [tfusco2@myfairpoint.net] added: Thank you for your time and focus on restoration of the gulf coast ecosystem it is the most important thing to restore peoples lives.

Lorraine Forte [l.forte@earthlink.net] added: I"m sorry, should the tone of this message begging you to do what you were created to do be more demanding?

30% dedicated solely to environmental restoration? Is that really a victory? I know that seeking further public comment is usually a way of deflating an issue.

Please stop pandering to the the perpetuation of a destructive industry and do something brave. Make all BP money be used for the damage it did to our valuable environment.

Martha Birkenshaw [lrhemrev@aol.com] added: Bp's oil spill fine money is for one purpose only. Do what's right for once!

James Lazell [hq@theconservationagency.org] added: I am a professional biologist with a long career invested in conservation.

James D. Bloom [jimbloom56@comcast.net] added: HABITAT NOT HIGHWAYS!

Joe Ratliff [joe_ratliff@sbcglobal.net] added: As a retired federal scientist, I am very aware of the enormous, long term damage that occurs to fragile ecosystems from extensive oil spills.

Robert Mortenson [mortrobt@metc.net] added: It is the
environment that draws hundreds of thousands of tourist to your area.
Without those tourists dollars being spent because your environment is still damaged, your local people will be devastated.

Carol Neill [clneill6312@att.net] added: The priority is to clean up the gulf! The funding allocation should be MORE than 30% to restore the gulf to its former gulf-spill state. The animals that live there deserve more!
Walter Baranowski [wpbjr2150@aol.com] added: Despite their efforts BP cannot be trusted to protect the enviorment. They must be held accountable by contract in the event of another disaster.

Sybil Malinowski Melody [sybil@melodylife.com] added: BP continues to contaminate the Gulf so clean up must be a priority, though plugging the leak is still needed.

Sarah Weil [splashrider@nc.rr.com] added: Please make sure this ecosystem is fully restored.

Joyce Greenberg [joyce@westwoodrealty.com] added: It was the environment and wildlife that was most affected by BP's negligence. Any money recovered from that incompetent company should pay to repair the environmental damage, not build roads.

Connie Maxson [conniemaxson21@yahoo.com] added: I am truly hoping that the environment becomes top priority as we are in a desperate situation that can only be aggrivated by doing nothing and running out of time to save the delicate eco-system that has been ravaged by the BP Oil Spill.

Susan Hathaway [susanhathaway@earthlink.net] added: If "our" government were looking out for the people's interests, you wouldn't have let BP off with barely a slap on the wrist to begin with. Now you want to let the inadequate fines that were levied be used for something other than to mitigate the enormous damage you let them get away with doing. I wish professional politicians were capable of feeling shame.

kathleen duey [kathleenduey@earthlink.net] added: The original and most important part of this plan is part of its title ***Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council**** Use use the funding for it's original purpose!!!!!

Laura Adkins [140sandals@gmail.com] added: Millions of people are watching what you are doing,

Peter Curia [pgeometro@yahoo.com] added: PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT BY RESTORING IT!

Linda Headley [parrotheadley@aol.com] added: Please do not cave into "special interest" groups that have their own agenda for the recovery dollars. ALL the money is needed for restoration and protection of wildlife habitat, etc.
Thank You++++++

Marian Cooley [mariancooley@att.net] added: I know that
much harm was caused by the use of chemicals to break up the oil and want to know that the animals have a safe habitat.

R-J Zaczyk [savetheafricanelephant@yahoo.com] added: Stop playing politics and fix the environment with the funds dedicated just for that!

Rex Roberts [rexrober@hotmail.com] added: Since the windfall to the Gulf Coast came from BP's trashing of the environment, shouldn't most (if not all) of the money go to repairing the environment???

Vicki Anderson [gurlcatrider@yahoo.com] added: HOW DARE WE CONSIDER NOT USING ALL THESE ILL GOTTEN GAINS TO MAKE GOOD OUT OF BAD????

William H. Miller [5mcorp@comcast.net] added: Let's call the greedy s.o.b.'s what they are - GREEDY!

MaryKay Rodarte [marykayspage@hotmail.com] added: Use this money for restoring the gulf and increasing natural restorations which can improve the management of winds and waves.

Jack Cooper [jacklawrencecooper@gmail.com] added: NO HIGHWAYS OR HOTELS FROM BP FINES.!!!

Gunta Alexander [guntale@comcast.net] added: If the ecological viability of this region is restored, the economic benefits will follow naturally.

Sheri Snyder [dreamcatcherco@sbcglobal.net] added: Highways are no doubt greatly needed in the area--as they desperately are across the nation--since the Congress can't seem to loosen the country's purse-strings to repair crumbling infrastructure. But the remedy/mission for that is a different one than yours, in my opinion.
The remedy for needed economic development projects is likewise different than your mission to restore an area hard-ht by the biggest ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER in American history. Your job is to fix the environment as much as humanly possible--and don't let principals and monied interests prevail who hope to--once again--enrich themselves at the expense of the health and well-being of animals, humans, and the natural world.

Deborah Kavruck [dkavruck@gmail.com] added: Please do the right thing.

Anita Scheunemann [arscheu@comcast.net] added: Is that not why the fine was levied?!

Barbara Hegedus [hpixel@peoplepc.com] added: FIX THE ENVIRONMENT - DON'T PANDER TO SPECIAL INTERESTS!!!

THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON RESTORING THE ENVIRONMENT, NOT ANYTHING ELSE THE STATES (SPECIAL INTERESTS) WANT MONEY FOR.

Catherine Forslund [cforslund@rockford.edu] added: Even though I am not a resident of the Gulf Coast region effected by the BP oil spill, I visit my mother who lives near the Coast on the Florida side more than once every year. Thus, I know how important the natural environment is to the welfare of everyone who lives and works along the Gulf coast whether human or animal,

The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment and not letting it fall to second place in the race with other interests to use the funds elsewhere in the often-distorted claim of "economic development."

Sigmund Finman [f1@finman-lorrin.com] added: You inherit the suffering that your actions cause the environment if you give BP money to non-environmental projects.

Phyl Morello [1432phyl@gmail.com] added: ALL MONEY FROM BP FINES MUST GO FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION!

Marie Switzer [rswitzer23@cox.net] added: WITH COMPANIES LIKE BP AND THE LIKES, THE ECOSYSTEM IS IN GRAVE DANGER.

SINCE BP IS NOT WHAT THEY CLAIM TO TRULY RESTORING THE AREA THEY HAVE DESTROYED.

WE CAN NOT TRUST THE POLITCIANS TO DO THE CORRECT THING FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Judith Teller-Tauber [tellerny@aol.com] added: Restoring the environment should be a requirement of every one of the Gulf state's final plan.

Larry Lemos [lorenzorro1960@yahoo.com] added: The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment.

The environment, from which all economy flows, should be restored First! 30% of this fund is too low. Fix the earth & everything else will work out naturally.

Mary Anne Reynolds [mar1641@aol.com] added: The serious endeavor to stop BP's off shore drilling and then even more work to be sure that we, that being Texas, Louisiana and other affected states would have a clean up and repair to and for the devestation caused. However, it has come to my attention that the money may be rerouted to another projects. I am asking that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council use the funds that were so highly touted as for wildlife be used as they were stated and now changed into another purpose altogether. If nothing else your reputation and public trust in you will be seriously damaged.
Please remain committed to the people of the states who took you at your word and also, that our world is in serious trouble enough environmentally.
Please remain committed to the goal of saving our wildlife and not causes that can be dealt with with funds from other campaigns.
Sincerely,
Mary Anne Reynolds

Alix Keast [alixk3@gmail.com] added: This seems like the logical, ethical, and reasonable action.

C Ortiz [clcortiz@prodigy.net] added: Do not kowtow to special interest groups whose focus is on non-environmental projects.

Rebecca Hill [rebeccahill66@gmail.com] added: Human greed and short sightedness will hurt everyone. We must remember that the earth is our home, and we are part of a larger ecosystem.
Please keep this in mind and use the funds to restore the ecosystem which was so badly damaged.
Ronald Clayton [se-larvae@hotmail.com] added: Keep up the good work ... keep the momentum going forward.

James Michael Kelly [mikekelly621@gmail.com] added: Have BP pay for it all and when are we going to prosecute BP for the 14 men they torched on Deepwater Horizon after helicoptering all the suits to safety?

Mary Phillips-Burke [roseveere@hvc.rr.com] added: Restore the damages to the environment first. The infrastructure funding should NOT come out of the BP fines fund!

Suzanne Michael [snickers413@aol.com] added: The ecosystem should be the first thing taken care of. Without it peoples liveyhoods are at risk and can never get back to normal. It's time to make sure BP quits being handled with kids gloves and are forced to do what is right since they are the ones who destroyed everything. Any money should go to the ecosystem and no where else!

J.M. LAVASSAUR [jjml42@yahoo.com] added: Please make sure to keep the BP fines and other funds necessary to bring the gulf all the way back dedicated to that purpose.

Deirdre Hoare [ciaobella711@hotmail.com] added: In closing, I urge you to get the long term recovery plan on the right course now, before funds are diverted from their original purpose and short-sighted decisions are made that will further despoil, not restore, the environment.

Bob Hyer [rhyer@gulftel.com] added: America stole Iraq's oil and now our food chain is poisoned by oil. Do you not find this ironic? I find it ironic. I am a real print journalist and Vietnam War Air Force veteran. I suggest you give all the restoration funds to daisy-cutting, oil thieves. Socialize all the costs of a new convention center to be built directly in the path of 30 foot tidal surges and when it gets blown to Detroit, ensure the privatized profit is protected. Socialized cost, privatized profit! It can't or won't be insured for its reconstruction costs so ensure the public pays for all of it. Sales tax, gas tax, property tax, the public pays in Dixie. Alabama is dead broke. Sixty-one percent of all Alabama families depend on food stamps to survive. Republican thieves have robbed Bama blind and now pillage the rainy day fun. It's pouring in Montgomery. No tax revenue, no services, just oil thieves who voted twice to chemically bomb defenseless cities and who are now going to steal the restoration funds. Stupid is as stupid does, said Forrest.
Did you witness one photo of one Iraqi oil rig? No, you did not.
Pathetic, really!

Michael Guest [piermg27@aol.com] added: Protecting gulf marine life should not just be an important matter, but also a priority. It's very important to keep the oceans clean so that life can survive and flourish.

marina sagardua [sagarzazu@gmail.com] added: We are not all way thru Gulf disaster restoration.

Sarah Pearson [sayrahpea@yahoo.com] added: I grew up along the Gulf Coast and still maintain a residence there.
Restoration of an environmental nature will have the greatest positive impact on my family and me.

Sherman Lewis [sherman@csuhayward.us] added: also, continuing public comment is important to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact local communities.

Erline Towenr [etownr@aol.com] added: I'm very upset about the meager 30% $ allocation for the environment.
What's up with that?

Patrick Conn [conntactme@earthlink.net] added: DO NOT EQUIVOCATE; DO NOT SUCCUMB TO SPECIAL INTEREST'S ATTEMPTS TO GUT THE TRUE AND DEDICATED PURPOSE THESE FUNDS ARE MEANT FOR - THE RESTORATION OF LANDS DEVASTATED BY THE CORRUPT AND ENEPT OIL INDUSTRY.

Thank you for this but please use these funds for land and sea restoration. Source funds for infrastructure restoration from the businesses and agencies that have ignored its maintenance while pocketing profits for decades.

pat reed [reedpj13@yahoo.com] added: How disgusting that the fat cats want to get their grubby paws on the money meant to help the4 environment! How many of these bloodsuckers actually saw the spill let alone helped top clean it?All of this money should go to protect and better the environment,not fatten the pockets of the rich!

Glenn Senter [agsenter@aol.com] added: Thank you for taking these important initial steps to fulfill the mandate to restore the wetlands of the Gulf states, which are vital to the wildlife and the many industries dependent on having a healthy ecosystem in this unique area. Please keep up the good work and stay strong on putting the environment first. I firmly believe that only good things will follow from that approach.

Robert McArtor [robert_mcartor@bellsouth.net] added: Fines are for damage not for siphoning off for Gulf state's pet projects.

Sherry Skramstad [sskramstad@gmail.com] added: Rehabilitate what has been destroyed with the fines that were imposed for the destruction!

Donnie Shelton [tiwiwas@aol.com] added: There will always be people/organizations looking for a piece of the action when there is even the smell of money in the air. But Mother Earth cannot speak up for herself. After the initial shock, Her comments come only when the long-term results of our injuries to Her start to show. And that takes time! So we humans must be strong in protecting Her share of the Restoration monies! And you, our elected representative, must stand strong against the forces that would subvert those funds to their own uses and benefits!

Robert H. Warren [robexar141@socket.net] added: National legislative and executive inability to adequately fund infrastructure repair and development should be addressed directly by involved states and should not detract from urgent and long range restoration of ecosystems needed to promote prosperity and sustainability.

Margaret Hurley [mdaisshurley@gmail.com] added: Evolve. Show compassion. Live the vegan ethic.

Anne Winkle [kawink76@att.net] added: I keep waiting for this country to stand with what is right and good and not with the fear mongering money bags who now rule all of us.

Elsie Keys [lckeys88@msn.com] added: Common sense dictates restoration of the environment.

Terrilyn Krueger [teri9494@aol.com] added: For cripes' sake. Use the funds from the polluter FOR THE POLLUTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Hans Hoffmann [hoffy7839@yahoo.com] added: Special interest groups are clamoring to claim the funds for highways and economic development projects. These funds should never be diverted for any other purpose than what they are intended for---Restoration.

Robert Goldman [bobg128@gmail.com] added:
It is the right thing to spend all of this money to clean up and restore the Gulf ecosystems. Too much oil is still out there, hidden deep and causing damage snd death. Please avoid the corruption of spending this money on anything other than clean up and restoration of the Gulf and its damaged ecology.

Donnie Shelton [tiwiwas@aol.com] added: There will always be people/organizations looking for a piece of the action when there is even the smell of money in the air. But Mother Earth cannot speak up for herself. After the initial shock, Her comments come only when the long-term results of our injuries to Her start to show. And that takes time! So we humans must be strong in protecting Her share of the Restoration monies! And you, our elected representative, must stand strong against the forces that would subvert those funds to their own uses and benefits!

Lisbeth Caccese [caccesela@hotmail.com] added: The money BP pays must be used for the restoration of the Gulf Coast!
Whatever money is paid out, it must assuredly will NOT be enough to offset the devastation wrought by BP & its minions.
If nothing else, look at Prince William Sound, Alaska & see if that area has regained its "pristine" pre-spill condition. I think not; it will never be the same. Likewise the Gulf Coast has been damaged for the foreseeable future & BP should've been fined a whole lot more!

Mike Miller Jr [michamille@comcast.net] added:
I would like to see more than 30% funding allocated solely for environmental restoration! This is the only way to not only repair the long term damage done by the BP well blowout, but the health of the Gulf needs to be improved further. We need to reduce that now normal dead zone that is twice the size of Texas, add & restore wetlands, more Cyprees trees are needed, etc.!

Alan Schultz [alan@andysnet.net] added: I whole-heartily support this organization and its goal in seeking a fair and equitable distribution of any amounts of money received from BP related to the horrendous spill.

Lilian Moore [lilianbmoore@gmail.com] added: I live on the Gulf coast of Florida and I understand how the health of the Gulf is tied to the economic health of my community. Our economy is dependent on tourism as is yours. Please do the right thing.

Linda Barnes [lsbarnes@nc.rr.com] added: Fines from the BP oil spill should be used to clean up the oil that was spilled and do what can be done to restore the ecosystem. Period!.

SHARON CONDRON [sscondron@aol.com] added: We need shrimp and fish nurseries to provide future food for all of us, as well as food and jobs for the coastline. we also need the coastline protection provided by the ecosystem. working with our environment can provide more than destroying it.

Joseph Oliver [josepholiver.esq@gmx.com] added: As a former resident of the Gulf Coast I'm appalled that BP hasn't paid through the nose for a cleanup sufficient to restore the Gulf to some semblance of what it was before being poisoned by oil. We have to take restoration seriously, not just a nod in the right direction, nor should boosting the economy take precedence over environmental cleanup.

Carol Farber [calgernon@aol.com] added: We need the strongest possible action to support defense of the environment,

Ron Standley [ronstandley7@msn.com] added: This planet is our HOME! Home for ALL of us. Do YOU shit where you eat?!?

gina bilwin [ginmonbil@gmail.com] added: I URGE THE COUNCIL TO CONTINUE TO REAFFIRM ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FOCUS.

Daniel Jones [danielj464@gmail.com] added: Using money that BP has paid to restore the damage that their actions caused (in part) was intended to be used in that manner. To misappropriate those funds, regardless of the benefit to infrastructure, is disingenuous, dishonest and unethical.

Darcy Symes [darcysdesk@bellsouth.net] added: The Gulf Coast is everything to us. We live here. And now we have an infant grandchild who will enjoy life here, too.

Ann Rappoport [agrappoport@gmail.com] added: I am from Alaska and worked on the response to the Exxon Valdez oil spill for many months. I know that restoration is very difficult and 24 years later, beautiful Prince William Sound still suffers from reduced populations of some species and oil remains buried on shorelines. The same will happen in the Gulf but you need to remain strong and ensure that the most diligent efforts are applied to restoration and long-term monitoring of Gulf natural resources, as well as taking care of the people who were affected by the deadly and disastrous Gulf spill.

Mark McKennon [mark.mckennon@gmail.com] added: The money from the fine should and must be used to restore what BP put asunder -- clean water, removal of as much oil as possible from beaches, water and marshes, an increase in marshlands, attracting wildlife, and so on. Money should NOT BE AVAILABLE for building hotels, roads, or subsidizing private enterprise.

Penelope Cole [pennyannecole@gmail.com] added: We lived in Fairhope,AL, and enjoyed the Gulf Coast. Please use these funds to enure that it is restored!

Joann Zarnoch [innladyz@verizon.net] added: This spill was and continues to be a tragedy to our natural environment and the creatures living in these areas. This should be the first priority and little if any funds should be used until this mess is cleaned up. We need to leave something to our children. Thank you,

Linda Shore [wardbabe@aol.com] added: It is obscene that anyone would try and claim these monies for anything else.

Lori Hein [lhein@new.rr.com] added: Building highways or other special pork projects are NOT environmental restoration.

Marylee Hicks [maryleeot@yahoo.com] added: Despite lies from BP, the gulf has not recovered ! Please invest the (
inadequate) fines into saving wildlife & habitat!

Jeffrey Panciera [jeffiejimmie@gmail.com] added: The Gulf has been the site of oil facilities, chemical factories and other businesses that have taken a toll on the environment. The attempts of the Army Corps of Engineers to deal with the Mississippi have also had a negative effect on the area, making it more vulnerable to hurricanes and flooding. The lack of respect for the environment and for the natural processes that led to a stable, if sometimes inconvenient, area, have decimated the natural defenses of the delta area, and are to be reversed in our time of strong storms and more dangerous weather patterns.

Barbara Nadel [nadelb@yahoo.com] added: Don't let this opportunity go to waste. Do the right thing.

Wendy Williams [wendy@wendypwilliams.net] added: Environment not highways!

Jane Engel [jeeips@gmail.com] added: Thank you for taking the time to read this communication.

Georgia Locker [jslocker@yahoo.com] added: I, WHO PAY TAXES IN ANOTHER STATE, WANT THE FUND USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Virginia Jones [jones1911@att.net] added: This is
essential for the long term benefit not only of the natural systems but also all the people who depend on these systems to earn a living.

Ruthann Lees [ruthielees@cox.net] added: Oil is still coming up onto the shores and cleaning up the ecosystem should be a top priority.

John Monteith [jmonteith44@aol.com] added: We can treat the environment neither as enemy nor as poor relation, not if we wish to see our own species thrive on this planet. Good highways are nice, a healthy environment is mandatory.

Cindy Tracy [fultura@yahoo.com] added: Please make the visionary decision to stand up for Gulf wildlife.
People all over the country are aware that special interest groups are clamoring to use BP's fines to build highways and other coastal developments.

This is unacceptable. Years after the Gulf oil spill, the environment is still suffering. Funds should be used to restore Gulf ecosystems while helping to rebuild the Gulf's resource-based economy.

Please stand up for wildlife, not special interests. Thank you for your consideration.

Maureen Oleyar [pillmanbooklady@comcast.net] added: Please do not lose sight of the main goal for your restoration plan- to restore the environment for the benefit of its wildlife and its community! Special interests MUST NOT be allowed to divert and spend the funds for other purposes.

Mary Vorachek [maryvorachek@gmail.com] added: The future demands restoration of the Gulf ecosystem. People survive on jobs and food not on onetime road building and subsequent neglect. Ensure that states spend 30% of BP fine money on Gulf ecosystem restoration.

Greg Garbulinski [digrgarb@toast.net] added: PS
AMERICAN "CorpoCRISY" $$$ CORPORATE Media CON-OCRACY $$$ & SOCIAL TREASON Definitely Not the Sound of *We the People* Or We the WORLD*(Washington D.C. or B.C.? , Yes BEFORE Christ OR JUST PLAIN BIZARRELY CUCKOO!)

Judith Dupree [adlib_pv@sbcglobal.net] added: "Second best" is not good enough -- not re. the BP's gulf disaster. The seas are timeless and absolutely life-essential. Roads and other beneficial projects must not become the beneficiary of what is required of the ecosystem's destroyer!

Tracy Carter [tramassager@yahoo.com] added: Maybe we did not fine BP enough to cover the environmental damage and the economical damage and we should give them another fine one for economical damages to pay for things like convention centers and highways.

Rick Flory [rick@earthfriends.com] added: Please prevent the diversion of any of these funds from their important environmental use!

David Platt [david@queryquest.us] added: It is time to put the health of children and their environment before the profits of polluters!

shelley isom [somersaultpress@yahoo.com] added: WE need an environment more than we need more highways.

Lawrence Thompson [thompson14ster@gmail.com] added: I think that final the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by emphasizing environmental restoration. The Council must reject any projects that do not support this goal. I urge you to
include language in the Final In itial Comprehensive Plan that provides
clear direction to the Gulf states that restoring the Gulf ecosystem is the best use of BP's oil spill fine money, which will, in turn, create jobs and restore the Gulf's resource-based economy. I am pleased that you plan to seek further public comment on a project list as it becomes available.

Linc Cole [prunemstr@aol.com] added: Let's keep our priorities straight.

Janet Gordon [janetg32@gmail.com] added: The mess isn't cleaned up yet. As much as it would be very nivce to have more highways and coastal developement; whats the point if the mess is still evident?
You won't get tourists or home buyers if there are brown pelicans washing up on the beach.
Clean up the mess first - then go for the rest.
Janet

Victoria Vernon [vvernonv@yahoo.com] added: Please stay focused. We need to keep our minds on the most appropriate use of the funds. The overall picture should keep restoration in the forefront.

Patricia Grames [pat@grames.net] added: I personally, want the Gulf fisheries and wetlands to recover as far as possible. I like my fish and shrimp and other seafood, and don't want to see it lost. Using the money to restore the damaged environment is the only use that should be made of this money. This is necessary to restore the resource based economy, including fishing. Please don't get sidetracked!

melissa hughes [mah8838@gmail.com] added: What would really be great would be for you to get rid of the Correxit from the ocean floor so the bacteria, which have been breaking down oil for millions of years, could do their job. Spend money on that and the Gulf will have a chance to recover. It would take too much time?
We're still reaping the effects of the Exxon Valdes and how many years ago was that?

Susan Miller [smiller179@comcast.net] added: Ecosystem restoration in the Gulf most be top priority for BP settlement funds.

Robert Pierson [rpbalhinch@gmail.com] added: Why should grubby fingers get in someones' else's pie?

Charlie Smith [cssasmith@yahoo.com] added: I strongly urge you to resist any attempts to divert funds to any proposed project that does not directly restore the environment to pre-BP spill conditions.

Nichole Long [kenyetta@care2.com] added: Do the right thing!

Norma Campbell [sqrrlady@hotmail.com] added: The Copastal environment and its wildlife species need to be the first consideration not highways or structures that benefit only humans.
Its been too many years, too much talk, lets get on with the repair of the coastal natural environment..

Nora Coyle [lcsw89@hotmail.com] added: This fiasco has been such a gross miscarriage of justice. Someone has to speak up for the environment wildlife and the planet. They can not do so for themselves. What does that say about this country?

Wendy Raschke [raschke55116@comcast.net] added: Taking care of our environment is taking care of ourselves.

Steven Patamia [patamia@gmail.com] added: It is particularly important in this situation that ecological remediation be emphasised. The gulf region's economic future is dependent upon its environmental attractiveness and viability as a source of sea food. This is NOT a contest betwee so-called tree-huggers and would-be champions of economic viability. This is a a situation more than most where ecological health and attractiveness is the cornerstone of economic recovery in the region.

Carol Guffey [carolguffey@att.net] added: It will be decades or perhaps a century before the planet recovers from the BP oil spill in the Gulf Coast!

William Bailey [wbwbailey155@gmail.com] added: However, in the interest of pork and and the American tradition of twisting funding to do whatever the powers that be feel is necessary it's probably about time that any politicians and special privileged folk get the new things they got into the corrupt business of politics for. Baby needs a new pair of Porsches or a beach front home. Who cares what kind of wrath was visited upon the Gulf.
That such a follow up even needs to be mentioned is simultaneously shameful and exactly what I expect.

David Edwards [david@riverbird.com] added: This being a form letter does not negate the fact that it represents my feelings.

Donald Mc Quinn [donmcquinn@msn.com] added: Are we now going to sit on our hands and watch them do the same thing to the environment? The answer in this particular instance lies squarely with you.

Rachel Kocsis [rachelkocsis@sbcglobal.net] added: Do not waste this money on other projects. Use the money intended to clean up the Gulf waters and not on special projects!

Leslie Miller [ellemiller@comcast.net] added: We are looking forward to our vacation in along the shores of the Gulf later this summer. The keystone to maintaining strong tourism in the Gulf is the public's perception, both on the ground and in viewing the spirit and application of of the law in prioritizing environmental restoration projects. These are the projects that make the VISIBLE, LONG-

LASTING IMPROVEMENTS in RECREATIONAL QUALITY by improving that which the entire infrastructure of development rests on : a strong ecological and environment foundation.

Patti Constantino-Martin [ppattiplcsam@aol.com] added: OIL STILL IN THE GULF, CHEMICALS THEY DISPERSED TO GET RID OF THE OIL KILLING PEOPLE, AND WHERE IS THE ACCOUNTABILITY? DO YOU PEOPLE GET YOU HAVE TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS JUST LIKE EVERY CITIZEN DOES? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOUR ABOVE THE LAW? MONEY? BECAUSE YOU ARE A CORPORATE WHORE AND BEND OVER FOR THE FIRST CORRUPT D***? YOU'RE SICKENING AND HAVE NO SENSE OF WHAT A TRUE AMERICAN IS. RIG THE ELECTION BECAUSE ITS THE ONLY WAY TO WIN. PEOPLE ARE READY TO CLEAN HOUSE OF BOTH CORRUPT PARTIES. ONLY A FEW ARE REALLY WORTHY.

Susan Pearson [speardav@unm.edu] added: I live in New Mexico but I come to the Gulf to get near some water.
I've been too upset about the devastation to the environment with the BP spill to come in the years since that happened. But I want to return. So I am glad that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan provides more details on the Council's 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

And at some level, much of the rest of the United States and Western Hemisphere are stakeholders since we are all connected and the health of the Gulf of Mexico and the health of the U.S. Gulf Coast affects the health of the ocean overall.

Thank you for understanding that the environment is the priority for long term benefits and for not caving to pressures to put short term corporate profit ahead of the natural resources we all depend upon for a sustainable future.

Deane Paul [deanehpaul@hotmail.com] added: Please keep the BP fine money going to the purpose of the title of this great council. Roads and other greedy interest groups should be clearly advised that such projects do not support the ultimate goal focus of restoring the ecosystem.

Pat Bannasch [pbannasch02@wowway.com] added: It is unconsionable that funds targeted for the environment should be used for ANY thing else. I appreciate that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan provides more details on the Council's 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

Karen Christian [kcaz1@cox.net] added: Even the fines will not be sufficient for full recovery.

Phyllis Edinberg [pedinberg@charter.net] added: Perhaps the fines imposed on BP et al weren't high enough to cover the environmental damage they caused -and we don't know the full extent of the damage yet.

Donna Zoll [donnazoll@yahoo.com] added: BP needs to be held accountable for violating the gulf coast area. It is unacceptable to overlook the devastating havoc that BP has enacted on that area. What kind of decision makers are you that you would overlook our planets ell being in favor of profits? The time has come to step it up. This deplorable behavior has me never want to drive or use anything that comes from oil.

James Sorrells [jsorrells@cfl.rr.com] added: As a native born Floridian, the increase in oil drilling culture threatens the natural places we find most sacred. When we respond to questions surrounding our leadership concerning environmental issues there are often times excuses for the failure of our approach. We lack a sense of urgency that will ultimately lead to the demise of the future generations we claim to adore. If we are not going to save the environment and all of its inhabitants for our own benefit, we should do so for our children. Conservation is the foresighted utilization, preservation and...renewal of forests, waters, lands and minerals, for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time."

Richard Berg [mountain@csicable.net] added: I'm an advocate for working United States citizens, not corporate, pentagon, Washington, and Wall Street criminals!

andrew colletto [stonecrestct@aol.com] added: The efforts of the COUNCIL should mirror it's name!

Mha Atma Khalsa [earthactionnetwork@earthlink.net] added: Do not for one minute allow special interest groups to get money for highways, etc . The money should be used for the clean up of the oil--nothing else.

Jack Spallino [cobblestonejack@msn.com] added: Talk about a bunch of takers! Stick to restoration of wildlife habitat before no bid contracts and graft to restore the gulf! Should we call Republicans lazy, or greedy?

tonya nave [tonya.nave@comcast.net] added: We are overdue in successfully dealing with the ecological disaster wrought by massive oil spills in the Gulf. We must restore wildlife habitat and in the process, improve the fisheries.

Shirley Ford [bluebirdlover@desupernet.net] added: Restore the environment and then what is left over use to build roads and infurstructure.

linda epstein [dodoe@mac.com]: We owe it to the wildlife and nature to return the land back to being a safe environment to live in. Remember, we are the caretakers.

Karin Winegar [horseklw@aol.com] added: The ecosystem is the fundamental piece: it must come first.

Cindy Guarnieri [cindy.guarnieri@hotmail.com] added: The animals
that call this place home HAVE NO WHERE ELSE TO GO.

Thomas Moore [corruptedcanine@yahoo.com] added: It would be tragic if the gulf were left to fend for itself while these funds were used for projects that would conceivably pollute it even more.

Patti Hall [pattikhall@gmail.com] added: Restoring the economy does not include any money going to corporations, asphalt and concrete companies, or any others that actually helped to contribute to the oil spill (directly or indirectly) in the first place.

Lee Winslow [ldurango@msn.com] added: So many people along the Gulf make a living only if there is a healthy environment. This is really where the money needs to be applied.
Other wise, there will be a lot of folks there with out a job.

Maureen Greenhow [redbooks@xtra.co.nz] added: ANYONE THAT CAN LOOK AT THAT DISGUSTING PICTURE AND NOT FEEL SHAME, HAS NO HEART.
SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE.

Corbett Kroehler [corbettkroehler@yahoo.com] added: 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects is a good start but 70% would be better. Everyone who suffered from the horrific BP spill expects the natural environment to return to its former splendor. a 70% allocation would do that.

John B Pearce Jr [skraelling1@gmail.com] added: I would like to preface these remarks from the Environmental Defense Fund with my own observation that restoration of a healthy Gulf environment can well have real economic benefits. Not only can it revitalize and boost income from fishing, but it can improve the natural defenses of communities along the coast from the tropical storms that destroy incomes, devastate regional commerce, and place stress on the national treasury.
- jp

Kathleen Hopkins [kathleenhopkins7165@comcast.net] added: This type of disaster must never happen again, and damage caused by big oil companies must be repaired. The ecosystem is beyond price.

John Comella [john.comella1@gmail.com] added: The money paid by BP should be used SOLELY to restore/improve the ecosystem of the Gulf Coast ecosystem. Don't sidetrack any of the money into the hands of other projects.

Tim Burkinshaw [bstla23@gmail.com] added: his is critical for the survival of Gulf Wildlife, for heavan's sake!

John F Delgado [jdquarterhorses@earthlink.net] added: The Golf Of Mexico region is tide to all the gulf states. It is, therefore, important that a comprehensive environmental restoration plan be consistent and supportive of all the coastal areas.

Laura Lennon [pharmastat@mindspring.com] added: Having lived on this beautiful coast, my heart is still broken over the damage. On a recent visit I felt it was unsafe to eat the delicious Gulf seafood due to the dispersants and oil still in the water and the deformed offspring of Gulf animals that continue to appear. Please do not let these funds get re-routed to business as usual.

Heather McLarty [steelcrazy@roadrunner.com] added: Restoring a healthy ecosystem where it was so drastically destroyed affects us all.

Thomas La Point [tnplapoint@msn.com] added:
Restoration efforts must emphasize environmental restoration projects.
I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.
Barbara Vinson [bvinson@rivermaps.net] added: As a concerned citizen, a parent, and a naturalist, I appreciate that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan provides more details on the Council's 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. I strongly urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

Lynette Espinoza [lmetink@aol.com] added: The old adage applies here: "You break it, you buy it". The oil spill is responsible for so much death and destruction, and special interest groups are actually trying

to claim the money for more destruction of the earth and ocean? Unbelievable! Let's get our priorities straight and stop giving in to special interest groups at every turn.

Emily Moore [emilymooremn@yahoo.com] added: The Gulf Coast ecosystem was severely harmed by BP's oil spill. The Gulf Coast ecosystem is what should be the main focus now, with ample resources directed to its restoration.

Pat Parran [pmpnpaws@verizon.net] added: The BP oil disaster devastated the Gulf ecosystem and the wildlife.
The fines allotted should ONLY be used to restore the environment.
Don't let special interest groups who want to use it for unrelated expenses have their way. Make certain these funds are used for the intended goal.

Tommie Cervetti [tommiec111@aol.com] added: I believe that after so much damage was done to the wildlife and invironment on the gulf coast that as much money as possible should be directed to do everything we can to clean it up and repair what can be repaired so that future generations will be able to enjoy it.

Mary Ann and Mr. Frank Graffagnino [fmagraffagnino@msn.com] added: PLEASE CONTINUE TO TAKE THE RIGHT, FAIR AND JUST ACTION TO RESTORE THE GULF COAST IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND WAY.

Melissa Larsen-Walker [jordlissa@msn.com] added: I write to remind you that the Gulf of Mexico desperately needs continuing clean-up after the disastrous oil spill in 2010, AND the fine money apid by BP must be used for that purpose. The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council has a shrewd plan in place and this plan should be put into effect.

Alma Seward [blueridgestudio@tds.net] added: Thank you for keeping the focus on ECOSYSTEM restoration. Keep the hand of special interests out of the cookie jar!

Marina LaPalma [marina@marinalapalma.com] added:
The fines from an environmental disaster should be dedicated to environmental restoration.

The southern coast of our great country deserves to be restored to its beauty, diversity and wonder after the traumas it has suffered, much of them man-made.

Fran Teresi [send4usgville@gmail.com] added: Restoring the coast's environment will increase the tourism that the area depends on for its livelihood, and improve the health of the people and animals that live there. Any contamination that gets into the food chain will eventually end up in the humans that eat the animals from the ocean. A healthy environment is a good way to improve human health and reduce health care costs as well.
Thanks for staying strong on the environmental restoration of the Gulf coast.

Thomas Guaraldi [wolftalker7799@yahoo.com] added: Wildlife suffered great environmental impact from the BP spill,wildlife has no voice,no PAC,and no one in government voted in to represent them. I Strongly ask you care for the wildlife as they are a big reason people come to the gulf area!

Tom Mills [boardnkayak@yahoo.com] added: You can't fine an entity for environmental negligence and use the money for infrastructure and development. It has to be used to right the wrong that was inflicted.

Mack Elder [inspections10@att.net] added: WHEN THERE IS MONEY TO BE HAD THE GREEDY RATS COME OUT OF THE WOODWORK ! ! ! AND UNFORTUNATELY THOSE WITH GUTS ENOUGH TO DO THE RIGHT THING ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN, IF NOT NON-EXISTENT ! ! !

Diane H Fabian [dhfabian@gmail.com] added: It's not the few who smoke tobacco that are putting the public at risk.
It's our excessive dependence on oil/private ownership of motor vehicles, and middle class resistance toward developing a modern public transportation system. We have got to invest first in a public education campaign to inform the general public about this issue. The Gulf Coast highlights these issues

Lila Sherman [lila@loveshackmaui.com] added: DO THE RIGHT THING!

Carol Jurczewski [cjurczewski@sbcglobal.net] added: BP NEEDS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND PAY FOR THE IMMENSE DAMAGE THAT WAS DONE TO THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE GULF OIL SPILL!

Sherron Norris [thenorris@bendbroadband.com] added: Without the natural resources of the area there will be less reasons to visit them. Please continue to work for the environment as a healthy environment will create jobs and keep the economy going. It will also remind and reassure people that was what the fines were meant to do....restore the area's natural habitat. Thank you again for standing up for nature.

Brian Mahany [zaneysworld@tampabay.rr.com] added: Do the damn job that you were entrusted with. The wetlands and environment are your focus, STUPID!

Zoe Willet [zoezafrique@yahoo.com] added: May I add that I am appalled at the scurrilous tv commercials that BP has been putting forth!

Barbara Ferber [barbhbf@aol.com] added: Given the damage that has been done to our Gulf Coast ecosystem by the BP oil spill, the first priority MUST BE to restore our natural areas and wildlife. Everything else is secondary to this!

Sherrylee Felger [sjfelger@yahoo.com] added: Less politically correct, but my personal opinion, is that these funds should be used solely for Gulf coast restoration. Not for roads and further development, creating more demand for fossil fuels.

Afra Rahman [a.rahman2013@gmail.com] added: I honestly don't understand why we even have to send this email. How can people not naturally want to protect the environment? This is simply ridiculous. We are such selfish beasts!

Danna Dal Porto [ddalporto@smwireless.net] added: I live in Washington State and I clearly remember the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The effects are still being felt in Prince William Sound that the spill was 30 years ago. I believe that the long term consequences of the BP spill need to be predicted. The funds need to be retained for environmental restoration, nothing else will serve the needs of the Gulf Coast

more than to have their environment healthy and their fisheries and native creatures safe from the toxic affects of that oil.

David Kagan [dbkagan@comcast.net] added: Wildlife must be protected by man, as they can't protect themselves. We must take responsibility, or be damned for not using our intelligence.

Elizabeth Dawson [thirdrockwalk@gmail.com] added: Oil companies should pay for the complete restoration of the environment affected.

Nancy Grover [anygrover1@yahoo.com] added: If any of the money from BP is used for anything OTHER than restoring the ecosystem, it will be a disgrace!

Dorothy-Anne Johnson [nursejohnson25@yahoo.com] added: As a long-term former resident of New Orleans, I have fond memories of our treasured Gulf of Mexico (before the BP oil spill with its horrendous loss of life).

Pamela Anne Lowry [aynlowry@yahoo.com] added: I am appalled to learn that special interest groups are clamoring to use BP's fines to build highways and other coastal developments.

This is unacceptable. Years after the Gulf oil spill, the environment is still suffering. Funds should be used to restore Gulf ecosystems while helping to rebuild the Gulf's resource-based economy.

Donna Estes [destes76@hotmail.com] added: Only Gulf restoration should be considered. Time will tell how devastating this spill was. We should stick to environmental restoration only!

Wayne Stroessner [wstroessner@wi.rr.com] added: I do not believe that the billions of dollars spent by BP on advertising in the media about how much they are doing for the Gulf and Gulf States is doing anything to correct the damage they have done to the entire environment of the Gulf. It will take many decades to try to correct their mistakes and carelessness.

Jer Jarvis [jerjarvis1@yahoo.com] added: The was the worst environmental, I repeat environmental disaster in U.S.; which the effects on our ecosystems will not be known for decade; along with the sludge of oil is still along the coast of Louisiana has yet to cleans; while they are permitted to make billions and billions of more toxic greedy money day after day, year after year, while making tons of false advertising without even mentioning this environmental disaster which they caused! The GOP; along with their own special interests, BP, are responsible for this environmental disaster; and their is to be NO MONEY spent on highways and other coastal developments! This is an outrage on the millions and millions of species which were lost due to this and they think they can steal the money for their own pathetic interests? Absolutely NOT!

Andrea Bowen [bowen.andrea785@gmail.com] added: Tourism needs to be addressed to secure the environment not highways

kathy holland-medanic [kathywynne@yahoo.com] added: Please, no further wrecking of the ecosystem, with any sort of building project--especially highway construction, which is an all-out war on the environment, with continuous damage!

Rosalind Bresnahan [rosalind568@gmail.com]added: It is essential that you to propose and enforce strict environmental restoration efforts in the Gulf.

Mary-Alice Shemo [shemogua@juno.com] added: The money from a fine for ecosystem devastation should be spent for restoring that ecosystem. 100%. Period.

No highways. No hotels. The form of economic development the region needs is to make it possible for people to resume the ways of earning a decent, basic living that were upset or destroyed by the oil spill. That means restoring the ecosystem.

Not one penny should go to other projects, certainly not ones that make big profits possible for a few people but do nothing for the population at large.

Please focus on your mission, ecosystem restoration. Don't listen to anyone trying to lead you down a primrose path. In fact, don't let them in the office.

Patricia Bereczki [pat.bereczki@gmail.com] added: The ecosystem must be restored!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Doug Westendorp [dougwestendorp@msn.com] added: Thanks for caring.

Judith Maron-Friend [judiemaronfriend@gmail.com] added: IT REALLY GALLS ME TO SEE BP TV ADS PLAYING UP HOW WONDERFUL AND RESPONSIBLE THEY ARE AND HOW GREAT THE GULF HAS RECOVERED. THIS GREEDY CORPORATION WILL STOOP TO ANYTHING TO MAKE MORE MONEY WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE DAMAGE THEY MAY AND HAVE CAUSED. IT IS TRULY DISGRACEFUL AND AN ABOMINATION!

Arlene Malkin [auntiear@gmail.com] added: Let's get it right this time, alright? we must protect our environment, our wilflife and their habitat - our very lives depend on it because of the fragile, interconnected relationship

Janet Remington [janetsaurus@yahoo.com] added: I strongly urge the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council to stipulate that its funds must be spent only on what the council's title clearly states: RESTORATION of the Gulf ECOSYSTEM. These funds should NOT be used to satisfy any individual state government's grandiose ambitions for high-class luxury resorts they never had before.

Daren Black [daren@artofliving.org] added: Further, the BP board of executives should be fined $1 billion each and the money put to Gulf cleanup and repair.
Leonard Stein [theatpace@aol.com] added: You owe it to the animals that live in this habitat to help them all you can. The scenario here is the end of civilization as we know it. It is interesting that recently when arguing that animals should never be killed for sport, individuals answered that G-d gave us Dominion over the animals. does anyone think that means G-d said we could desstroy his creation at will?? Dominion implies responsibility to me! It says G-d is placing the fate of the animals to humans, that there is a responsibility implied that we insure their survival. AMEN

Gael McCarthy [gaelmcc@gmail.com] added: I believe that an oversight committee should be organized comprised of representatives from each affected state and the federal government bodies under whose auspices the areas of reclamation reside. This way, the interests of each party will be served, the effort can be better coordinated, and total reclamation will be assured. It is so important that funds received

as retribution are used to restore all areas impacted to their original, natural state. The funds should not be used as general income to be distributed wherever the governing body sees fit.

Susan Jacobson [suejacobson2@gmail.com] added: Restoration of the environment is essential to the health of people and the environment.

Larry Weeks [larryweeks@lynx.bc.ca] added: After the major disaster that you have had, I would have thought that you would try to put the environment back to its original glory. I think the world is watching to see what if any power government has over its corporations and its ability to correct a very large problem.
This affects the entire planet not just your area of the world.

Eva Cernik [evacernik@earthlink.net] added: And please! ... it seems off topic, but if any of the funds go to building highways after all, then there must be a requirement that there be abundant passages easily accessible to animals to cross underneath instead of becoming road-kill.

Laurel Crook [laurelcrook@gmail.com] added: Please use these funds to restore the Coast's ecosystems. These ecosystems help to protect the cities and towns from flooding and other disasters, as well as giving protection and refuge to the wildlife that inhabits the Coast.

Gail Blatt [ebrockfish@aol.com] added: With oil still washing up on beaches in the Gulf area, and no definitive idea of the damage that may still be ongoing, it is vital that the environment and wildlife be restored.

Daniel Jones [djdestin2003@yahoo.com] added: Governor Bryant of Mississippi is diverting $15 million to a minor league baseball club while Governor Bentley of Alabama is diverting $85 million to a beach hotel project. None of these funds should be stolen and given to businesses that didn't even exist at the time of the oil platform disaster. Please stop these and other giveaways. Save the Gulf and the wetlands.

Hazel Poolos [hazel@poolos.com] added: Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration is imperative for the Gulf Coast's economy and environment.

JoAnne Klein [katznk9s@yahoo.com] added: You are earnestly being begged to keep the pressure up on BP, their commitment, as well as continuing with vigor the Golf Coast Ecosystem Restoration project. There's no question regarding BP's lies and and phone attempts to convince those affected by that horrendous oil spill of BP's so-called honorable intentions. THOSE INTENTIONS WILL CEASE TO EXIST LET ALONE COME TO FRUITION UNLESS THE PRESSURE IS KEPT UP AND THE COUNCIL CONTINUES TO RESTORE, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, THE HORRIBLY DESTROYED ENVIRONMENT.

Diana Page [diana.page@comcast.net] added: Restoration must take priority. Too much has been irretrievably lost.

Anna Niemitz [annaniemitz@mindspring.com] added: Until this occurs, and success has been established, I will continue to avoid most seafood that lives on the floor of the Gulf.

Lyle McCormick [lylemccormick@bellsouth.net] added: The fines from an environmental disaster should be dedicated to environmental restoration.

Gerald Rilling [eafricabk@ix.netcom.com] added: I am a Zoologist by training and have lived in wild lands. There was significant damage done to wildlands and animals in the gulf area do to the oil spill. The money for damages from the oil spill MUST go to the areas & animals that were damaged by the spill ! ! ! If after the damage is repaired; then money remaining could be used to improve ecologically sound roads in the area, etc. But the environment comes FIRST ! !
The Gulf is not my main area of interest; but what little I have heard seems to indicate that work is being done on the environment.
Keep up the good work and DON'T let other interests get their hands on the money that should NOT go to them.

Tiffany Baker [tanchella@aol.com] added: Please dedicate more of the BP fines to environmental restoration since that is the reason for the fines. Do not let it be diverted to other interests, such as highway projects.

The full impact of the disaster is still unknown & continues to be discovered, so money should be set aside to do all that can be to repair the affected areas which helps both wildlife & the people whose livelihood depends on them.

John Dierig [jmdierig@hotmail.com] added: THE MORE I SEE THE DARN BP COMMERCIALS TOUTING THEIR SUCCESSES AFTER THE SPILL MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE....IT'S ALL BALONEY!!!

gayle goff [gayle.goff@gmail.com] added:
I am surprised to learn the plan devotes only 30% to environmental restoration. This is appallingly low.

Please reinforce the plan to restore the eco-system and environment.
This is absolutely the most important use of BP fines.

Dave Kisor [panther_dave@yahoo.com] added: Infrastructure maintenance and repair should come from another fund.
BP didn't foul up the roads, so none of that of that money should go to infrastructure.
april silverman [grinpower7@gmail.com] added: And I believe that BP should be sued for their ads that claim all is well, the environment is completely cleaned up, devoid of all oil. It's not!

David Swaim [ldswaim@yahoo.com] added: The environmental damage can never be completely healed, but every effort must be made to restore as much as possible.

Rob Cook [cic3ad@verizon.net] added: THE SONG OF THE WATER PLANET

Maryshka Miceli [alaskasnowbird89@yahoo.com] added: Having first-hand experience with the devastation from ExxonValdez oil spill in 1989 and knowledge about its perpetual impact on life, funds for the Gulf Coast ecosystem's restoration must be dedicated to that mission of restoration. Rehabilitation funds must not be hijacked for any other purpose. Humans are responsible for the Deepwater Horizon disaster -- just as much as we were for the ExxonValdez oil spill.

SisterAnne Michel,CSJ [sannemichelpavel@netscape.net] added: As one who taught both Earth Science and American History, I am disappointed I that the primary goal is not ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION.

Diane Brown [brown13da@gmail.com] added: The fines need to pay for what BP's oil spill ruined.

Gail Caswell [snowshoesmama@yahoo.com] added: Please support the recovery of the Gulf's wildlife!

Kathleen Acker [kacker_3dogs@yahoo.com] added: Take up the jobs programs the President has been trying to get through Congress, leave the money for environment rehabilitation for that purpose.

W.K. Grady [wkbg@pacbell.net] added: The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan must live up to its name. Please continue ecosystem-oriented focus. After all, it is the coastal waters ecosystem that was devastated by the spill, not the highways.

Adrienne Brietzke [brietzke1817@comcast.net] added: THIS IS A NO-BRAINER-THE MONEY IS FOR RESTORATION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT THAT WAS -AND IS STILL- REELING FROM THE BP SPILL. THE WETLANDS & WILDLIFE ARE STILL SUFFERING - PUT THE MONEY WHERE IT'S INTENDED TO GO.

Ana Salinas [asalinas@austin.rr.com] added: ******However, while the Gulf's wildlife and wetlands are still struggling to recover from the devastating effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, special interest groups are clamoring to claim the funds for highways and economic development projects. Meanwhile, three years after the spill, oil is still washing up on the shores of Louisiana, and its full impact on the environment is not yet
known.***** Don't let that happen.

Jerome Kirsling [kirslingj@uwstout.edu] added: I'm also pleased that you have indicated you will seek further public comment on a project list as it becomes available. It's important for stakeholders to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact their communities and inevitably have a national impact.
Christina Cowan [cowanc1028@earthlink.net] added: As far as economics -- if you restore the environment, it WILL pay off for the rest!

Jesse Siegel [siegje02@gettysburg.edu] added: It will be meaningless if the money is used for infrastructure that provides a better economic framework for an economy that never recovers due to the continued affects of the oil spill on the wildlife of the region.

Landry Wildwind [landry@kenney-consulting.com] added: The Gulf Coast is still suffering from the pollution and the damage has been well hidden by an industry-friendly press. However, BP's fine money should never be used for economic or infrastructure development.
Highways were not damaged in the spill and highways should not be built with the fines.

Rosita Aranita [rra8665@yahoo.com] added: Please see to the full recovery of the areas suffering from the oil spills!

Linda Yow [jandlyow@gmail.com] added: Please include language in the Final Initial Comprehensive Plan that will provide clear direction to the Gulf states that restoring the ecosystem is the best use of oil spill fine money. That will create jobs and restore the Gulf's resource-based economy, impacting communities and inevitably have a national impact.

Thank you for your work to benefit us and generations to come.

BJ Andrus [bonniejocean@gmail.com] added: As a resident of coastal Louisiana I plead with you: do NOT allow the use of fines for anything but restoring the damaged environments that resulted in the fines. To do otherwise is a major injustice to those living with the catastrophe incurred: plants, animals, and human beings.

a l [aalisbin@gmail.com] added: WE NEED TO STOP POISONING THE PLANET

Dale Weston [majortest@earthlink.net] added: So, there's a hint of truth to the BP claim that others are attempting to jump onto their bandwagon of $$$$ for clean up that are not cleaning or compensating for loss.

Just focus on honest reparations. The toll is very high without
adding long tail of feel good stuff.

Caroly Dennison [carolyndennison@hotmail.com] added: As inhabitants of the Earth, I believe that we are stewards of it and all life on it, as well as the environment and as such we have the respondsibility to protect it.

Sharron Buck [sharron.buck17@yahoo.com] added: REMEMBER...WE ARE ALL INTERCONNECTED....WHAT WE DO TO THIS EARTH....WE DO TO OURSELVES.

Holly Malarney [hmalarney@comcast.net] added: Thank you for your time and attention and I hope you will proceed as outlined above.

Frances Jerzgarzewski [franj12000@yahoo.com] added: Please preserve our nature for generations to come.

Emma Shook [shookemma@earthlink.net] added: Restoring the ecosystem is the fundamentally most important necessity for the clean-up.

Larry Manter [larryemanter@sbcglobal.net] added: Does no one have a sense of what's right? This disaster was truly a disaster for many and they are NOT being made even close to whole. This is just a travesty. The fines MUST go to cleaning up the Gulf - it's the ONLY ethical thing to do. Have we gotten so very far from the principles this country was founded on?

Judith Simons [judyjams@msn.com] added: BP's fines MUST be used to restore the ecosystem they destroyed through their greed.

Walt Brown [waltgoldenbrown@gmail.com] added: Yes, I know highways and other public infrastructure is important.
But, first things first! The earth is what must survive!

Nancy Lowell [lilyofthefield@tampabay.rr.com] added: To me, it seems like what we colloquial folk out here like to call a "no-brainer'. But, apparently not everyone gets that. So, please make sure it's spelled out so that the Gulf, its shorelines and wildlife have the money put toward their restoration.

Margaret Sellers [selldev@aol.com] added: I find it hard to believe after all the damage done to the environment that the states are not being required to do more.

J M [jay_miner@ymail.com] added: Let's make this happen! Lives depend on a healthy environment and ecosystem!

NOREEN MICHAUD [noreenmichaud@msn.com] added: The environment should came first.

Art Roberts [art1280rh@comcast.net] added: The whole purpose (not just 30%) of the Gulf Coast Restoration funding should be centered on restoring the Gulf ecosystem.

Roger Bau [rogerbau45@live.com] added: This plan will help project the recovery into the future when the lasting effects of the spill will have an effect on the local environments and economies.

Michele Shimizu [simizu@konan-wu.ac.jp] added: I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment.

Jan Emerson [janemerson777@gmail.com] added: Please keep environmental restoration a priority in the Gulf to restore ecosystems, jobs, and communities.

Stephen Sleeper [waloug@gmail.com] added: We've got to stop treating our planet like we have another one we can go to !!
Make 'em clean up EVERY BIT of the spill !!!

Deb Brown [deb@econweb.com] added: "Mankind's true moral test, its fundamental test (which lies deeply buried from view), consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals."

--Milan Kundera

Ryan Riddle [rriddle@windstream.net] added: It's interesting to note that the Prince Willam Sound spill by the EXXON Valdez in 1989 still is not cleaned up and the Supreme Court ruled that Exxon is no longer financially responsible. The ecosystem and fisheries will never be the same. Crude oil poisons everything.

Emma Bloebaum [bloebaumemma3@gmail.com] added: I urge you to use the funds for restoration of the ecosystem. Without the healthy ecosystem, tourists will not want to come to the area.

Olin Bray [odbray@msn.com] added: The BP oil spill devistated the gulf ecosystem, so please see to it that the money from BP's fines are used to restore the ecosystem that is so important to the area.

Thomas Gannon [constructionbydesign@embarqmail.com] added: If the damages were to the enviroment than all the awarded money should go to the repair of the ecosystem. It is the ecosystem that brings people to the shore and its economic survival

Jimmy Carrell [jcarrcat@aol.com] added: The road to a sustainable recovery is paved by restoration of natural systems, not asphalt.

William Handley [bhandly53@msn.com] added: I am not pleased that you people are even considering using your funding to benefit highway contractors, resort developers, and job stealers? That's not your purpose. We have Chambers of Commerce that do that already.

Leif Knutsen [l.e.knutsen@gmail.com] added: PERSONAL NOTE:
What a stupid idea, (unless you are for GOP profits from pollution of the commons), to spend the the money on anything but environmental restoration.
Captain Leif Knutsen

Barbara Lockwood [socdem@outlook.com] added: We are called to be faithful stewards of this precious planet that the Lord has given us;

Joy Schochet [joysch@moose-mail.com] added: The funds provided, even if completely dedicated to environmental restoration, would hardly cover the costs of doing so. The damage can never be undone, but we need to recognize that we ourselves depend upon a healthy environment, and that the Gulf is an especially sensitive and vitally important part of it. We must do all we can to ensure that the Gulf recovers insofar as possible, and that the marine and coastal ecosystems are restored so that fish and other marine life can flourish. This is urgent.

Marianne Mukai [mmukai@stny.rr.com] added: The Gulf Coast Ecosystem and all the creatures that inhabit it are a national treasure, as well as a vital component of the Gulf region's economy. The long-term health of the ecosystem has an incalculable value to our entire nation and it is vital the funds from BP's disaster fines be put toward restoring this unique ecosystem to pre-disaster quality, to the extent that is possible.

Barbara Richert [barbararichert@suddenlink.net] added: Want me to ever vacation on the Gulf Coast??

Dan Ninedorf [corona@maqs.net] added: These funds should also be buying long-term health insurance and building health care facilities - there will be family claims - as another form of Agent Orange-like diseases that will ravage the peoples of the Gulf Coast, the long-term health effects will destroy entire families starting within a few years.

The habitat will restore itself, the people will die.

Llyn French [nharjo@tampabay.rr.com] added: Having retired in 2011 after 25 years of service with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (which, following the oil spill, was Central Command), my personal wish is that ALL of the restoration funding would be spent on the natural environment, because that has suffered the most and is the basis, the absolute foundation, for everything man-made.

Mariann Ventura [jsventu@aol.com] added: It's 100 out today in New England. We have got to stop drilling and burning oil or we are going to kill future generations.

john aponick [johnaponick@yahoo.com] added: While economic development means infrastructure, a permantly damaged ecosystem will mean that the planet will not be sustained. Again, a short term goal will mean a long term solution will hurt life on this planet.

Sharon Coombs [sharon-coombs@hotmail.com] added: am a lover of Gulf shrimp but have been abstaining since the spill.
I'm waiting to hear that the waters are clean again. Give that

Carol Siewert [clsiewert@hotmail.com] added: Much of the economic impact has to do with lost tourism and lost fishing/shrimping revenue.
It seems obvious that money for reparations needs to be addressed for environment issues, not road building (unless the argument can be made that said road improves water quality??).

Joyce Cochran [cochransci@sbcglobal.net] added: Please Insure BP's $ (Oil Spill Fine) is Used to Restore Gulf Coast Ecosystem

Judith Wilson [judybrooklynus@gmail.com] added: I do wish that the environment would come first for a change instead of "special interests" which are not in the interest of the environment at all!!

Claire Joaquin [cjoaquin@comcast.net] added:
The Gulf is a naturally beautiful region. Do not let the shmooze-pr-talk from BP sway you from choosing restoration that looks to the long term effects of both weather and commerce. BP worships dollar-based profit; the people of the Gulf require their coastline and ocean to be healthy and oil-free.

Thomas Nass [tom@sciline.com] added: Irreparable damage has been done to the Gulf 's eco-system - our eco-system. Which includes damage to our dwindling Food and Drinking Water supply.
If what has been done to the Gulf is not a clarion call for more Restrictions and Oversight of the petroleum industry this industry will be our undoing and we are in deep, deep trouble!

Peter Motyka [peterbigbass@aol.com] added: BP should continue to be made to pay Billions for all the damage they have caused.

Arvin Blakeney [alblake15@juno.com] added: Please make sure these funds go towards the heavy needs of the Gulf where so much serious damage has yet to be discovered.

Judy Lamoureux [lamourjj@yahoo.com] added: All companies causing oil spills in our waters should be sued further for polluting my food source. We know that oil and chemicals have sunk to ocean bottoms creating dead zones where some fish live and eat. I'm afraid to eat gulf shrimps anymore. Stop drilling in our oceans. Find another energy source and jobs.

Michelle Davis [kampai.michelle@gmail.com] added: It's only right, that what was damaged the most (the ecosystems of the Gulf Coast), get completely healed before any of this money go anywhere else. This is not just about your particular states. This environment is every persons on this earths to steward. But yet, it looks like once again, the small minded view is clamoring. Please see the bigger picture and do the right thing. Ultimately it is in the best interest of all who live and work on the Gulf Coast.

William Hampton [fathertime4ever44@yahoo.com] added: P.S.
It is time for the politicians to take there hand out of the cookie jar, use the fines for what they we accessed for, the environment.

Mike Schacht [thedukeandclay@yahoo.com] added: It was a culture of corporate greed that created the disaster. Let our solution stay focused on restoration efforts and leave pork barrel politics in the past.

Linda Hayes [lindahayes92@yahoo.com] added: I am writing to say that I believe that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment.

Susan Bannister [suebirch@earthlink.net] added: Special interest groups are clamoring to use BP's fines to build highways and other coastal developments. This is unacceptable. Years after the Gulf oil spill, the environment is still suffering. Funds must be used to restore Gulf ecosystems while helping to rebuild the Gulf's resource-based economy.

Ted Pratt [anpra3@aol.com] added: I do ot like the fact that you are splurging with the money that's supposed to go for clean up of the GULF. Either you put the money in to where it was supposed to be spent or hire someone that will. It seems like you people CAN'T / DON'T KNOW HOW to manage money (that's why we got such a huge deficit).

Tom Jackson [scrimm@comcast.net] added: no more dirty energy

Larry Furgal [lfurgal@yahoo.com] added: Lets use any monies received from BP for Gulf restoration and not for other uses that lobbyists deem more important. Like lining the pockets of other who want to steal, yes steal, this money.

Jacque Lefler [jlefler@sonic.net] added: REPEAT: Use the moneys received from fines imposed on BP solely for restoration of the gulf ecosystem.

Michelle Macy [mmacyartist@yahoo.com] added: Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council: Stand Up for Wildlife NOT special interests!!

Jean Davis [jeandart@techline.com] added: Environmental restoration MUST be the primary consideration of any funding allocation.

Barb Drake [worldpeace7@comcast.net] added: In the name of goodness and decency, do the right thing.

Kayla Price [kaylacmp@hotmail.com] added: Special interest groups are clamoring to use BP's fines to build highways and other coastal developments. This is unacceptable!!!

Years after the Gulf oil spill, the environment is still suffering.
These funds should be used to restore Gulf ecosystems while helping to rebuild the Gulf's resource-based economy.

Paul Shabazian [pshab@earthlink.net] added: This is another example of the disregard of the polluting oil companies destroying a habitat and doing nothing about their mess and then putting out BS PR campaigns to convince the ignorant American public that they are cleaning everything up when they are doing NOTHING and then on top of it all diverting the money for other things that special interest wants. More lies, diversions, BS PR from the giant polluting corporate interests. This country has become a SAD MESS.

Juan Calvillo [juan@calvillophoto.com] added: What happened in the Gulf must be made right, and the plans need to be specific and supported by, and beneficial to, the public.

Nancy Hoort [nancysladyemily@hotmail.com] added: Do not add hypocrisy to the list of wrong and ignorant acts committed here. The money BP is required to pay to clean up the environmental disaster they created must be used to repair as much damage as we can!

Shelagh Mayhew [shelagh_mayhew@yahoo.com] added: Three years ago I was vacationing on the Gulf at Panama City Beach, Fl.
I was amazed at the beauty and awed by the sight and sound of the area. We we

Don Ries [linda_ries@yahoo.com] added: The fines for the spill are not some piggy bank that the states can raid for pet projects, it must be used for restoration of the environment.

barbara graham [barbistan@gmail.com] added: My public comment would be that I have no plans to visit the gulf states because I do not believe enough has been done and I'm not eating anything out of there.

We used to go fishing there, but you know what? The tuna are biting off Baja California. Don't need no oil soaked snapper.

BG Adams [birderonthego@yahoo.com] added: It was my understanding from the beginning that the fines imposed on BP would be spent to "clean up their mess" and restore the Gulf ecosystem. We should NOT deviate from that goal. Clean up and restoration will, in the end, be the most beneficial to both human and wild life.

Bonnie Avery [bonavery@gmail.com] added: I urge you to move now to restore environmental habitat to the Gulf Coast. We must try to heal what we have destroyed, as much as is humanly possible!

Ruth Miller [rmillerbrown@googlemail.com] added: Think of the environment!!!

christine waddell [christine@fluidwisdom.com] added: and give MORE to the environment that was destroyed, sullied, set-back

Linda T. Haney [lthaney2000@yahoo.com] added: The use of these funds shouldn't be in question. There is nothing more important than the health of our planet and our own Gulf. BP damaged this area, no question about that and no doubt promises were made.
Efforts to restore it should continue.Simple and true. Do it right, Finish what has been started. No other claim for these monies should be considered. How quickly we forget? Not all of us.

Steven Miller [millersmj@charter.net] added: It is very important to me that the environmental damage due to the BP oil spill be fixed so that the Gulf's ecosystem and economy can be restored.

Kathlyn Gilpin [kcgilpin01@aim.com] added: . And, in fact, I would suggest that the percentage allocated for environmental restoration projects should be MORE than 30%

David Hartgrove [birdman9@earthlink.net] added: When there's a large pool of money to be distributed, the number of people trying to get a piece of the action is directly related to the proportion

who think they have a politician in their pocket to help them get their greedy fingers in the pie. I think that mixes enough metaphors for one sentence.

Sandra Atkins [malibusandy@hughes.net] added:
I'm also pleased that you have indicated you will seek further public comment on a project list as it becomes available. It's important for stakeholders to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact their communities and inevitably have a national impact.

Kathleen Barnes [kabarnes52@verizon.net] added: STOP THOSE WHO WANT TO RIP OFF MONEY RIGHTFULLY INTENDED AND VITALLY NEEDED FOR ECOSYSTEM AND HABITAT RESTORATION!!

Elinor Perlich [elinperlich@hotmail.com] added: It makes no sense to have a pipeline go south from Canada to send oil to China..
Go overland Canada to the Pacific ocean to send it to China.

Kathryn Hughes [hugheka@sbcglobal.net] added: A damaged ecosystem only keeps tourists away which damages an already shakey Gulf Coast economy.

Jim Norgrove [jnorgrove@msn.com] added: Nothing like the G reedy O il P igs to continue to screw us all even when we're trying to clean up ANOTHER one of their disasters.
Republican rubber stamp sock puppets for corporate elitists.

Claudia Hall [aliceforest@comcast.net] added: AMERICA WAS BEAUTIFUL, ANIMALS THRIVED, THE AIR WAS CLEAR, THE WATER CLEAN....THEN, "MAN DISCOVERED" THE CONTINENT. SINCE THAT TIME, WE HAVE PLACED OUR ENVIRONMENT IN JEOPARDY. WE HAVE FOULED THE AIR & DIRTIED THE WATERS. WE HAVE CAUSED THE EXTINCTION OF SPECIES, IN THE AIR, ON THE LAND, & IN THE SEA!

PLEASE, I BEG YOU, DO NOT ALLOW THE GREED OF A FEW, TO DESTROY THE
LIVES OF MANY!!! WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT OUR HUMPTY DUMPTY
EARTH BACK TOGETHER & STOP DESTROYING LIVES, OUR ENVIRONMENT, AIR, LAND, SEA, ALL LIVING THINGS!! LISTEN TO YOUR CONSCIENCE, & SUPPORT THE PRISTINE & DELICATE ECOSYSTEMS, WHICH WERE ON OUR PLANET, FIRST!

PLEASE, USE YOUR VOICE, AS OURS! MAKE SURE THAT THE FINES FROM BP
& OTHER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HORRIFIC SPILL IN THE GULF - ARE USED TO RESTORE THE LIVES IN THE OCEAN, WILDLIFE & COMMUNITIES ALONG THE COAST!!

LOOK BEYOND THE DEATH & DESTRUCTION, BP CREATED & IMAGINE CREATURES OF OUR OCEANS AS THEY SWIM IN CLEAN, POLLUTION FREE SEAS!
THIS MAY HAPPEN, WHEN THE FINES ARE USED TO RESTORE OUR PRISTINE AREAS OF LIFE!!

"THE GREATEST OF A NATION & ITS MORAL PROGRESS CAN BE JUDGED BY THE
WAY ITS ANIMALS ARE TREATED." MAHATMA GANDHI

Georgeanne Samuelson [bgsamuelson@gmail.com] added: HOW CAN YOU DIVERT THIS MONEY WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE??

Kathleen Kreiselmeyer [kreiselmeyer@comcast.net] added: Please protect Mother Earth and We The People as you are elected/appointed to do.

Leslie Cirigliano [fireangel@comcast.net] added: Any money from fines should NOT go to any group other than those who want to rebuild the ecosystem that was damaged by BPs oil spill

Thank you for insuring that this won't happen.

Vivianne Mosca-clark [viviannegloriaan@yahoo.com] added: Repair the ecology, if that isn't repaired the rest is insignificant.
The people that live with the gulf are sea oriented couture. Not cleaning up the gulf will continue to hurt the area.

Jackie Jones [jabujo@gmail.com] added:
Repair the environment to the extent possible FIRST!

Louise Plante [alplante1@netzero.com] added: I believe that when the environment, wetlands ecosystem is fully restored, then other projects can be considered. Otherwise, it would be like using money that was designated to fix a leaky roof for building a new deck!

Tommy Yarbrough [tyarbro57@gmail.com] added: The Gulf Coast ecosystem is one of the most important in the world, because there is such diversity of the indigenous species that inhabit the area. Many of these species are still recovering from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and will continue to do so for years to come.
This was a disaster of epic proportion that affected all forms of land, sea, and human life that exist there. I personally know many, many people that agree with me when I say that oil is one of the dirtiest energy sources on earth, and that there is NO DOUBT that we need to research and implement cleaner, greener sources of energy. The technology is already being used all over the world, and the reason is simple. A vast percentage of these other countries have been greatly reducing their dependence on oil, while utilizing scientific research and implementation of cleaner, greener forms of energy for YEARS!!

The United States (and Washington) has, for YEARS been TOO BUSY utilizing lobbyists and special interests for their own personal gains, i e, power and money, instead of doing what is best and right for the country(the people), and reduce OUR DEPENDENCE ON OIL(foreign AND domestic), so that we can begin to utilize more clean, green energy, and at the same time, be helping the planet begin to restore itself, reducing the pollution in our atmosphere, and even slow down the effects of global warming.

I urge that The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council would please consider a new, unique approach for getting funds allocated, and acquiring those funds to push Gulf Coast cleanup efforts further and forward. Not only the Gulf Coast, but our entire planet depends on efforts such as these.

Joe Day [cday1@comcast.net] added: Please do not divert funds away from the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration

Susan Blain [s_blain@mwcc.mass.edu] added: Restoration is critical, and it is the fair and responsible thing to do.

Rory Pierce [roryanddee@comcast.net] added:

THERE ARE OTHER SOURCES FOR HIGHWAY FUNDS AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENTS.
USE THE BP MONEY FOR WHAT IT IS DESIGNATED -- ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP AND ECOSYSTEM RECOVERY.
Charles Alexander [ch_a_alex@hotmail.com] added: These fines were designed, legally as well as in spirit, to restore the damaged natural ecosystem. They were never meant to be used to build roads or buildings of any sort.

Michelle Pepitone [michelle@sfwtc.com] added: While I do not live along the Gulf Coast, I am someone who is very much invested in the outcome of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan.

Iva Jones [ivadora@pacbell.net] added:
I have visited this area and I firmly believe that fines for environmental disasters should only be used for restoration from each individual disaster, not for any other purpose.

Danielle Thomas [danielle_nicole_thomas@yahoo.com] added: Let's use a common sense approach. Fines gained from environmental penalties should be applied directly back to environmental cleanup. We don't need to built more roads, more businesses, more things that USE resources with these funds- we have already overreached ourselves as far as natural resources go on this planet. If we want our progeny to have breathable air and potable water we need to act NOW to preserve and protect what few precious resources we have left.

Christine Pylypowycz [chris210s@hotmail.com] added: RESTORATION OF THE GULF AND IT'S ENVIRONS SHOULD BE PRIORITY #1. USE OF THESE FUNDS FOR SPECIAL INTERESTS IS A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE.

Selene Ting [selene.ting@gmail.com] added: The Gulf ecosystem is a precious resource, and every effort must be made to restore it for the wildlife and the residents who live off its resources. The BP fines must first and foremost be reserved to undo the damage and assess future consequenes.

. These funds must be set aside first and foremost for stakeholders, and not special interest groups who were not affected by the spill.

Barbara SLanec [barbaraslanec@yahoo.com] added: This is more important than roads!!

The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment.

Elizabeth Molsen [emolsen@ispor.org] added: Hi. This is important.

Rosemary Nichols [rnichols@nycap.rr.com] added: The Gulf has been so horribly damaged by this terrible spill. The restoration resources should not be diverted to highways and other non-restoration purposes.

Rene Pugh [renerrp@verizon.net] added: Here'a comment....ALL OF BP'S OIL SPILL FINE MONEY SHOULD GO TO THAT WHICH BP DESTROYED.....THE GULF AND ITS' RECOVERY AND RESTORATION.TO DO OTHERWISE IS AN ETHICAL AND MORAL BREACH SO STRATOSPHERIC THERE ARE NO WORDS.IF THE COUNCIL GIVES EVEN $1 TO SPECIAL INTERESTS THEN THE COUNCIL LACKS ETHICS,MORALS AND SCRUPLES OR MORE PLAINLY THE COUNCIL IS JUST PLAIN DIRTY!

Christopher Rathbun [ypochris@yahoo.com] added: I feel the fines from environmental disasters should be dedicated to environmental restoration, not unrelated economic development schemes.

Mary Margaret Switlik [mmswitlik@csjoseph.org] added: Thank you for your time and consideration toward this important matter.

Thomas Reyer [tomas.reyer@gimmecoffee.com] added: It is the environment and wildlife that suffered most, not highways or other "hardware".

John Leith [jdleith@verizon.net] added: In particular, the funds should not be used for projects that would have a negative action on the local environment, such as real estate development for homes and businesses, and subsidizing more businesses that harm the environment, such as refineries.

Larry Kimball [kimball.magnuson@pronghornpix.com] added: The whole point is to restore as much as is possible that which the spill destroyed. Don't let this important work be derailed by special interests.

Paul Skurka Sr [ccchevydude@yahoo.com] added: Any monies allocated to the restoration SHOULD BE USED for that purpose AND NOTHING ELSE.
Businesses & OTHER man-made ventures ARE NOT vital to the ecosystem & ARE NOT necessary... the total restoration of the lands, waters, & habitats ARE & SHOULD BE the first & only priority.

Vicki Maturo [roseproductions@sbcglobal.net] added: We must do everything that we can to protect human health, the environment and animals.

Loretta Lane [lrttlane@yahoo.com] added: Yes, it advertise that BP is giving fundI to private entities and not in the Final Initial Comprehensive Plan to provide funds to restore the Gulf ecosystem is the only use, the money should be use for ...there is still a lot of work that has to be done...where damage isn't visible to the eye and shouldn't be ignored either...so let the money do its work by restoring what was damage to the "wetlands"..Thank you for listening!

Tami Calliope [casacalliope@myfairpoint.net] added:
Please bear in mind that years after the Gulf oil spill, the environment and its wildlife, both in sea and on land, as well as it people, their communities and businesses, are suffering incredible hardship. Every day oil-drenched corpses wash up on the beaches.

Meanwhile, special interest groups are clamoring to use BP's fines to build highways and other coastal development. That money was PROMISED to the Gulf: to its restoration. And it has not been restored.

Michael LaBrecque [jmmlsolar@comcast.net] added: Please act in the long term best interest of the Gulf's environmental well being, which will benefit the long term financial health of all in the region.

Mike Rudnick [mic.rudnick@gmail.com] added:
I'm an engineer living with my family of four in the Rochester NY area.
It's clear to me that class warfare is our most serious problem because it prevents us from promulgating rational public policy to deal with most of our serious problems, a host of environmental issues among them.

Below is a message from Environmental Defense Fund that I support. I urge you to heed their recommendations.

Sincerely,
Mike Rudnick

Peter Ayres [peter_yrs@yahoo.com] added: I will add to this, that 30% seems like much too little of the funds allocated, going to Gulf restoration. If it takes 100% to bring the Gulf areas back to what they were, if not better, then that is how much money should be allocated. Don't pilfer funds givien to restore destroyed land, water and habitat with uses like hotels, roads, bridges and infrastructured that is man made. The man made stuff can be replaced with man made funds. Nature needs help. It no longer holds all the cards when it comes to dealing with humans.

Susan Lea [suelea5@yahoo.com] added: The Deepwater Horizon disaster and clean up with toxic chemicals like Corexit has destroyed an ecosystem and forced the depopulation of a large community. Please relate to this disaster as the destruction of an ecosystem and restore the ecosystem, reimburse anyone or business for their losses, but relate to the environment and habitat! Please.

Suzanne Sutton [artemisprovence@gmail.com] added: Perhaps these folks would like to drink petroleum products for breakfast, lunch, and dinner as the other species of this environment are forced to do through human greed.

Celeste Black [cc.sungirl@verizon.net] added: It would be a crime to use the money for anything other than environmental restoration and wildlife-protection purposes.

Michael Bayouth [baybaysparky@sbcglobal.net] added: This has gone on too long....

Jennifer Coute [jlcoute@gmail.com] added: THIS IS INCREDIBLY VITAL!!!

john furlong [jjfu@aol.com] added: All proceeds from BP oil spill fines must be dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. Bastardizing this principal is totally unacceptable.

Randall Schmidt [clubirie123@gmail.com] added: Learn what the Keshe Foundation is doing to solve these issues and more. http://keshefoundation.org

L Steele [wentwest@peoplepc.com] added: The wild beings who call the Gulf of Mexico home have suffered and died and continue to suffer and die as a result of the BP Oil spill. The only harm to humans (other than those who lost their lives on the
platform) has been economic.

I'm sorry, but I feel it's the environment that is owed.

Tracey Archer [amethystladyt@hotmail.com] added: Habitat destruction is happening at an unsustainable rate. Loss of ecosystems equals loss of human, animal and plant life! Please wake up!

Justin Tentler [algonquinarcher@gmail.com] added: No monies from this should be earmarked for Highway construction or more canals,which caused the erosion of the wetlands and made the devastation of Katrina a hundred times worse than it would have been otherwise.

Genevieve Yuen [wongkarwhy@aol.com] added: Do the Right Thing. Restore wildlife ecysystem.

Katherine Flickinger [zeeandflick@charter.net] added: Since the money was designated for the recovery, environmentally, for the Gulf, please see that it is used for that and not for roads or economic development. The Gulf is extremely important, it's health should be priority!

D. Phoenix Hudson [phoenixhudson98007@yahoo.com] added:
Don't allow any theives to step in and attempt to put the money somewhere else. It belongs in the gulf where the disaster happened!

Steve Erickson [fh@whidbey.com] added: Fines for environmental damage are not intended either as punishment or deterrence but rather as redress - a means to fund the necessary restoration work to make whole (to the extent possible) the damaged ecosystem. It is vital that any fines received from BP be dedicated entirely to restoration of ecosystems damaged by the BP oil blowout.
It is already very late in the day for such work to commence. Time is of the essence, and every penny of the fines assessed - and more - will be needed in the restoration.

Betty Trentlyon [bettysvat@gmail.com] added: BPs fines must be used to restore Gulf ecosystems, and not for highways and other commercial development.

Sharon Lee McGraham [totolove@cruzio.com] added: The redemption should match the crime! Let's find other ways to repair the highways, for Pete's sake!

Roger & Gayle O'DONAHOO [rogergayle1@optusnet.com.au] added: Please, please, please - please listen.

This issue greatly concerns and deeply distresses us.

Please, please, please do not fail our precious environment, wild areas & wildlife.

Gone is gone - forever & ever, never to return again. What a sad, sad indictment & eternal shame on us all if we allow this to happen.

Thank you for listening and considering our comments.

Susan Bailey [imexport1990@aol.com] added: ALL FINES COLLECTED FROM BP FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER THEY CREATED IN THE GULF SHOULD GO TO RESTORING THE ENVIRONMENT! No amount should be used for any other project - that includes highways, budget shortfalls, or any thing else that is not directly environmental in nature - affected by the spill.

Nancy Brandt [nhbrandt@sbcglobal.net] added: The Gulf Coast is not yet restored,nor are the sea creatures that live along it.

Rochelle Kraut [krautrochelle@yahoo.com] added: Keep the focus on repairing the environmental damage caused by the oil spill. Thank you.

Rheba Symeonoglou [rhebasym@gmail.com] added: The effects of environmental damage can take a long sustained effort to reverse. That is why I believe environmental restoration on the gulf coast should be THE priority, far above the building of highways and other coastal developments.

Marti Nerenstone [mdnerenstone@iabar.org] added: We need to be good stewards fo the earth. We should never have allowed the situation/circumstances to allow this spill - now we must do everything we can do to clean it up.

Claude Phipps [here4now2@myfairpoint.net] added: But, 30% of projects dedicated solely for environmental restoration is way TOO LOW. The number should be greater than half of the projects.

Wayne Stalsworth [w.stal104@gmail.com] added:
Clean up the gulf, and stop whoring out to business people who could care less about our country!!!

Keith Allen [allnwood@msn.com] added: I'm sick of seeing the high-visibility campaign of LIES featuring BP, in concert with gulf state chambers of commerce, blaring "feel-good" ads on Sunday talks shows, implying that "the Gulf has recovered" from the gross environmental insult thrust on the region by BP's monumental greed and incompetence. BP, and the various chambers of commerce, pretend that gulf BEACHES are pristine (when they're NOT), and that ANY OTHER metric for measuring the economic chaos dumped on the region by BP isn't worth considering.
Eyeless shrimp and lesion-loaded fish? NOT A PROBLEM! Put on your swimsuits, and rev up your jetskis, folks! It's "business (and bullcrap) as usual" in the gulf!

Lynda Goin [tithonia65@gmail.com] added: I grew up near the Gulf coast, went there often to fish, and spent my honey moon there. I was devastated by the oil spill.

Martha Ann Carruthers [acarruthers@earthlink.net] added: (THIS IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR MISSION!)

Gordon Heavern [gheavern@yahoo.com] added: I am a firm believer in funds going to their designated location and not being slip-sided in other directions. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, PLEASE !
.
Thank you and good day, Gordon.

Don Phillips [don1023512012@yahoo.com] added: Greetings from Texas ...

We of the global web community send you this message:

We only have one planet to call home!

Carole Mayers [cdmayers@verizon.net] added: Do not allow special interest groups to gain a foothold on resources so rightfully belonging to environmental restorations.

Patrick Conley [pconleyc@gmail.com] added:
We are destroying our ecosystem on a massive scale out of a mistaken notion of entitlement that is proving lethal. I cannot think of a much better example than BP use of dispersant to poison the Gulf which has made its waters 33 times more toxic. It is nature which is in the driver's seat of our engine of destruction.

Robert Rice [rgrbfc@gmail.com] added: While I have no sympathy for BP, it seems like both fraud and a shakedown to take their money, meant to repair the environmental damage they did, and to spend it on pork barrel projects. Are gulf state leaders ethical or corrupt? Their actions will decide the answer.

Judy Skog [jskog83@gmail.com] added: Restoring habitat IS economic development. Where would the Gulf Coast be without its fisheries?

Do NOT use this money for highways. If you don't have an intact ecosystem that can buffer you from further monster storms, you're SOL, highways or not.

Sarah Hall [earthsmile@earthlink.net] added: The health of our environment is shaping up to be the primary issue of our time. It is linked to our survival as a species and the survival of our planet. Please give it the urgent, top priority attention and action that it demands.

Deborah Ellison [deborahlsn@hotmail.com] added: I'm not going to visit the gulf until the eco-systems are cleaned up-all the other stuff is just bullshit. I

Scott Williams [xenosfrog@comcast.net] added: I think that 100% of the funding allocation (less operating costs) should go to environmental restoration. Let's be honest and clear and act with impeccable integrity. Thank you.

Mary Ann Perry [auntiemamep@aol.com] added: I know that the Gulf Coast, actually the whole US has great needs in many areas, but Gulf Oil Spill Monies must go to Ecosystem Restoration and Environmental Needs. We must restore the basis for all Gulf recovery!

Joan Hunnicutt [joanhunnicutt@gmail.com] added: As the holder of M.A.s in Environmental Studies and Marine Biology, I am a staunch defender of our wildlife and its habitat, most especially that of the oceans.

annette kattau [kattau.annette39@gmail.com] added: HOW DARE THIS BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE . WIND AND SOLAR SHOULD BE OUR GOAL, BIG OIL HAS GOTTEN AWAY WITH MURDER AND SHOULD BE ON TRIAL.....

JoAnn Duman [jduman@juno.com] added: It is unfortunate that some are calling to use the restoration funds instead for highways and development.

Cynthia Lee [clee@hawaiiantel.net] added: THE MONEY SHOULD BE USED TO UNDO THE DAMAGE, NOT TAKE CARE OF HIGHWAYS.
Save the environment - that's more important than anything else.

Tara Dubarr [taradubarr12@gmail.com] added: As someone who lived for a period of time in Louisiana and has family living in Florida I know the value of a clean, pristine coastline and a thriving eco system. Please consider the following points about allocation and continuing restoration efforts. Science shows that the agents dispersed on the surface simply made the oil sink, which means it will continue for many years to come back to the surface affecting wildlife and plants

Joy Cassidy [1haydenjoy@roadrunner.com] added: THESE FUNDS MUST BE USED TO RESTORE THE WILDLIFE SO DEVASTATED BY THIS DISASTER!!

Cathy Smotherman [cathy.smotherman@yahoo.com] added: Restoring the environment and helping wildlife are the most important uses of BP fine funds. If you get the natural setting into better shape private investment and motivated tourists will take care of development. Our natural world is the main thing.

Beatrice Marino [bgmarino@verizon.net] added: Protecting our planet, in this case the Gulf Coast Ecosystem, is everyone's job especially yours.

Gary Alderette [alderette-g@sbcglobal.net] added:
The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment and not reward the always present cabal of greedy players that seek only to enrich their own financial fortunes.

Cheriel M Jensen [cherielj@earthlink.net] added: 100% of the funds must go to ecological restoration and stopping further leaks.

Virginia Murchison [ginnylon@hotmail.com] added: Do not steal from the funds to protect wildlife. Use the money from BP to clean up and protect wildlife.

Carol Fletcher [cefletch@umich.edu] added: The massive BP oil spill caused a huge disruption to the environment.
Therefore, restoration of the environment must remain a priority.

Mary Neland [vneland@comcast.net] added: Hiding the oil with Corexit was not enough. It actually needs to be cleaned up, too. So, let's get with it. No more failed governments using nondiscretionary monies for projects that haven't the backbone to raise taxes in order to fund. That's their problem. Yours is to finish restoring the Gulf to the same or better condition it was in before BP fouled it.

Doris Mclaughlin [hiklass@hotmail.com] added: Since the fines paid by BP for damaging the water and land due to the oil spill in the Gulf Council affect the Gulf Coast, the money should be kept there for habitat restoration, as well as to give work to area residents. These residents suffered greatly due to the terrible damage wrecked by the oil, that damage to livelihood and ecosystems, should be kept right there to attempt to repair that damage.

Marianne Corona [mjcorona@comcast.net] added: Please do this, the impact is felt by whole nation!

Pamela Themelis [pthemeli@ci.lowell.ma.us] added: SERIOUSLY?! DOESN'T GREED EVER GO AWAY??? PLEASE, YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE CORRECT DECISION OVER THIS MATTER. THANK YOU.

Drew Roenneburg [drewroenneburg@hotmail.com] added: Funds received from BP for irreparable damage done to the coastal ecosystem of the gulf, should be used strictly for restoration. These funds are not meant to stoke the coastal economy or replace funds from budget cuts.

Doris Buyarski [doris.buyarski@gmail.com] added: There is still much to do with the clean-up of the gulf and this money is needed for this purpose and this purpose only!!! It is not to be used for roads, etc. Do the right thing and clean up the gulf....

John Booth [jtbooth49@yahoo.com] added: Just one question, though. Has the fact that oil is still leaking from the sight and traces of it still reach the gulf shores after three years been addressed. Is BP planning to correct this?

Jan Wilson [joyfilled@comcast.net] added: To hell with roads. Save, repair, rescue the ecosystem!

Ann E. Schmidt [aeschmidt58@gmail.com] added: I am appalled that there is a possibility that this funding could be used for projects other than those that intend to bring about the greatest possible environmental restoration.

Robert McCombs [bobmcc@humboldt1.com] added: I won't come back until the Gulf is restored. Build your highways and develop anything you want - no Gulf the was it was before Macando, no me.

Gayle Spencer [bwfolks@pobox.com] added: Restoration of the ecosystems is the right and ethical action.

s k davis [kudlessdavis@aol.com] added: JUST BECAUSE THE GULF CATASTROPHE HAS FALLEN FROM NATIONAL HEADLINES DOES NOT NOT NOT MEAN THAT THE CLEANUP IS DONE. THE JOB MUST BE COMPLETED SUCH THAT THE ECOSYSTEMS AND WILDLIFE THERE HAVE RECOVERED - AS IN NOT DYING PREMATURELY, NOT HAVING REPRODUCTIVE ISSUES, NOT HAVING TO ADAPT TO A LOSS OF FOOD SOURCES.

Rose Bertrand [roseber@sbcglobal.net] added: I have a degree in Biology and years of graduate studies in Zoology and History of Science as well as lifelong personal study. We need to take care of this planet or it is going to stop taking care of us. That is a fact. We are already feeling the droughts, floods and excessive temperatures. We must use the monies gathered from the mammoth spill in the Gulf to FIX THE GULF insofar as it can be done.

Alex Mendelsohn [alexmm@roadrunner.com] added: The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan provides details on the Council's 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

Don't spend monies on anything except restoring the Gulf environment!

We are watching!

BettyJean Green [evergreens2@roadrunner.com] added:
I have been following the movement toward restoration of the ecosystems along the Gulg Coast. The use of poisonous dispersants in addition to the spilled oil adds to the urgency of take appropriate measures.

Laurinda Reinhart [spottedponyrider@netzero.net] added: Economic Development efforts cannot go forward until the environmental degradation affecting local communties, fisheries, and the safety of gulf towns is first addressed. local economies cannot rebound until the man made environmental issues affecting these communities are repaired.

Molly Brewton [m.brewton@frontiernet.net] added: I urge you to please use the funds paid in response to the BP spill to specifically mitigate the environmental damage done by the spill.
There is PLENTY to be done there, still.

If funds are used for any other purposes, it gives the impression of opportunism, which I'm sure you don't want.

Elizabeth Bird [lizzbird1@gmail.com] added: WILDLIFE FIRST. THEN ROADS.

Nancy Free [nefree@verizon.net] added: More should lhave been done already to restore the environment of the Gulf. Why hasn't it?

Elizabeth Nichols [eln2356@hotmail.com] added: THE ENVIROMENT SHOULD COME FIRST - OTHERWISE, WHY BOTHER.

CHAR BARCLAY [ms_spunky3@hotmail.com] added: This makes me sad to know we have to still fight to keep the gulf critters safe again and again.

Iris Csik [iriscsik@att.net] added:
I write today to ask you to please use the BP fine money to restore the environment to how it was prior to their manmade disaster. It is only a common sense use of these monies. Our natural resouces are priceless.

Paula DeFelice [paula.defelice@sbcglobal.net] added: Environmental damage funds should go to environmental reparations. Not just partially. Reparation in full.

Robert Cruder [bcruder@gmail.com] added: The Exxon Valdiz demonstrated that oil continues to do damage decades after the spill. It may be tempting to eliminate the visible oil and use remaining funds for other purposes. When the residual oil crashes the tourism and fishing industries once more how would one fund the cleanup/mitigation?

Rita Passer [rpasser@bellsouth.net] added: The last storm that went through there resurfaced just a part of it.

Shirley Powell [magicquilter@charter.net] added: I'm also pleased that you have indicated you will seek further public comment on a project list as it becomes available. It's important for stakeholders to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact their communities and inevitably have a national impact.

lawrence rosin [lawrencerosin@yahoo.com] added: The government should be using its money to support the development of the Gulf Coast system instead of big and immoral business leaders. There are animalsd in the Gulf Coast. Those animals could die. There are also plants there. They can die too. Some animals that live there will get sick if there are not enough plants around. They need plants, just like you and me. Special interest groups don't even deserve to get the funding. After causing money problems for the middle and lower classes, and all the pollution they caused; they deserve funding. I don't think so!

John Dabrowski [jldabrowski@verizon.net] added: It seems obvious that the fines from an environmental disaster should be dedicated to environmental restoration. Please in your final plan require that each Gulf state's plan also focuses on restoring the entironment, and reject any projects that do not support this goal.

Ecosystem restoration projects need to be the top priority. They will not only help wildlife deal with the lasting impacts of the oil spill, the will also protect communities and help restore the Gulf's resource-based economy. Restoring the Gulf ecosystem is the best use of BP's oil spill fine money. Please don't give in to special interests and allow the money to be used for other purposes.

Michele Shimizu [simizu@konan-wu.ac.jp] added: It's important for stakeholders to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact their communities and inevitably have a national impact.

Sierra Club Message (from 1,263 messages total):

Gulf Restoration Council

Dear Members of the RESTORE Council, Council,

The Gulf of Mexico's natural resources are vital to our long-term economic and environmental well-being and must be restored and safeguarded now and for the future. With the draft Comprehensive Plan, the Council has an opportunity to ensure that meaningful ecosystem restoration is implemented and science-based plans and projects are prioritized.

I urge you to cut through the pork-barrel politics and ensure that the Comprehensive Plan favors the natural resources and communities of the Gulf Coast. Any project that is considered by the Council should promote a healthier habitat not add to pollution or environmental degradation. Furthermore, a list of priority projects for the Council should be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Our coastal communities are some of the most vulnerable in the nation, and the inclusion of resilience strategies is critical to help preserve a region that is vital to the health of the nation. The Council has taken a step in the right direction. Please use this opportunity create a more sustainable and robust Gulf Coast.

<u>Unique Alterations:</u>

Linda Headley [parrotheadley@aol.com] added: +++Please see that our Gulf Coast is restored better than before it was
destroyed.
This area is vital to wildlife, buffering storms and a good Comprehensive plan must be put in place.
Thank You+++

John Davis [lutjanus2969@yahoo.com] added: Ever since the spill I have noticed a substantial.Decline in baitfish schools. The big pods of bait are absent or greatly deminished in some places that I have fished at for almost fifty years. Since the spill the bait pods get much less numerous.

J J Moran [jjrmoran@gmail.com] removed the first paragraph

Charles Clark [charleyharleyfarley@yahoo.com] removed the first paragraph and abbreviated the second and added: It's the right thing to do. Thank you,

Joan Miller [2jmillers@bellsouth.net] emphasized the NOT add pollution part of paragraph 2

Carolyn Breedlove [liliesagain@gmail.com] removed the final paragraph.

Joseph Scanlan [andanteros69@yahoo.com] added: Please don't forget about all the hidden damage done to our estuaries!
It is going to be a very long time before they can recover.

Kate Mabry [kate_mabry@bellsouth.net] added: First and foremost, the oil and gas industries should NOT be allowed special WAIVERS from the Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) regulations ever! British Petroleum's(BP) safety record is a sham.
Look at their refinery that blew up and killed fifteen workers in the past decade in Texas along with the eleven souls that perished in the Deep Horizon explosion in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. What health and safety precautions have been improvised due to this tragic and preventable deadly accident? Not only did eleven families experience heartbreak, never to see their husbands, sons, uncles, nephews, brothers, etc. again, but the marine resources of the Gulf were devastated as well and will continue to be for years to come. All
because of GREED on the part of BP. If you view the propaganda adds
on television (TV), you would think the Gulf of Mexico is now a paradise. The marine fisheries and economic fallout will be ruined for decades to come. Just take a look at the Exxon Valdez accident in Alaska. After 20 years of economic and environmental devastation as a consequence of that spill, the locals that were affected are to divide
only a little over $300 million in damages. What a sham! An Alabama
professor and her students are finding "DEAD zones" in the Gulf of Mexico now due to this disastrous oil leak that lasted for months spilling millions upon millions of gallons of oil into our once
beautiful Gulf of Mexico. The toxic effects of the dispersants used
are not even known. The chemicals used in them are not even public knowledge. As stewards of our public lands, waters and resources, it is imperative to protect the health and safety of human lives and our natural resources including marine, bird and land animals as well. BP is attempting to wrap up this tragedy with propaganda as quickly as possible and then move on. Make sure that BP is responsible and stays involved until the Gulf of Mexico is returned to its previous pristine state. It is your responsibility to be the good steward and "watch" dog.

Linda Jackson [lin_jackson@yahoo.com] added: PERSONAL NOTE: I DON'T THINK THAT BUILDING THE PROPOSED CONVENTION CENTER ON THE ALABAMA COAST IS A WISE USE OF BP MONEY. IN FACT, COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHORE LINE DOESN'T RESTORE THE HABITAT AT ALL.

Linda Norwood [naturalinda@gmail.com] added: WE ARE WAITING FOR YOUR HELP SO THAT WE CAN HELP OURSELVES BETTER!!
thank you so much.

Laura Morrison [lojomo2@hotmail.com] reworked the second paragraph to start with: I urge you to cut through the politics and ensure that the Comprehensive Plan favors the natural resources and communities of the Gulf Coast. This is what we have and it's up to us to be stewards and care for these amazing gifts for future generations.

Helen Hogle [beth.hogle@snclavalin-gds.com] added: We forget too soon that the devastation is still present. We must restore this area to its original state and BP should pay for every penny. We must also make sure this never happens again.

Barbara Davis [bdavis1879@charter.net] removed the Comprehensive Plan reference from the end of the first paragraph and just said the Council.

Garry Koudelka [garry69@hotmail.com] reworded the first sentence in the second paragraph to say: I urge you to CRIMINALIZE pork-barrel politics

Tawnya Sesi [tawnyarey@rocketmail.com] had a unique message of: Since pollution has a cumulative effect, I would like to see cleanup in many areas. All of the pollutive factors that affect the gulf should be addressed. These would include money being spent on storm water drainage trash and chemical pollutants, factory/chemical exhaust that is released into the air, but then settles on the water, and even support for efforts to curb litter from boats.

One small example would be to produce and air public announcements regarding the illegality of using gasoline or diesel fuel as weed killer, including the reasons for this law and the fines involved.

There are many small things like this that are cost-effective because they reach individuals in a way to which they can relate.

Mark Behrendt [mtbehrendt@gmail.com] added: Be a good stewards of what we have been given that future generations will be able to be thankful for what you have done today.

Deeda Coulson [deerc47@hotmail.com] added: take all that BP money and restore the damage they have done to our Gulf.

Patrick Kenny [patrickkenny1952@gmail.com] added: We have the oppotunity of reversing long term damage to the coastal gulf of Mexico region. Please take a long term viewand see past quick fixes.

Margaret Fogg [munsonfl@yahoo.com] had a unique message of: I live in Tallahassee, enjoy the easy access to the Gulf Coast area.
This area must be restored for present citizens and those of the future. I understand that with this draft of the Comprehensive Plan, the Council has an opportunity to ensure that meaningful restoration is implemented. A list of needed projects should be included.

Viktoria Harms [viktoriaharms@gmail.com] added: The Gulf Coast is so beautiful - please protect it!

Sheryl Hussey [sherylkhussey@gmail.com] added: As you are aware, oceans cover 71% of our planet and provide 97% of our drinking water.

Please do you best to reach a reasonable plan to safely produce oil and gas, and protect our environment. Thank you for your efforts!

Allan Peterson [apeterson71@mchsi.com] reworded the opening sentences to read: My family has lived facing the Gulf of Mexico for 40 years and we have seen first hand the destruction of fisheries, jobs and human losses.
Our natural resources are vital to our long-term economic and environmental well-being and must be restored and safeguarded now and for the future.

Candis Harbison [candis1@comcast.net] replaced the first paragraph with: I live on the Gulf Coast and I know how strong the pressure is to spend the BP money on "economic development" like roads and tourist advertising. We need, instead to spend it on protecting the natural resources that draw visitors and residents and businesses.
And the third paragraph with: Please use this opportunity create a more sustainable and robust Gulf Coast.

Sheila Kopaska-Merkel [dragonteaster@gmail.com] added: I love visiting the gulf coast and I and my extended family used to vacation there often, and will again. This treasure is, like children, ours to care for and love, but not ours to destroy. Please ensure that the plan does not add any more stress to this fragile treasure.

Carrie Read [carrieread21@gmail.com] added: This must be done to bring back a restored gulf coast not only for us but for future generations!!!!!!

Rebecca Hill [rebeccahill66@gmail.com] added: Most Americans, and now other people around the world, are dealing with the damage to our environment by the greed of the super rich. Greed can obviously cloud the mind, but even the super rich, will need a planet to live on. Please do whatever possible to restore the planet which is our home.

Cecelia Ottenweller [wonder_cat@yahoo.com] added: USE SPILL MONEY TO SUPPORT THE GULF OF MEXICO!!!!

What are you thinking?????

David And Raye Newton [dsnewt10@gmail.com] made very small changes from I to We and added: "As you know" to start.

Geoff Smith [geoffreyps@gmail.com] added: Please let these funds follow the spirit of the RESTORE act and actually clean up the oil spill.

Benjamin Craft-Rendon [benjamin.craft.rendon@gmail.com] rewrote the first paragraph to say: I am a second generation Houstonian, and so the Gulf of Mexico and its bounty are key parts of my childhood. After the Deepwater Horizon disaster, I fear Houston's children will not get a chance to make the same memories.
And the final paragraph to say: Gulf coast communities have been environmentally abused for decades, and have proven vulnerability to hurricanes and sea rise. We need fully funded coastal resilience strategies if we hope to preserve a region that is vital to the health of the nation. Please use this opportunity create a more sustainable and robust Gulf Coast.

Jerry Mayeux [jerry_mayeux@comcast.net] added: Consider the Connection to:
Environmental Conservation CTC2 [GULF COAST] www.facebook.com Jerry Lee Mayeux
www.twitter.com/CTC123GREEN

Bo Baggs [bo5483@netscape.net] added: We can do better!

Newell Croy Walls [ncwalls@comcast.net] added: "This is my back yard and a very personal issue to me."

Judith Sutherland [judirite@yahoo.com] added: We as citizens are responsible for the protection of the earth and its habitat - we cannot abandon that commitment!

Evelyn Evans [empevans@yahoo.com] added: I live about 30 ,miles inland from the Gulf I know its economic and environmental importance I strongly believe restoration and continuing protection is essential.

Elaine Freeman [free1314@bellsouth.net] added: Thank you in advance for your support!

William Thygerson [billonkauai@hotmail.com] added: The people affected by the BP oil spill are depending on you to ensure The Comprehensive Plan fixes the devastating effects of the spill on our natural habitats and the costal communities.

Janis Sawyer [jsawyer@paleink.com] added: "We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."
Aldo Leopold

Bruce Nelson [bnherbalnhc@yahoo.com] added: CLEAN, GREEN & RENEWABLE ENERGY IS A STRONG PATH TO PROTECTING THE GULF. IT IS TIME TO FOCUS ON ENERGY ALTERNATIVES AND BREAK THE ADDICTION TO DRILLING & THE USE OF OIL!

Marsha King [earthmama64@bellsouth.net] added: I live near Pensacola and still see the signs. Please protect the ecological resources of the Gulf Coast, they belong to us all.

Janet Wing [janet.wing@gmail.com] added: The Enviorment of the Gulf of Mexico to the start.

Melinda Ramsey [casabianca@live.com] rewrote the first half of the first paragraph to read: We who live, make a living, or own property on the Gulf of Mexico have lived with and certainly not forgotten the BP oil disaster and we are counting on you to restore our Gulf. Its natural resources are vital to our long-term economic and environmental well-being and must be restored and safeguarded now and for the future.

Hardy Loe [hardydloe@gmail.com] added: The restoration of the Gulf Coast to environmental standards is critical to the continued well-being of our planet. Please adopt the long term view to restoration and long term maintenance of the environmental quality of the Gulf of Mexico and it environs.

Nancy Wells [nancywells.nw@gmail.com] added: Be Mindful of those eager to line their pockets!! Make public, all along the Gulf coast especially, how every dollar is spent And WHO SPENDS IT!! As all states, our representatives are slick at re-routing funds or sharing with BUBBA. My deepest gratitude for an accountable public officials.
Yu

Ruth Seeliger [fct@neosoft.com] added: Restoration of the natural habitat to balance the ecosystem is vital to the health of the Gulf Coast. Nature does not recognize state lines, so a comprehensive plan for the whole coast is imperative. Commercial interests should definitely be put on the back burner. If the Gulf is sick, commerce won't matter. Furthermore, a list of priority projects for the Council should be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Suzanne Allen [iamspooky2@gmail.com] added: Please, I ask that you ensure that the Comprehensive Plan favors the natural resources and communities of the Gulf Coast. Any project that is considered by the Council should promote a healthier habitat and avoid further pollution or environmental degradation. Furthermore, a list of priority projects for the Council should be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

And: I'm counting on you to stand up for America's Gulf Coast.

Carolyn Deyo [cjdeyo@msn.com] rewrote the letter to read: Thank you for all you have done so far to help restore natural conditions in the Gulf following the disastrous oil spill. I want to say first of all that any effort to prevent such spills in the future, or efforts to make substantial changes to the current structures so that such environmental disasters are much less likely, are the most important efforts we can all make.

However, hand in hand with prevention must be actions that cure the environmental "diseases" now in progress because of past disasters, including the famous Deepwater Horizon Spill. The many long term effects are becoming known as research on marine and wetland populations continues. Funding for both research and recovery efforts is needed.
Ecosystems are complex and sensitive systems and some of the impacts of this spill are yet to be determined.
Please do what is in your power to continue to assist efforts to alleviate the impact of the oil that continues to infiltrate living tissues and water.
Thank you,

Lorna Wiggins [lornawiggins@bellsouth.net] added: Please help us restore one of the most pristine areas in our country to its natural beauty and environmnetal importance. We are depending on you to make this the kind of restoration that reflects the best of American ingenuity and does not allow politics to play into this effort.

Margaret De Fiore [lovebird10@sbcglobal.net] added: The people who live on and make their living from fishing the Gulf tell
what it is really like. Dead whales and no crabs, large balls of oil,
oil company employees removing evidence of the damage when large dead animals wash up and they whisk them away. When do you plan on forcing Big Oil to clean up their mess. These people also flush their bilges right at the 12 mile line. Do you think they care about the devastation? MAKE THEM CARE.

Rene Gelsomino [rene659@hotmail.com] added: You need to stop all wild life from being killed. They where here first and we need to help them to live a long life. We the people need to live with them, not kill them. Save all the land for them to live.

Sandra Gianturco, Ph.D. [sgianturco4241@charter.net] added: I grew up a few miles from Galveston Bay and the Gulf in League City, Texas (Galveston County). We depended on the Gulf for food, for recreation, for beauty. It was devastated by BP's foolhardiness. They are well known for their cavalier attitudes and practices in operating offshore. As a Rice University B.A 1965. and Ph.D.1974 and a Houston resident and a faculty at Baylor College of Medicine, I know many in the Oil Patch and the question was WHEN the big one would happen to BP.
It did in 2010. I have lived in Alabama for 25 years and it seems even more dependent on the Gulf's natural resources, which were badly hit by BP's massive blow out, leak, and ill advised use of dispersant. There is still a lot of petroleum on the floor of the Gulf, in the marshes, and, I am afraid from the taste, in the seafood now being legally, if perilous to consumers' health, harvested and eaten.

Jacob Delahoussaye [jdelahoussaye89@gmail.com] really wanted to emphasize: I urge you to

CUT THROUGH THE PORK BARREL POLITICS

and ensure that the Comprehensive Plan favors the natural resources and communities of the Gulf Coast.

Yolanda Ferguson [manufacturingj@yahoo.com] added: I want them clean up this toxic OIL DISPERSANT they spray, pumped, pour out out there millions of gallon .I want them find some way mitigate long term health consequencesI feel someone should have been required to ALERT PUBLIC LARGE ABOUT THIS STUFF .. to ban use of corexit 9500 ,Corexit 9527.

J Caine [jcaine8@comcast.net] added: As a resident of Florida, I know our coastal communities are some of the most vulnerable in the nation, and the inclusion of resilience strategies is critical to help preserve a region that is vital to the health of the nation. The Council has taken a step in the right direction. Please use this opportunity to create a more sustainable and robust Gulf Coast.

I also urge the strategies planned include prevention of further disasters to the Gulf Coast. We must keep in mind that there is no such thing as safe aquisition of oil and petroleum.

Russell Riley [rrriley71@att.net] added: Taxpayers of the Gulf Coast SHOULD NOT have to pay BP greediest, cheap ways, failure to follow rules and regulations as set forth by the U.S. government! Congress and Obama should see that justice is done, even if Great Britain is an major ally; they would expect nothing less if a U.S. company destroyed one of their oceans!

Deborah Jensen [djensen1968@gmail.com] added: I have been a part of science teacher workshops in Galveston, so I may know more about the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem than others in Texas do. I want to preserve the environment in the Gulf, though I certainly appreciate the economics of sustainability. There are so many people in our area that make their living from the Gulf, more people who enjoy the Gulf, and then there are people who just want to take anything they want from the Gulf without regards to anyone or anything else. Texas and the USA needs to stand up to these inept, greedy spoilers of our coastal waters.

Franklin King [franklinking@hotmail.com] added: One has to really love the way the politicians protect big oil and the tax breaks and welfare payments they get. One hand washing the other works well for the politicians and big oil while the rest of use pay though the nose and at the pumps for it.

Ronald Miller [rpm76661@live.com] added: Members of the Gulf Restoration Council, thank you for considering our request.

Bonnie Andrus [bonniejocean@gmail.com] added: I live near the Gulf. Please, please restore it. There's NO reason not to.

Donna Erlich [desevens@gmail.com] added: The destruction of the tinest marine life affects the entire food chain. It is important to restrore the marine life and birds killed to the same amount of biodiversity and strength of species as before the oil spill. The ocean is suffering and we got to make it better.

Joseph Schmidt [josepheschmidt@att.net] added: Louisiana is the most fragile coastline on the Gulf coast and took a particularly hard hit from the effects of the oil spill. A large percent of energy comes from our area. By restoring and protecting the coast we are helping all Americans.

Tom Ring [spike2dog@gmail.com] added: Get off your butts and come to the Gulf of Mexico and find out that the job hasn't been completed, to your satisfaction, or mine.

Maureen Rodriguez [remybenoit@gmail.com] added: We should see ourselves as caretakers of the planet, not destroyers.To allow this pollution of the Gulf to continue is unacceptable. To allow poor maintenance is criminal. Seven generations should be written into each piece of legislation; each piece of oversight; each piece of bringing to justice those who care not for the planet nor her inhabitants. What is happening in the Gulf pathetic and cannot continue.

Keith Pettway [keith@keithpettway.com] added: My grandparents lived on the Gulf Coast, my mother lived on the Gulf Coast. As a child I fished and crabbed on the Gulf Coast. We need to do whats right to restore the Gulf Coast.

Julie Nowling [julienowling@yahoo.com] rewrote it to read: I live an hour's drive from the Gulf Coast and go there often for vacation and recreation. I've always felt a strong connection to the environment, and my heart was broken when the oil spill occurred three years ago. Over the years, going to the Gulf Coast and seeing its beauty and the diversity of marine life has always been almost a spiritual experience for me. It is very important to me that when the BP monies are received that they be used for the benefit of the ecosystem and the Gulf marine life. Please keep this in mind when making decisions regarding the Gulf Coast Restoration.

Thank you,
Julie

Lyn Gladey [lyngladney@yahoo.com] specified Louisiana in the first paragraph and asked nicely to "Please cut through the pork-barrel politics".

Janet Widell [widelja@charter.net] added: The opportunity to restore and improve the ecosystem of the Gulf and the resources comes once. Fish, oysters, turtles and fish species remain fragile. The funding needs to give priority to restoring these populations.

William Hoenes [spibill@ymail.com] added: I live on South Padre Island, TX and live with the economy of the Gulf.

Wison Bagwell [knoxberries@msn.com] added: With a list of Federal Guidelines and quick, approvals...the local,affected counties should make specific, local decisions...GET The Pork OUT of IT !!!

Lindy Brown [lindy@outdoorgulfcoast.com] added: Our communities and families need clean waterways and healthy food supplies for survival and recreation. It's my family's goal with our small business, Outdoor Gulf Coast, to help other families on the Florida/Alabama Gulf Coast get outdoors and enjoy time together.
Restore the Gulf and restore families. Restore families and restore communities. Restore communities and restore the country. Restore a country and restore the world. Please help!

Sandra Herrin Swindall [sswindall@charter.net] added: As a resident of Alabama, my family frequently vacations on our beautiful gulf coast. Like others around our nation, we watched in horror as the BP oil spill threatened all that is so beautiful and so vital to our people and the wildlife that depend on this area for survival.

James Lazell [hq@theconservationagency.org] added: I am a professional conservation biologist who grew up spending summer vacations on the Gulf: I care.

Robert Hyer II [rhyer@gulftel.com] added: Alabama is using money to build a hotel directly in the path of 40 foot tidal surges because they're stealing the money. Why can't the Bama Republicans pay for their motel with hydrocarbon contracts or dead Iraqis?

Alesia Leingang [aalesiaa@msn.com] added: On a personal note...I was disgusted to find tar balls on the Gulf Coast beaches while camping at Fort Pickens during Easter break. Please restore our once beautiful Gulf Coast by cleaning up the waters that have polluted & killed far too many wildlife!

David Briles [dbriles@uab.edu] added: The Gulf of Mexico is a very important part of our natural heritage. Please move quickly to get an adequate plan implemented so we will have our pristine natural areas again.

Marion Hulen [hhulen@sbcglobal.net] added: Please make the environment a priority and restore the Gulf.

Gary Gibson [gary30a@gmail.com] added to the third paragraph: Louisiana and Mississippi are still seeing the devastating effects of the BP spill. Northwest Florida's coastline is still saturated with deadly Corexit chemicals. Large areas of the Gulf floor are dead wastelands still covered in oil. A list of priority projects for the Council should be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mack Shaffer [mackshaffer@yahoo.com] added: Our natural resources in and around the Gulf of Mexico are vital to our long-term economic and environmental well-being. We ask for your help in the restoration; safeguarding the environment and us now and in the future.

"With the draft Comprehensive Plan, the Council has an opportunity to ensure that meaningful ecosystem restoration is implemented and science-based plans and projects are prioritized."
(Sierra Club)

I urge you to favor the natural resources and communities of the Gulf Coast.

Please support a healthier habitat and help reduce the pollution/environmental degradation.

"Our coastal communities are very vulnerable, and the inclusion of resilience strategies is critical to help preserve a region that is vital to the health of the nation. The Council has taken a step in the right direction. Please use this opportunity to create a more sustainable and robust Gulf Coast." (Sierra Club)

Jane Grosslight [janegrosslight@mindspring.com] added: I live 30 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. It's natural resources are vital to our long-term economic and environmental well-being and must be restored and safeguarded now and for the future. Ensure that this meaningful ecosystem restoration is implemented and science-based plans and projects are prioritized.

Ocean Conservancy Message (886 messages total):

Chair, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Rebecca Blank

Dear Chair, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Blank,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan. As a resident of the Gulf region, I am pleased to see that the plan generally addresses what have been long-standing priorities for those of us who make a living on the Gulf Coast, including a comprehensive approach, recognition that public engagement is critical, and a clear commitment to using the best available science.

The task ahead is monumental, but it is time to make the tough decisions on how exactly we intend to restore the Gulf. This isn't about picking a list of projects; it's about creating a strategy and framework that will guide project selection, long-term monitoring and science in a coordinated and thoughtful sequence that will allow us to truly restore the resources we rely on for our livelihoods. We can't do that without a plan that has the detailed principles, criteria and objectives we need to get there. The plan must incorporate the
following:

* Additional science- and community- based criteria to ensure that projects have multiple benefits and contribute to an overall vision for a healthy Gulf

* Establishment of a science advisory committee to provide advice on the best available science and on restoration at a programmatic level, as well as a public policy advisory board

* Meaningful public engagement, using the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council as a model for public participation

* Specific information about how the objectives in the Plan will be achieved using the best available science

* Project implementation lists that contribute to achieving most--if not all--of the objectives listed in the plan; projects chosen should have multiple benefits.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore the Gulf not only in the wake of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, but also from the decades of degradation the Gulf has already suffered. We have only one chance to get it right, and it is vital that you and the Restoration Council defines how you intend to restore the natural resources, communities and economies of the Gulf Coast.

<u>Unique Alterations:</u>

Margaret Adams [skylark9@earthlink.net]added:

P1: “I am gratified to see that the plan generally addresses what have been long-standing priorities for those who make a living on the Gulf Coast, including a comprehensive approach, recognition that public engagement is critical, and a clear commitment to using the best available science.”

P2: “As you well know, the task ahead is monumental, but it is high time to make the tough decisions on how exactly to restore the Gulf. This isn't about picking a list of projects; it's about creating a strategy and framework that will guide project selection, long-term monitoring and science in a coordinated and thoughtful sequence that will allow the complete restoration of the resources the inhabitants rely on for their livelihoods. This cannot be done without a plan that has the detailed principles, criteria and objectives needed to get there. The plan must incorporate the following: * additional science- and community- based criteria to ensure that projects have multiple benefits and contribute to an overall vision for a healthy Gulf;

* establishment of a science advisory committee to provide advice on the best available science and on restoration at a programmatic level, as well as a public policy advisory board;

* meaningful public engagement, using the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council as a model for public participation;

*specific information about how the objectives in the Plan will be achieved using the best available science; and

* project implementation lists that contribute to achieving most--if not all--of the objectives listed in the plan; projects chosen should have multiple benefits.”

P5: “Thank you so much!”

David Weber [dweber@exeter.edu] added:

P1: “With respect, "restoration" means more than "gross decontamination." Please do not repeat the errors of the Exxon Valdez case. Please think biology, not just toxins. (And please deal with toxins at the level where they are no longer visible to the unaided eye.) Otherwise restoration will not happen in your lifetime.”

Delores Hardin [deloresrhardin@yahoo.com] added:

P2: “I am a resident of Franklin County, Florida and am very much aware of the problems faced by the local communities that rely on a healthy marine environment. Tourism, fishing and all kinds of seafood are the lifeblood of this region. All of us are stressed out about the damage done to the gulf by oil and chemicals.”

J Allen [jallen@akllp.com] Changed:

P3: “Public engagement, using the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council as a model for public participation” [removed “meaningful]

Michael Bayouth [baybaysparky@sbcglobal.net] Added:

P1: “The devastation is heart breaking....”
Christina R Celano [crcelano@comcast.net] Added:

P4: “…and the Gulf itself.”

Clay G. Colson [paeos@aol.com] Added:

Signature: “Thanks, peace and be well,
Clay G. Colson
Board Director and Water Issues Chair
Citizens for Sanity.Com, Inc.
Public need over corporate greed
(813) 601-3391

citizensforsanity.com

"Only after the last tree has been cut down, Only after the last river has been poisoned, Only after the last fish has been caught, Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten."--- Cree Indian Proverb”

Stacy Jenkins [stacyjenkins@hotmail.com] Added:

P5: “Thank you for your consideration.”

Stephen Sleeper [waloug@gmail.com] Added:

P5: “PLEASE, DO NOT allow BP to get by without ENTIRELY restoring the Gulf to it's pre-spill pristinity. Prove to corporations that there ARE consequences for there "profit above all" mentality. We have to stop allowing them to treat our planet like we have another one to go to!!”

Julie Phillips [julipmd@cs.com] Changed:
P1: “I am pleased to see that the plan generally addresses what have been long-standing princludes for conservationists, including a comprehensive approach, recognition that public engagement is critical, and a clear commitment to using the best available science.”

Carol Nilsen [cnilsen@tampabay.rr.com] Added:
P5: “I wish to add at least one thing-the Valdez oil spill which was much smaller continued to destroy and pollute for more than twenty years; sadly, perhaps it still is.....so we need all the benefits our beautiful Gulf needs and more!”

Darcy Smes [darcysdesk@yahoo.com]
P1: “The fate of the Gulf is deeply important to me. Not only do I live here but I have an infant grandson who will be spending time along its beautiful shores for the next hundred years or so!”

Edwin Fox [edwinfox@aol.com] Added:

P1: “It is time to stop the neglect of the environment of the USA. For too many years we hear about protecting the environment but find the reality is only lip service from local, state and national politicians.

If we don't stop the exploitation of the water systems of this world, we will create an environment where problems get worse and worse."

Richard Poole [catbird@cfl.rr.com] Removed:

P 1, 2, 4

Marcia Bailey [wilmarc83@gmail.com] Changed:

P1: "for those of us who live on the Gulf Coast…"

Changed: P2: "restore the resources residents rely on for their livelihoods."

Added: P5: "The Gulf is an important body of water, and we need to try to get restoration right because there will be more oil spills and other assaults on this body of water which gives pleasure to many and provides a livelihood for others."

*BILL VOM WEG (2 EMAILS) [INFO@ONE6YEARTERMLIMITS.ORG] Added:

P5: "I AM HOPING FOR BUT NOT LIMITED BY LACK OF UNDERSTANDING FROM THE MEMBERS THAT THE MOST EFFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE WAY WE CAN AMERLIORATE OUR PHYSICAL AND PHYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IS BY CHANGING OUR REPRESENTTATION/MANAGEMENT OF SOCIETAL INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNMENTAL AND NON GOVERNMENTAL TO ONE 6 YEAR TERM LIMITS.
WWW.ONE6YEARTERMLIMITS.ORG

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF INTERRELATED COMPETING "GOODS" BUT THE COMMON GOOD 90% OF THE TIME LOSES OUT TO SHORT TERM SUBJECTIVE SPECIAL INTEREST GOALS WHEN THE MAJORITY OF ALL PEOPLE SURVEYED BELIEVE ABOUT 85% OF ALL PEOPLE ARE GOOD AND WOULD WORK FOR THE COMMON GOOD IF THERE WERE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD. ONE 6 YEAR TERM LIMITS IS THE MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD."

Adriana Faraldo [adrianafaraldo@yahoo.com] Added:
P1: "To cherish what remains of the earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope for survival." -Wendell Berry

Shan Albert [shanals@earthlink.net] Removed:
P2

Rolaine Smoot [ghostcat@tampabay.rr.com]

P3: "* Specific information about how the objectives in the Plan will be achieved using the best available science! Look how we cleaned up Tampa Bay!"

Ben Arnold [benarnoldjr@yahoo.com] Added:

P1: "Yes, the following is, in fact, a form letter, but you may safely assume ever word of it as my own:"

Robert Hicks [rahicks@charter.net] Changed:

P1: “As a resident of the Pacific coast and one who is very concerned about the ecosystem health of our ocean environment,”

Val Dear [vdearc1@yahoo.com] Removed:

Part of P1: “including a comprehensive approach, recognition that public engagement is critical, and a clear commitment to using the best available science.”

Separated P4: “This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore the Gulf not only in the wake of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, but also from the decades of degradation the Gulf has already suffered.

We have only one chance to get it right, and it is vital that you and the Restoration Council defines how you intend to restore the natural resources, communities and economies of the Gulf Coast.”

Patricia Wilson [patty8778@gmail.com] Added:

P5: “BP on TV tries to suggest they have done a good job cleaning up the Gulf, but it tries to get people's minds off that by telling us how many thousands of jobs they have created for people, instead of detailing more of what they have cleaned up.”

Martha Milne [milnemw@netzero.net] Changed:

P1: “As a resident of the Gulf region, I am glad to see that the plan…”

Susanna Heideman [susanna@columbus.rr.com] Removed:

Part of P1: “As a resident of the Gulf region, I am pleased to see that the plan generally addresses what have been long-standing priorities for those of us who make a living on the Gulf Coast, including a comprehensive approach, recognition that public engagement is critical, and a clear commitment to using the best available science.”

Linda Carroll [lindalouise701184951@yahoo.com] Added:

P1: “As a resident of New Orleans who is deeply concerned about the restoration of the Gulf, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan.”

P4: “Please construct a thorough and ample plan for Gulf restoration that includes public engagement and means of monitoring progress and insuring completion of objectives.”

Kady Cherry [kady.cherry01@gmail.com] Added:

P1: “I am sure you have gotten many of the messages such as the one below. I have a life goal of cleaning of the oceans. These are some of MY
thoughts:

Involve citizens. Galveston is a poor community and has virtually no mandates of the beach. Much of their trash goes into the ocean. Offer jobs for beach clean up. Free housing... work with the non-profits to have the money for this. It would be easily done. Crystal beach is exceptionally bad. People camp and party there then leave TONS of trash. I mean, one to three huge trash bags per mile. I have cleaned both of these. It is ridiculous and would be appallingly easy to clean up if the right attention is given. California does a wonderful job keeping their beaches clean. Perhaps there are ideas there. I think the best thing to do would be start beach clean up group, that are in charge of cleaning beaches and working out what needs to be done. Then actually work with them. This could so easily be solved. Please help.
The ocean being dirty breaks my heart because its unnecessary and so easily fixed and I love all the sea creatures there. Thank you!"

Ted von Hippel, Ph.D. [ted@astro.as.utexas.edu] Changed:

P2: "It is now time to make the tough decisions on how exactly we intend to restore the Gulf."

Vincent L [sirquickwit@aol.com] Changed:
June 11, 2013

P1: "Thanks"

Barbara Costa [myshimicat@yahoo.com] Added:

P2: "Restoring the Gulf is personal to me. I live on the Gulf and swim and kayak in it. I watch the birds animals who live in it. Please don't let us down"

Virginia Hitchcock [chotapeg@comcast.net] added: * A science advisory committee to provide the best available science and on restoration at a programmatic level, as well as a public policy advisory board

Diane Blackburn [dblackburn@unitedmechanical.com] added: IF YOU CAN'T CLEAN YOUR MESS UP - YOU SHOULD NOT BE DOING BUSINESS AT THE EARTH'S EXPENSE

Janet Dean [dean1111@gmail.com] added: I LIVE on the Gulf of Mexico and I feel very strongly that the restoration must be done correctly for the benefit of everyone who lives on or near, makes a living from or eats from the Gulf of Mexico.

Lisa Stevens [gypsylisa@hotmail.com] added: Please don't neglect the details in the Gulf restoration plans. Otherwise we risk making dumb mistakes or merely putting a bandage on the damage which will soon fall off.

terese collins [terese@tpcollins.com] changed: public engagement, with meetings in each state with adequate notice of meetings

James Lazell [hq@theconservationagency.org]
P1: As a professional biologist and ecologist I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan.

Alf Shackley [ashackley@verizon.net] added: What kind of day is it:

The automotive industry is
basically an unlicensed arms dealer selling chemical weapon systems that are the world's most active weapon of mass destruction, the internal combustion engine of monoxide monsters. New car franchised dealerships have never conducted legal and legitimate business, on any given day of the week, due to training to use the four square which they say they don't do any more as they do the same thing but call it something else that has not been publicly exposed yet, which is a criminal offense of perjury during the legal proceedings of negotiating a legal contract so that they obtain the customer's signature on the sales contract by committing a criminal offense, which renders the legality of the contract null & void, thus nobody leaves the car lot with any legal paperwork on the vehicle. All in all this is a criminal conspiracy to commit global genocide, a plot, scheme & conspiracy of the criminally insane, who are chronically afflicted and chronically addicted to the affliction and thus are mentally unfit for active duty, Section 8s, and Group W, traitors who have defected to Domestic Enemy or Foreign Enemy forces that everyone swore an oath of allegiance to defend against, on day one when they were sworn in.
Everyone has a duty to police the unit and relieve superior ranking officers of their duty to be remanded to custody to be court marshaled if they are guilty of such misconduct & breach of contract. In the area, under your jurisdiction, is this activity a departmental standard of operations or the subject of disciplinary actions? What is the typical reaction by Internal Affairs to the criminal behavior that is relative to this situation, ditto inter-departmental relations? Does your department function as civil servants who protect & serve the populace or the criminal conspiracy to commit global genocide? Is your ST Rating Survival Tactics or Suicidal Tendencies? How will you fare under assessment?
Good Day: The transportation systems that link the world together MUST be changed From Environmentally, Biologically, Financially DETRIMENTAL Change To Environmentally, Biologically, Financially BENEFICIAL Non-Compliance is a mandatory court marshal offense, mandatory death penalty, charges of Treason, Terrorism, War Crimes, Criminal Conspiracy to Commit Global Genocide, Defection to Domestic or Foreign Enemy Forces that everyone who occupies official positions swore an oath of allegiance to defend against on day one when they were sworn in, their first constant official duty. Countermands MUST be remanded to custody to pending mandatory court marshals, mandatory death penalty or Destroyed Upon Detection. Make It So, People. Speaker of The House, US Congress, Pro Tem, Commanding.100,000RPM Brushless DC Motor, running a gear reduction unit, running multiple generators, one gen provides power to run that motor, other gens provide power to 100,000RPM Brushless DC Motor w/gear reduction unit and electrical systems.
Chemical respirator type filters on air filtration system, exhaust is clean, breathable air. Reference Dr. Otto Warburg, Nobel Prize Winning Biochemist, O2 RDA 38% present levels 25% to 12% and at 7% lethal event for homo sapiens. The Solution to Pollution. I have in the past got the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin to Implement the Kyoto Protocol, recently my black & white magick ceremonial spear set was sold to Sandy, who took them to Germany, now Mercedes Benz builds cars like my
09 Toyota Corolla Super Sport which has had HOD(Hydrogen On Demand) professionally installed by a Certified Hydroxygen Technician, a unit designed by NASA Engineers. Reference fuelgeniesystems.com I am the third district manager of Fuel Genie Systems, Inc. a division of Hydrogen, Inc. Consider the atmospheric content of what you breathe everyday. Domestic or Foreign Enemy occupation retaliated by deploying weather weapons divisions and attacked New England, where I was born and lived until I was 18 Super Storm Sandy.FCC International Trade Commission have done nothing to get me any money albeit interstate international trafficking in stolen property, my vocal musical performances stolen in burgerlery armed robbery for which my fee is 100,000,000.00USD per year an ongoing event for more than 45 years.
Help me get the restitution that is owed me.

Monies owed can be deposited in paypal account ashackley@verizon.net Daily Devotional---You must acquire knowledge, understanding, & wisdom & administer justice.---Proverbs Chapter 1 Verses 2-5---The Four Corners of The World of Life on The Sacred Pathe Civil Servants MUST be in favor of the 3 basic sacred living trinities, Health, Happiness, Humanity; Peace, Prosperity, People; The Body & The Mind, The Temple & The Shrine, The Spirit, The Church. You already put in 24/7/52 presence there, perceive life with reverence, cleanse, purify, & sanctify the world around you that the 3 basic sacred living trinities will flourish & thrive as a bountiful harvest.
This is something we must succeed in accomplishing in our lives, the only alternative is earning death & damnation as a destiny. Prepare for your second quantum leap in evolution, when the spiritual umbilical is severed and you are born again. Life goes full circle we seek the source & origin as our destination, the eternal sacred paradise we originated from as immortal sacred life forms. Blessed Be My Child---Rev. Alf Shackley

Sharon Reynolds [seadreamstar@juno.com] added:
P1: We live 30 miles from the Gulf & we like to spend time in and near the water.Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan.

Sandy Rosenthal [hoppinhill@gmail.com] added:
P1:
When it's too late, we will realize that all our planet's critters are important.

thomas aldridge [thomasaldridge95112@yahoo.com] added: It is time for the scientists to take an active and major role in the restoration of the Gulf. I hate to think of all the chemicals that were dumped into the Gulf to disperse the oil. I hate to think of the ongoing harm that has been done to the marine life. Only the scientist can find out the true amount and nature of the damage and only the scientists can come up with a great game plan to restore the Gulf .

Vera Stewart [verastewart1@yahoo.com] added: TIME ALLOWS SOME TO FORGET WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Jo Ellen Pearman [joellenpearman@yahoo.com] added: Not having seen the plan that's been drawn up, my input may be repetitive of issues that have already been addressed. I live on St.
George Island off the panhandle of Florida, so that is the only area that I can personally speak about. With saying that, it's understood that each area of the gulf offers different benefits. It seems obvious that each area of the gulfs waters need to be testes on a regular basis in order to make sure it has what is needed to sustain it's bounty.
This particular area is known for it's oysters, but due to a chain of events, the oysters are struggling to survive. The balance of fresh water, salt water, and nutrients needed for the oysters has been depleted. I'm not going to get into the whole Lake Lanier issue, but, a solution to our fresh water supply needs to be addressed to restore this area of the gulf.
I don't like government regulations any more than anyone else, but people have gotten greedy as far as what they expect from the gulf. We need to stop raping it for the almighty dollar. Give it time to regenerate what nature intended. I'm no scientist, but it's common sense to realize we can't take more than the gulf can offer.
Another point, we are the only area, required by law, to continue harvesting our oysters by hand. Hence, less damage is done to the ones trying to grow. This may be an option for other areas.

I guess the bottom line is realizing that each area of the gulf is different as far as it's needs. Test the waters, regulate, and enforce any rules that are put in place. Getting greedy to take what the gulf has to offer will simply put everyone in the poor house. And find Atlanta another source of fresh water so they can stop siphoning from Lake Lanier, and ruining our part of the gulf!

Cynthia DiSanto [spaghetti46@hotmail.com] added: we love our oceans in the southeast, northeast and everywhere people enjoy the coastline!!! keep the ocean and its beaches pristine, the ocean suffers from too much environmental pollution as it is, Shell needs to clean up everything that was spilled, 3 years or 30 years!!

Kristina Jackson [kristina_jackson1@yahoo.com] added: This isn't about picking a list of projects; it's about creating a strategy and framework that will guide project selection, long-term monitoring and science in a coordinated and thoughtful sequence that will allow us to truly restore the resources we rely on for our livelihoods. We can't do that without a plan that has the detailed principles, criteria and objectives we need to get there. The plan must incorporate the following:

Environmental Defense Fund (19,167 messages total):

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Dear Restoration Council,

I appreciate that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan provides more details on the Council's 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment.

In the spirit of the promises made by the President and leaders in Congress, the Council must reject any projects that do not support this goal. I urge you to include language in the Final Initial Comprehensive Plan that provides clear direction to the Gulf states that restoring the Gulf ecosystem is the best use of BP's oil spill fine money, which will, in turn, create jobs and restore the Gulf's resource-based economy.

I'm also pleased that you have indicated you will seek further public comment on a project list as it becomes available. It's important for stakeholders to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact their communities and inevitably have a national impact.

Sincerely,

Alterations:

Nancy Ambers Massar [barryallen@woh.rr.com] added: B.P. should
not be permitted to air advertisements saying how great the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill clean-up is progressing until the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council plans meet ecosystem rehabilitation standards of habitat biologists that are informed of the health of the gulf region impacted by this industrial pollution. The land sea interface deserves protection for the future of humankind's gulf food resources.

The Gulf Coast must be returned to full function as an area that can support the naturally occurring life forms so that humankind can once again reap the benefits of food and recreation from this special place on Earth.

Business interests should never come before quality of life impact. Thanks for your time.

Dean Sigler [muchcatfur@comcast.net] added: Since there are reports of massive further layers of oil in the depths of the Gulf, it would seem we haven't finished the cleanup at all.
Please direct the fines toward that goal.

John Ventre [jv3free@yahoo.com] added: President Obama, most of the Senators, Congress people, Governors, and state leaders are Christians. Christianity teaches that the natural world called the

Garden of Eden was created by God in a purity to last forever. Also, support human life to ultimate health.. It is the responsibility of present day Christians to respect and honor god's original plan.

Bert Whitehair [bpwhitehair@netzero.com] added: It's for the restoration of impacted ecosystem, not for a new highway to no where.

Norman Morley [nmorley39@sbcglobal.net] added: Personally speaking, 100% should go to the restoration of the Gulf, as all those other projects are side shows intended to siphon off funds that belong to the restoring what the BP spill killed, which is still poisoning the Gulf and the food chain. I won't eat any Gulf fish because of that poisoning.

Thomas Fusco [tfusco2@myfairpoint.net] added: Thank you for your time and focus on restoration of the gulf coast ecosystem it is the most important thing to restore peoples lives.

Lorraine Forte [l.forte@earthlink.net] added: I"m sorry, should the tone of this message begging you to do what you were created to do be more demanding?

30% dedicated solely to environmental restoration? Is that really a victory? I know that seeking further public comment is usually a way of deflating an issue.

Please stop pandering to the the perpetuation of a destructive industry and do something brave. Make all BP money be used for the damage it did to our valuable environment.

Martha Birkenshaw [lrhemrev@aol.com] added: Bp's oil spill fine money is for one purpose only. Do what's right for once!

James Lazell [hq@theconservationagency.org] added: I am a professional biologist with a long career invested in conservation.

James D. Bloom [jimbloom56@comcast.net] added: HABITAT NOT HIGHWAYS!

Joe Ratliff [joe_ratliff@sbcglobal.net] added: As a retired federal scientist, I am very aware of the enormous, long term damage that occurs to fragile ecosystems from extensive oil spills.

Robert Mortenson [mortrobt@metc.net] added: It is the
environment that draws hundreds of thousands of tourist to your area.
Without those tourists dollars being spent because your environment is still damaged, your local people will be devastated.

Carol Neill [clneill6312@att.net] added: The priority is to clean up the gulf! The funding allocation should be MORE than 30% to restore the gulf to its former gulf-spill state. The animals that live there deserve more!
Walter Baranowski [wpbjr2150@aol.com] added: Despite their efforts BP cannot be trusted to protect the enviorment. They must be held accountable by contract in the event of another disaster.

Sybil Malinowski Melody [sybil@melodylife.com] added: BP continues to contaminate the Gulf so clean up must be a priority, though plugging the leak is still needed.

Sarah Weil [splashrider@nc.rr.com] added: Please make sure this ecosystem is fully restored.

Joyce Greenberg [joyce@westwoodrealty.com] added: It was the environment and wildlife that was most affected by BP's negligence. Any money recovered from that incompetent company should pay to repair the environmental damage, not build roads.

Connie Maxson [conniemaxson21@yahoo.com] added: I am truly hoping that the environment becomes top priority as we are in a desperate situation that can only be aggrivated by doing nothing and running out of time to save the delicate eco-system that has been ravaged by the BP Oil Spill.

Susan Hathaway [susanhathaway@earthlink.net] added: If "our" government were looking out for the people's interests, you wouldn't have let BP off with barely a slap on the wrist to begin with. Now you want to let the inadequate fines that were levied be used for something other than to mitigate the enormous damage you let them get away with doing. I wish professional politicians were capable of feeling shame.

kathleen duey [kathleenduey@earthlink.net] added: The original and most important part of this plan is part of its title ***Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council**** Use use the funding for it's original purpose!!!!!

Laura Adkins [140sandals@gmail.com] added: Millions of people are watching what you are doing,

Peter Curia [pgeometro@yahoo.com] added: PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT BY RESTORING IT!

Linda Headley [parrotheadley@aol.com] added: Please do not cave into "special interest" groups that have their own agenda for the recovery dollars. ALL the money is needed for restoration and protection of wildlife habitat, etc.
Thank You++++++

Marian Cooley [mariancooley@att.net] added: I know that
much harm was caused by the use of chemicals to break up the oil and want to know that the animals have a safe habitat.

R-J Zaczyk [savetheafricanelephant@yahoo.com] added: Stop playing politics and fix the environment with the funds dedicated just for that!

Rex Roberts [rexrober@hotmail.com] added: Since the windfall to the Gulf Coast came from BP's trashing of the environment, shouldn't most (if not all) of the money go to repairing the environment???

Vicki Anderson [gurlcatrider@yahoo.com] added: HOW DARE WE CONSIDER NOT USING ALL THESE ILL GOTTEN GAINS TO MAKE GOOD OUT OF BAD????

William H. Miller [5mcorp@comcast.net] added: Let's call the greedy s.o.b.'s what they are - GREEDY!

MaryKay Rodarte [marykayspage@hotmail.com] added: Use this money for restoring the gulf and increasing natural restorations which can improve the management of winds and waves.

Jack Cooper [jacklawrencecooper@gmail.com] added: NO HIGHWAYS OR HOTELS FROM BP FINES.!!!

Gunta Alexander [guntale@comcast.net] added: If the ecological viability of this region is restored, the economic benefits will follow naturally.

Sheri Snyder [dreamcatcherco@sbcglobal.net] added: Highways are no doubt greatly needed in the area--as they desperately are across the nation--since the Congress can't seem to loosen the country's purse-strings to repair crumbling infrastructure. But the remedy/mission for that is a different one than yours, in my opinion.
The remedy for needed economic development projects is likewise different than your mission to restore an area hard-ht by the biggest ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER in American history. Your job is to fix the environment as much as humanly possible--and don't let principals and monied interests prevail who hope to--once again--enrich themselves at the expense of the health and well-being of animals, humans, and the natural world.

Deborah Kavruck [dkavruck@gmail.com] added: Please do the right thing.

Anita Scheunemann [arscheu@comcast.net] added: Is that not why the fine was levied?!

Barbara Hegedus [hpixel@peoplepc.com] added: FIX THE ENVIRONMENT - DON'T PANDER TO SPECIAL INTERESTS!!!

THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON RESTORING THE ENVIRONMENT, NOT ANYTHING ELSE THE STATES (SPECIAL INTERESTS) WANT MONEY FOR.

Catherine Forslund [cforslund@rockford.edu] added: Even though I am not a resident of the Gulf Coast region effected by the BP oil spill, I visit my mother who lives near the Coast on the Florida side more than once every year. Thus, I know how important the natural environment is to the welfare of everyone who lives and works along the Gulf coast whether human or animal,

The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment and not letting it fall to second place in the race with other interests to use the funds elsewhere in the often-distorted claim of "economic development."

Sigmund Finman [f1@finman-lorrin.com] added: You inherit the suffering that your actions cause the environment if you give BP money to non-environmental projects.

Phyl Morello [1432phyl@gmail.com] added: ALL MONEY FROM BP FINES MUST GO FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION!

Marie Switzer [rswitzer23@cox.net] added: WITH COMPANIES LIKE BP AND THE LIKES, THE ECOSYSTEM IS IN GRAVE DANGER.

SINCE BP IS NOT WHAT THEY CLAIM TO TRULY RESTORING THE AREA THEY HAVE DESTROYED.

WE CAN NOT TRUST THE POLITCIANS TO DO THE CORRECT THING FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Judith Teller-Tauber [tellerny@aol.com] added: Restoring the environment should be a requirement of every one of the Gulf state's final plan.

Larry Lemos [lorenzorro1960@yahoo.com] added: The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment.

The environment, from which all economy flows, should be restored First! 30% of this fund is too low. Fix the earth & everything else will work out naturally.

Mary Anne Reynolds [mar1641@aol.com] added: The serious endeavor to stop BP's off shore drilling and then even more work to be sure that we, that being Texas, Louisiana and other affected states would have a clean up and repair to and for the devestation caused. However, it has come to my attention that the money may be rerouted to another projects. I am asking that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council use the funds that were so highly touted as for wildlife be used as they were stated and now changed into another purpose altogether. If nothing else your reputation and public trust in you will be seriously damaged.
Please remain committed to the people of the states who took you at your word and also, that our world is in serious trouble enough environmentally.
Please remain committed to the goal of saving our wildlife and not causes that can be dealt with with funds from other campaigns.
Sincerely,
Mary Anne Reynolds

Alix Keast [alixk3@gmail.com] added: This seems like the logical, ethical, and reasonable action.

C Ortiz [clcortiz@prodigy.net] added: Do not kowtow to special interest groups whose focus is on non-environmental projects.

Rebecca Hill [rebeccahill66@gmail.com] added: Human greed and short sightedness will hurt everyone. We must remember that the earth is our home, and we are part of a larger ecosystem.
Please keep this in mind and use the funds to restore the ecosystem which was so badly damaged.
Ronald Clayton [se-larvae@hotmail.com] added: Keep up the good work ... keep the momentum going forward.

James Michael Kelly [mikekelly621@gmail.com] added: Have BP pay for it all and when are we going to prosecute BP for the 14 men they torched on Deepwater Horizon after helicoptering all the suits to safety?

Mary Phillips-Burke [roseveere@hvc.rr.com] added: Restore the damages to the environment first. The infrastructure funding should NOT come out of the BP fines fund!

Suzanne Michael [snickers413@aol.com] added: The ecosystem should be the first thing taken care of. Without it peoples liveyhoods are at risk and can never get back to normal. It's time to make sure BP quits being handled with kids gloves and are forced to do what is right since they are the ones who destroyed everything. Any money should go to the ecosystem and no where else!

J.M. LAVASSAUR [jjml42@yahoo.com] added: Please make sure to keep the BP fines and other funds necessary to bring the gulf all the way back dedicated to that purpose.

Deirdre Hoare [ciaobella711@hotmail.com] added: In closing, I urge you to get the long term recovery plan on the right course now, before funds are diverted from their original purpose and short-sighted decisions are made that will further despoil, not restore, the environment.

Bob Hyer [rhyer@gulftel.com] added: America stole Iraq's oil and now our food chain is poisoned by oil. Do you not find this ironic? I find it ironic. I am a real print journalist and Vietnam War Air Force veteran. I suggest you give all the restoration funds to daisy-cutting, oil thieves. Socialize all the costs of a new convention center to be built directly in the path of 30 foot tidal surges and when it gets blown to Detroit, ensure the privatized profit is protected. Socialized cost, privatized profit! It can't or won't be insured for its reconstruction costs so ensure the public pays for all of it. Sales tax, gas tax, property tax, the public pays in Dixie. Alabama is dead broke. Sixty-one percent of all Alabama families depend on food stamps to survive. Republican thieves have robbed Bama blind and now pillage the rainy day fun. It's pouring in Montgomery. No tax revenue, no services, just oil thieves who voted twice to chemically bomb defenseless cities and who are now going to steal the restoration funds. Stupid is as stupid does, said Forrest.
Did you witness one photo of one Iraqi oil rig? No, you did not.
Pathetic, really!

Michael Guest [piermg27@aol.com] added: Protecting gulf marine life should not just be an important matter, but also a priority. It's very important to keep the oceans clean so that life can survive and flourish.

marina sagardua [sagarzazu@gmail.com] added: We are not all way thru Gulf disaster restoration.

Sarah Pearson [sayrahpea@yahoo.com] added: I grew up along the Gulf Coast and still maintain a residence there.
Restoration of an environmental nature will have the greatest positive impact on my family and me.

Sherman Lewis [sherman@csuhayward.us] added: also, continuing public comment is important to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact local communities.

Erline Towenr [etownr@aol.com] added: I'm very upset about the meager 30% $ allocation for the environment.
What's up with that?

Patrick Conn [conntactme@earthlink.net] added: DO NOT EQUIVOCATE; DO NOT SUCCUMB TO SPECIAL INTEREST'S ATTEMPTS TO GUT THE TRUE AND DEDICATED PURPOSE THESE FUNDS ARE MEANT FOR - THE RESTORATION OF LANDS DEVASTATED BY THE CORRUPT AND ENEPT OIL INDUSTRY.

Thank you for this but please use these funds for land and sea restoration. Source funds for infrastructure restoration from the businesses and agencies that have ignored its maintenance while pocketing profits for decades.

pat reed [reedpj13@yahoo.com] added: How disgusting that the fat cats want to get their grubby paws on the money meant to help the4 environment! How many of these bloodsuckers actually saw the spill let alone helped top clean it?All of this money should go to protect and better the environment,not fatten the pockets of the rich!

Glenn Senter [agsenter@aol.com] added: Thank you for taking these important initial steps to fulfill the mandate to restore the wetlands of the Gulf states, which are vital to the wildlife and the many industries dependent on having a healthy ecosystem in this unique area. Please keep up the good work and stay strong on putting the environment first. I firmly believe that only good things will follow from that approach.

Robert McArtor [robert_mcartor@bellsouth.net] added: Fines are for damage not for siphoning off for Gulf state's pet projects.

Sherry Skramstad [sskramstad@gmail.com] added: Rehabilitate what has been destroyed with the fines that were imposed for the destruction!

Donnie Shelton [tiwiwas@aol.com] added: There will always be people/organizations looking for a piece of the action when there is even the smell of money in the air. But Mother Earth cannot speak up for herself. After the initial shock, Her comments come only when the long-term results of our injuries to Her start to show. And that takes time! So we humans must be strong in protecting Her share of the Restoration monies! And you, our elected representative, must stand strong against the forces that would subvert those funds to their own uses and benefits!

Robert H. Warren [robexar141@socket.net] added: National legislative and executive inability to adequately fund infrastructure repair and development should be addressed directly by involved states and should not detract from urgent and long range restoration of ecosystems needed to promote prosperity and sustainability.

Margaret Hurley [mdaisshurley@gmail.com] added: Evolve. Show compassion. Live the vegan ethic.

Anne Winkle [kawink76@att.net] added: I keep waiting for this country to stand with what is right and good and not with the fear mongering money bags who now rule all of us.

Elsie Keys [lckeys88@msn.com] added: Common sense dictates restoration of the environment.

Terrilyn Krueger [teri9494@aol.com] added: For cripes' sake. Use the funds from the polluter FOR THE POLLUTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Hans Hoffmann [hoffy7839@yahoo.com] added: Special interest groups are clamoring to claim the funds for highways and economic development projects. These funds should never be diverted for any other purpose than what they are intended for---Restoration.

Robert Goldman [bobg128@gmail.com] added:
It is the right thing to spend all of this money to clean up and restore the Gulf ecosystems. Too much oil is still out there, hidden deep and causing damage snd death. Please avoid the corruption of spending this money on anything other than clean up and restoration of the Gulf and its damaged ecology.

Donnie Shelton [tiwiwas@aol.com] added: There will always be people/organizations looking for a piece of the action when there is even the smell of money in the air. But Mother Earth cannot speak up for herself. After the initial shock, Her comments come only when the long-term results of our injuries to Her start to show. And that takes time! So we humans must be strong in protecting Her share of the Restoration monies! And you, our elected representative, must stand strong against the forces that would subvert those funds to their own uses and benefits!

Lisbeth Caccese [caccesela@hotmail.com] added: The money BP pays must be used for the restoration of the Gulf Coast!
Whatever money is paid out, it must assuredly will NOT be enough to offset the devastation wrought by BP & its minions.
If nothing else, look at Prince William Sound, Alaska & see if that area has regained its "pristine" pre-spill condition. I think not; it will never be the same. Likewise the Gulf Coast has been damaged for the foreseeable future & BP should've been fined a whole lot more!

Mike Miller Jr [michamille@comcast.net] added:
I would like to see more than 30% funding allocated solely for environmental restoration! This is the only way to not only repair the long term damage done by the BP well blowout, but the health of the Gulf needs to be improved further. We need to reduce that now normal dead zone that is twice the size of Texas, add & restore wetlands, more Cyprees trees are needed, etc.!

Alan Schultz [alan@andysnet.net] added: I whole-heartily support this organization and its goal in seeking a fair and equitable distribution of any amounts of money received from BP related to the horrendous spill.

Lilian Moore [lilianbmoore@gmail.com] added: I live on the Gulf coast of Florida and I understand how the health of the Gulf is tied to the economic health of my community. Our economy is dependent on tourism as is yours. Please do the right thing.

Linda Barnes [lsbarnes@nc.rr.com] added: Fines from the BP oil spill should be used to clean up the oil that was spilled and do what can be done to restore the ecosystem. Period!.

SHARON CONDRON [sscondron@aol.com] added: We need shrimp and fish nurseries to provide future food for all of us, as well as food and jobs for the coastline. we also need the coastline protection provided by the ecosystem. working with our environment can provide more than destroying it.

Joseph Oliver [josepholiver.esq@gmx.com] added: As a former resident of the Gulf Coast I'm appalled that BP hasn't paid through the nose for a cleanup sufficient to restore the Gulf to some semblance of what it was before being poisoned by oil. We have to take restoration seriously, not just a nod in the right direction, nor should boosting the economy take precedence over environmental cleanup.

Carol Farber [calgernon@aol.com] added: We need the strongest possible action to support defense of the environment,

Ron Standley [ronstandley7@msn.com] added: This planet is our HOME! Home for ALL of us. Do YOU shit where you eat?!?

gina bilwin [ginmonbil@gmail.com] added: I URGE THE COUNCIL TO CONTINUE TO REAFFIRM ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FOCUS.

Daniel Jones [danielj464@gmail.com] added: Using money that BP has paid to restore the damage that their actions caused (in part) was intended to be used in that manner. To misappropriate those funds, regardless of the benefit to infrastructure, is disingenuous, dishonest and unethical.

Darcy Symes [darcysdesk@bellsouth.net] added: The Gulf Coast is everything to us. We live here. And now we have an infant grandchild who will enjoy life here, too.

Ann Rappoport [agrappoport@gmail.com] added: I am from Alaska and worked on the response to the Exxon Valdez oil spill for many months. I know that restoration is very difficult and 24 years later, beautiful Prince William Sound still suffers from reduced populations of some species and oil remains buried on shorelines. The same will happen in the Gulf but you need to remain strong and ensure that the most diligent efforts are applied to restoration and long-term monitoring of Gulf natural resources, as well as taking care of the people who were affected by the deadly and disastrous Gulf spill.

Mark McKennon [mark.mckennon@gmail.com] added: The money from the fine should and must be used to restore what BP put asunder -- clean water, removal of as much oil as possible from beaches, water and marshes, an increase in marshlands, attracting wildlife, and so on. Money should NOT BE AVAILABLE for building hotels, roads, or subsidizing private enterprise.

Penelope Cole [pennyannecole@gmail.com] added: We lived in Fairhope,AL, and enjoyed the Gulf Coast. Please use these funds to enure that it is restored!

Joann Zarnoch [innladyz@verizon.net] added: This spill was and continues to be a tragedy to our natural environment and the creatures living in these areas. This should be the first priority and little if any funds should be used until this mess is cleaned up. We need to leave something to our children. Thank you,

Linda Shore [wardbabe@aol.com] added: It is obscene that anyone would try and claim these monies for anything else.

Lori Hein [lhein@new.rr.com] added: Building highways or other special pork projects are NOT environmental restoration.

Marylee Hicks [maryleeot@yahoo.com] added: Despite lies from BP, the gulf has not recovered ! Please invest the (
inadequate) fines into saving wildlife & habitat!

Jeffrey Panciera [jeffiejimmie@gmail.com] added: The Gulf has been the site of oil facilities, chemical factories and other businesses that have taken a toll on the environment. The attempts of the Army Corps of Engineers to deal with the Mississippi have also had a negative effect on the area, making it more vulnerable to hurricanes and flooding. The lack of respect for the environment and for the natural processes that led to a stable, if sometimes inconvenient, area, have decimated the natural defenses of the delta area, and are to be reversed in our time of strong storms and more dangerous weather patterns.

Barbara Nadel [nadelb@yahoo.com] added: Don't let this opportunity go to waste. Do the right thing.

Wendy Williams [wendy@wendypwilliams.net] added: Environment not highways!

Jane Engel [jeeips@gmail.com] added: Thank you for taking the time to read this communication.

Georgia Locker [jslocker@yahoo.com] added: I, WHO PAY TAXES IN ANOTHER STATE, WANT THE FUND USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Virginia Jones [jones1911@att.net] added: This is
essential for the long term benefit not only of the natural systems but also all the people who depend on these systems to earn a living.

Ruthann Lees [ruthielees@cox.net] added: Oil is still coming up onto the shores and cleaning up the ecosystem should be a top priority.

John Monteith [jmonteith44@aol.com] added: We can treat the environment neither as enemy nor as poor relation, not if we wish to see our own species thrive on this planet. Good highways are nice, a healthy environment is mandatory.

Cindy Tracy [fultura@yahoo.com] added: Please make the visionary decision to stand up for Gulf wildlife.
People all over the country are aware that special interest groups are clamoring to use BP's fines to build highways and other coastal developments.

This is unacceptable. Years after the Gulf oil spill, the environment is still suffering. Funds should be used to restore Gulf ecosystems while helping to rebuild the Gulf's resource-based economy.

Please stand up for wildlife, not special interests. Thank you for your consideration.

Maureen Oleyar [pillmanbooklady@comcast.net] added: Please do not lose sight of the main goal for your restoration plan- to restore the environment for the benefit of its wildlife and its community! Special interests MUST NOT be allowed to divert and spend the funds for other purposes.

Mary Vorachek [maryvorachek@gmail.com] added: The future demands restoration of the Gulf ecosystem. People survive on jobs and food not on onetime road building and subsequent neglect. Ensure that states spend 30% of BP fine money on Gulf ecosystem restoration.

Greg Garbulinski [digrgarb@toast.net] added: PS
AMERICAN "CorpoCRISY" $$$ CORPORATE Media CON-OCRACY $$$ & SOCIAL TREASON Definitely Not the Sound of *We the People* Or We the WORLD*(Washington D.C. or B.C.? , Yes BEFORE Christ OR JUST PLAIN BIZARRELY CUCKOO!)

Judith Dupree [adlib_pv@sbcglobal.net] added: "Second best" is not good enough -- not re. the BP's gulf disaster. The seas are timeless and absolutely life-essential. Roads and other beneficial projects must not become the beneficiary of what is required of the ecosystem's destroyer!

Tracy Carter [tramassager@yahoo.com] added: Maybe we did not fine BP enough to cover the environmental damage and the economical damage and we should give them another fine one for economical damages to pay for things like convention centers and highways.

Rick Flory [rick@earthfriends.com] added: Please prevent the diversion of any of these funds from their important environmental use!

David Platt [david@queryquest.us] added: It is time to put the health of children and their environment before the profits of polluters!

shelley isom [somersaultpress@yahoo.com] added: WE need an environment more than we need more highways.

Lawrence Thompson [thompson14ster@gmail.com] added: I think that final the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by emphasizing environmental restoration. The Council must reject any projects that do not support this goal. I urge you to
include language in the Final In itial Comprehensive Plan that provides
clear direction to the Gulf states that restoring the Gulf ecosystem is the best use of BP's oil spill fine money, which will, in turn, create jobs and restore the Gulf's resource-based economy. I am pleased that you plan to seek further public comment on a project list as it becomes available.

Linc Cole [prunemstr@aol.com] added: Let's keep our priorities straight.

Janet Gordon [janetg32@gmail.com] added: The mess isn't cleaned up yet. As much as it would be very nivce to have more highways and coastal developement; whats the point if the mess is still evident?
You won't get tourists or home buyers if there are brown pelicans washing up on the beach.
Clean up the mess first - then go for the rest.
Janet

Victoria Vernon [vvernonv@yahoo.com] added: Please stay focused. We need to keep our minds on the most appropriate use of the funds. The overall picture should keep restoration in the forefront.

Patricia Grames [pat@grames.net] added: I personally, want the Gulf fisheries and wetlands to recover as far as possible. I like my fish and shrimp and other seafood, and don't want to see it lost. Using the money to restore the damaged environment is the only use that should be made of this money. This is necessary to restore the resource based economy, including fishing. Please don't get sidetracked!

melissa hughes [mah8838@gmail.com] added: What would really be great would be for you to get rid of the Correxit from the ocean floor so the bacteria, which have been breaking down oil for millions of years, could do their job. Spend money on that and the Gulf will have a chance to recover. It would take too much time?
We're still reaping the effects of the Exxon Valdes and how many years ago was that?

Susan Miller [smiller179@comcast.net] added: Ecosystem restoration in the Gulf most be top priority for BP settlement funds.

Robert Pierson [rpbalhinch@gmail.com] added: Why should grubby fingers get in someones' else's pie?

Charlie Smith [cssasmith@yahoo.com] added: I strongly urge you to resist any attempts to divert funds to any proposed project that does not directly restore the environment to pre-BP spill conditions.

Nichole Long [kenyetta@care2.com] added: Do the right thing!

Norma Campbell [sqrrlady@hotmail.com] added: The Copastal environment and its wildlife species need to be the first consideration not highways or structures that benefit only humans.
Its been too many years, too much talk, lets get on with the repair of the coastal natural environment..

Nora Coyle [lcsw89@hotmail.com] added: This fiasco has been such a gross miscarriage of justice. Someone has to speak up for the environment wildlife and the planet. They can not do so for themselves. What does that say about this country?

Wendy Raschke [raschke55116@comcast.net] added: Taking care of our environment is taking care of ourselves.

Steven Patamia [patamia@gmail.com] added: It is particularly important in this situation that ecological remediation be emphasised. The gulf region's economic future is dependent upon its environmental attractiveness and viability as a source of sea food. This is NOT a contest betwee so-called tree-huggers and would-be champions of economic viability. This is a a situation more than most where ecological health and attractiveness is the cornerstone of economic recovery in the region.

Carol Guffey [carolguffey@att.net] added: It will be decades or perhaps a century before the planet recovers from the BP oil spill in the Gulf Coast!

William Bailey [wbwbailey155@gmail.com] added: However, in the interest of pork and and the American tradition of twisting funding to do whatever the powers that be feel is necessary it's probably about time that any politicians and special privileged folk get the new things they got into the corrupt business of politics for. Baby needs a new pair of Porsches or a beach front home. Who cares what kind of wrath was visited upon the Gulf.
That such a follow up even needs to be mentioned is simultaneously shameful and exactly what I expect.

David Edwards [david@riverbird.com] added: This being a form letter does not negate the fact that it represents my feelings.

Donald Mc Quinn [donmcquinn@msn.com] added: Are we now going to sit on our hands and watch them do the same thing to the environment? The answer in this particular instance lies squarely with you.

Rachel Kocsis [rachelkocsis@sbcglobal.net] added: Do not waste this money on other projects. Use the money intended to clean up the Gulf waters and not on special projects!

Leslie Miller [ellemiller@comcast.net] added: We are looking forward to our vacation in along the shores of the Gulf later this summer. The keystone to maintaining strong tourism in the Gulf is the public's perception, both on the ground and in viewing the spirit and application of of the law in prioritizing environmental restoration projects. These are the projects that make the VISIBLE, LONG-

LASTING IMPROVEMENTS in RECREATIONAL QUALITY by improving that which the entire infrastructure of development rests on : a strong ecological and environment foundation.

Patti Constantino-Martin [ppattiplcsam@aol.com] added: OIL STILL IN THE GULF, CHEMICALS THEY DISPERSED TO GET RID OF THE OIL KILLING PEOPLE, AND WHERE IS THE ACCOUNTABILITY? DO YOU PEOPLE GET YOU HAVE TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS JUST LIKE EVERY CITIZEN DOES? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOUR ABOVE THE LAW? MONEY? BECAUSE YOU ARE A CORPORATE WHORE AND BEND OVER FOR THE FIRST CORRUPT D***? YOU'RE SICKENING AND HAVE NO SENSE OF WHAT A TRUE AMERICAN IS. RIG THE ELECTION BECAUSE ITS THE ONLY WAY TO WIN. PEOPLE ARE READY TO CLEAN HOUSE OF BOTH CORRUPT PARTIES. ONLY A FEW ARE REALLY WORTHY.

Susan Pearson [speardav@unm.edu] added: I live in New Mexico but I come to the Gulf to get near some water.
I've been too upset about the devastation to the environment with the BP spill to come in the years since that happened. But I want to return. So I am glad that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan provides more details on the Council's 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

And at some level, much of the rest of the United States and Western Hemisphere are stakeholders since we are all connected and the health of the Gulf of Mexico and the health of the U.S. Gulf Coast affects the health of the ocean overall.

Thank you for understanding that the environment is the priority for long term benefits and for not caving to pressures to put short term corporate profit ahead of the natural resources we all depend upon for a sustainable future.

Deane Paul [deanehpaul@hotmail.com] added: Please keep the BP fine money going to the purpose of the title of this great council. Roads and other greedy interest groups should be clearly advised that such projects do not support the ultimate goal focus of restoring the ecosystem.

Pat Bannasch [pbannasch02@wowway.com] added: It is unconsionable that funds targeted for the environment should be used for ANY thing else. I appreciate that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan provides more details on the Council's 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

Karen Christian [kcaz1@cox.net] added: Even the fines will not be sufficient for full recovery.

Phyllis Edinberg [pedinberg@charter.net] added: Perhaps the fines imposed on BP et al weren't high enough to cover the environmental damage they caused -and we don't know the full extent of the damage yet.

Donna Zoll [donnazoll@yahoo.com] added: BP needs to be held accountable for violating the gulf coast area. It is unacceptable to overlook the devastating havoc that BP has enacted on that area. What kind of decision makers are you that you would overlook our planets ell being in favor of profits? The time has come to step it up. This deplorable behavior has me never want to drive or use anything that comes from oil.

James Sorrells [jsorrells@cfl.rr.com] added: As a native born Floridian, the increase in oil drilling culture threatens the natural places we find most sacred. When we respond to questions surrounding our leadership concerning environmental issues there are often times excuses for the failure of our approach. We lack a sense of urgency that will ultimately lead to the demise of the future generations we claim to adore. If we are not going to save the environment and all of its inhabitants for our own benefit, we should do so for our children. Conservation is the foresighted utilization, preservation and...renewal of forests, waters, lands and minerals, for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time."

Richard Berg [mountain@csicable.net] added: I'm an advocate for working United States citizens, not corporate, pentagon, Washington, and Wall Street criminals!

andrew colletto [stonecrestct@aol.com] added: The efforts of the COUNCIL should mirror it's name!

Mha Atma Khalsa [earthactionnetwork@earthlink.net] added: Do not for one minute allow special interest groups to get money for highways, etc . The money should be used for the clean up of the oil--nothing else.

Jack Spallino [cobblestonejack@msn.com] added: Talk about a bunch of takers! Stick to restoration of wildlife habitat before no bid contracts and graft to restore the gulf! Should we call Republicans lazy, or greedy?

tonya nave [tonya.nave@comcast.net] added: We are overdue in successfully dealing with the ecological disaster wrought by massive oil spills in the Gulf. We must restore wildlife habitat and in the process, improve the fisheries.

Shirley Ford [bluebirdlover@desupernet.net] added: Restore the environment and then what is left over use to build roads and infurstructure.

linda epstein [dodoe@mac.com]: We owe it to the wildlife and nature to return the land back to being a safe environment to live in. Remember, we are the caretakers.

Karin Winegar [horseklw@aol.com] added: The ecosystem is the fundamental piece: it must come first.

Cindy Guarnieri [cindy.guarnieri@hotmail.com] added: The animals
that call this place home HAVE NO WHERE ELSE TO GO.

Thomas Moore [corruptedcanine@yahoo.com] added: It would be tragic if the gulf were left to fend for itself while these funds were used for projects that would conceivably pollute it even more.

Patti Hall [pattikhall@gmail.com] added: Restoring the economy does not include any money going to corporations, asphalt and concrete companies, or any others that actually helped to contribute to the oil spill (directly or indirectly) in the first place.

Lee Winslow [ldurango@msn.com] added: So many people along the Gulf make a living only if there is a healthy environment. This is really where the money needs to be applied.
Other wise, there will be a lot of folks there with out a job.

Maureen Greenhow [redbooks@xtra.co.nz] added: ANYONE THAT CAN LOOK AT THAT DISGUSTING PICTURE AND NOT FEEL SHAME, HAS NO HEART.
SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE.

Corbett Kroehler [corbettkroehler@yahoo.com] added: 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects is a good start but 70% would be better. Everyone who suffered from the horrific BP spill expects the natural environment to return to its former splendor. a 70% allocation would do that.

John B Pearce Jr [skraelling1@gmail.com] added: I would like to preface these remarks from the Environmental Defense Fund with my own observation that restoration of a healthy Gulf environment can well have real economic benefits. Not only can it revitalize and boost income from fishing, but it can improve the natural defenses of communities along the coast from the tropical storms that destroy incomes, devastate regional commerce, and place stress on the national treasury.
- jp

Kathleen Hopkins [kathleenhopkins7165@comcast.net] added: This type of disaster must never happen again, and damage caused by big oil companies must be repaired. The ecosystem is beyond price.

John Comella [john.comella1@gmail.com] added: The money paid by BP should be used SOLELY to restore/improve the ecosystem of the Gulf Coast ecosystem. Don't sidetrack any of the money into the hands of other projects.

Tim Burkinshaw [bstla23@gmail.com] added: his is critical for the survival of Gulf Wildlife, for heavan's sake!

John F Delgado [jdquarterhorses@earthlink.net] added: The Golf Of Mexico region is tide to all the gulf states. It is, therefore, important that a comprehensive environmental restoration plan be consistent and supportive of all the coastal areas.

Laura Lennon [pharmastat@mindspring.com] added: Having lived on this beautiful coast, my heart is still broken over the damage. On a recent visit I felt it was unsafe to eat the delicious Gulf seafood due to the dispersants and oil still in the water and the deformed offspring of Gulf animals that continue to appear. Please do not let these funds get re-routed to business as usual.

Heather McLarty [steelcrazy@roadrunner.com] added: Restoring a healthy ecosystem where it was so drastically destroyed affects us all.

Thomas La Point [tnplapoint@msn.com] added:
Restoration efforts must emphasize environmental restoration projects.
I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.
Barbara Vinson [bvinson@rivermaps.net] added: As a concerned citizen, a parent, and a naturalist, I appreciate that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan provides more details on the Council's 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. I strongly urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

Lynette Espinoza [lmetink@aol.com] added: The old adage applies here: "You break it, you buy it". The oil spill is responsible for so much death and destruction, and special interest groups are actually trying

to claim the money for more destruction of the earth and ocean? Unbelievable! Let's get our priorities straight and stop giving in to special interest groups at every turn.

Emily Moore [emilymooremn@yahoo.com] added: The Gulf Coast ecosystem was severely harmed by BP's oil spill. The Gulf Coast ecosystem is what should be the main focus now, with ample resources directed to its restoration.

Pat Parran [pmpnpaws@verizon.net] added: The BP oil disaster devastated the Gulf ecosystem and the wildlife.
The fines allotted should ONLY be used to restore the environment.
Don't let special interest groups who want to use it for unrelated expenses have their way. Make certain these funds are used for the intended goal.

Tommie Cervetti [tommiec111@aol.com] added: I believe that after so much damage was done to the wildlife and invironment on the gulf coast that as much money as possible should be directed to do everything we can to clean it up and repair what can be repaired so that future generations will be able to enjoy it.

Mary Ann and Mr. Frank Graffagnino [fmagraffagnino@msn.com] added: PLEASE CONTINUE TO TAKE THE RIGHT, FAIR AND JUST ACTION TO RESTORE THE GULF COAST IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND WAY.

Melissa Larsen-Walker [jordlissa@msn.com] added: I write to remind you that the Gulf of Mexico desperately needs continuing clean-up after the disastrous oil spill in 2010, AND the fine money apid by BP must be used for that purpose. The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council has a shrewd plan in place and this plan should be put into effect.

Alma Seward [blueridgestudio@tds.net] added: Thank you for keeping the focus on ECOSYSTEM restoration. Keep the hand of special interests out of the cookie jar!

Marina LaPalma [marina@marinalapalma.com] added:
The fines from an environmental disaster should be dedicated to environmental restoration.

The southern coast of our great country deserves to be restored to its beauty, diversity and wonder after the traumas it has suffered, much of them man-made.

Fran Teresi [send4usgville@gmail.com] added: Restoring the coast's environment will increase the tourism that the area depends on for its livelihood, and improve the health of the people and animals that live there. Any contamination that gets into the food chain will eventually end up in the humans that eat the animals from the ocean. A healthy environment is a good way to improve human health and reduce health care costs as well.
Thanks for staying strong on the environmental restoration of the Gulf coast.

Thomas Guaraldi [wolftalker7799@yahoo.com] added: Wildlife suffered great environmental impact from the BP spill,wildlife has no voice,no PAC,and no one in government voted in to represent them. I Strongly ask you care for the wildlife as they are a big reason people come to the gulf area!

Tom Mills [boardnkayak@yahoo.com] added: You can't fine an entity for environmental negligence and use the money for infrastructure and development. It has to be used to right the wrong that was inflicted.

Mack Elder [inspections10@att.net] added: WHEN THERE IS MONEY TO BE HAD THE GREEDY RATS COME OUT OF THE WOODWORK ! ! ! AND UNFORTUNATELY THOSE WITH GUTS ENOUGH TO DO THE RIGHT THING ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN, IF NOT NON-EXISTENT ! ! !

Diane H Fabian [dhfabian@gmail.com] added: It's not the few who smoke tobacco that are putting the public at risk.
It's our excessive dependence on oil/private ownership of motor vehicles, and middle class resistance toward developing a modern public transportation system. We have got to invest first in a public education campaign to inform the general public about this issue. The Gulf Coast highlights these issues

Lila Sherman [lila@loveshackmaui.com] added: DO THE RIGHT THING!

Carol Jurczewski [cjurczewski@sbcglobal.net] added: BP NEEDS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND PAY FOR THE IMMENSE DAMAGE THAT WAS DONE TO THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE GULF OIL SPILL!

Sherron Norris [thenorris@bendbroadband.com] added: Without the natural resources of the area there will be less reasons to visit them. Please continue to work for the environment as a healthy environment will create jobs and keep the economy going. It will also remind and reassure people that was what the fines were meant to do....restore the area's natural habitat. Thank you again for standing up for nature.

Brian Mahany [zaneysworld@tampabay.rr.com] added: Do the damn job that you were entrusted with. The wetlands and environment are your focus, STUPID!

Zoe Willet [zoezafrique@yahoo.com] added: May I add that I am appalled at the scurrilous tv commercials that BP has been putting forth!

Barbara Ferber [barbhbf@aol.com] added: Given the damage that has been done to our Gulf Coast ecosystem by the BP oil spill, the first priority MUST BE to restore our natural areas and wildlife. Everything else is secondary to this!

Sherrylee Felger [sjfelger@yahoo.com] added: Less politically correct, but my personal opinion, is that these funds should be used solely for Gulf coast restoration. Not for roads and further development, creating more demand for fossil fuels.

Afra Rahman [a.rahman2013@gmail.com] added: I honestly don't understand why we even have to send this email. How can people not naturally want to protect the environment? This is simply ridiculous. We are such selfish beasts!

Danna Dal Porto [ddalporto@smwireless.net] added: I live in Washington State and I clearly remember the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The effects are still being felt in Prince William Sound that the spill was 30 years ago. I believe that the long term consequences of the BP spill need to be predicted. The funds need to be retained for environmental restoration, nothing else will serve the needs of the Gulf Coast

more than to have their environment healthy and their fisheries and native creatures safe from the toxic affects of that oil.

David Kagan [dbkagan@comcast.net] added: Wildlife must be protected by man, as they can't protect themselves. We must take responsibility, or be damned for not using our intelligence.

Elizabeth Dawson [thirdrockwalk@gmail.com] added: Oil companies should pay for the complete restoration of the environment affected.

Nancy Grover [anygrover1@yahoo.com] added: If any of the money from BP is used for anything OTHER than restoring the ecosystem, it will be a disgrace!

Dorothy-Anne Johnson [nursejohnson25@yahoo.com] added: As a long-term former resident of New Orleans, I have fond memories of our treasured Gulf of Mexico (before the BP oil spill with its horrendous loss of life).

Pamela Anne Lowry [aynlowry@yahoo.com] added: I am appalled to learn that special interest groups are clamoring to use BP's fines to build highways and other coastal developments.

This is unacceptable. Years after the Gulf oil spill, the environment is still suffering. Funds should be used to restore Gulf ecosystems while helping to rebuild the Gulf's resource-based economy.

Donna Estes [destes76@hotmail.com] added: Only Gulf restoration should be considered. Time will tell how devastating this spill was. We should stick to environmental restoration only!

Wayne Stroessner [wstroessner@wi.rr.com] added: I do not believe that the billions of dollars spent by BP on advertising in the media about how much they are doing for the Gulf and Gulf States is doing anything to correct the damage they have done to the entire environment of the Gulf. It will take many decades to try to correct their mistakes and carelessness.

Jer Jarvis [jerjarvis1@yahoo.com] added: The was the worst environmental, I repeat environmental disaster in U.S.; which the effects on our ecosystems will not be known for decade; along with the sludge of oil is still along the coast of Louisiana has yet to cleans; while they are permitted to make billions and billions of more toxic greedy money day after day, year after year, while making tons of false advertising without even mentioning this environmental disaster which they caused! The GOP; along with their own special interests, BP, are responsible for this environmental disaster; and their is to be NO MONEY spent on highways and other coastal developments! This is an outrage on the millions and millions of species which were lost due to this and they think they can steal the money for their own pathetic interests? Absolutely NOT!

Andrea Bowen [bowen.andrea785@gmail.com] added: Tourism needs to be addressed to secure the environment not highways

kathy holland-medanic [kathywynne@yahoo.com] added: Please, no further wrecking of the ecosystem, with any sort of building project--especially highway construction, which is an all-out war on the environment, with continuous damage!

Rosalind Bresnahan [rosalind568@gmail.com]added: It is essential that you to propose and enforce strict environmental restoration efforts in the Gulf.

Mary-Alice Shemo [shemogua@juno.com] added: The money from a fine for ecosystem devastation should be spent for restoring that ecosystem. 100%. Period.

No highways. No hotels. The form of economic development the region needs is to make it possible for people to resume the ways of earning a decent, basic living that were upset or destroyed by the oil spill. That means restoring the ecosystem.

Not one penny should go to other projects, certainly not ones that make big profits possible for a few people but do nothing for the population at large.

Please focus on your mission, ecosystem restoration. Don't listen to anyone trying to lead you down a primrose path. In fact, don't let them in the office.

Patricia Bereczki [pat.bereczki@gmail.com] added: The ecosystem must be restored!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Doug Westendorp [dougwestendorp@msn.com] added: Thanks for caring.

Judith Maron-Friend [judiemaronfriend@gmail.com] added: IT REALLY GALLS ME TO SEE BP TV ADS PLAYING UP HOW WONDERFUL AND RESPONSIBLE THEY ARE AND HOW GREAT THE GULF HAS RECOVERED. THIS GREEDY CORPORATION WILL STOOP TO ANYTHING TO MAKE MORE MONEY WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE DAMAGE THEY MAY AND HAVE CAUSED. IT IS TRULY DISGRACEFUL AND AN ABOMINATION!

Arlene Malkin [auntiear@gmail.com] added: Let's get it right this time, alright? we must protect our environment, our wilflife and their habitat - our very lives depend on it because of the fragile, interconnected relationship

Janet Remington [janetsaurus@yahoo.com] added: I strongly urge the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council to stipulate that its funds must be spent only on what the council's title clearly states: RESTORATION of the Gulf ECOSYSTEM. These funds should NOT be used to satisfy any individual state government's grandiose ambitions for high-class luxury resorts they never had before.

Daren Black [daren@artofliving.org] added: Further, the BP board of executives should be fined $1 billion each and the money put to Gulf cleanup and repair.
Leonard Stein [theatpace@aol.com] added: You owe it to the animals that live in this habitat to help them all you can. The scenario here is the end of civilization as we know it. It is interesting that recently when arguing that animals should never be killed for sport, individuals answered that G-d gave us Dominion over the animals. does anyone think that means G-d said we could desstroy his creation at will?? Dominion implies responsibility to me! It says G-d is placing the fate of the animals to humans, that there is a responsibility implied that we insure their survival. AMEN

Gael McCarthy [gaelmcc@gmail.com] added: I believe that an oversight committee should be organized comprised of representatives from each affected state and the federal government bodies under whose auspices the areas of reclamation reside. This way, the interests of each party will be served, the effort can be better coordinated, and total reclamation will be assured. It is so important that funds received

as retribution are used to restore all areas impacted to their original, natural state. The funds should not be used as general income to be distributed wherever the governing body sees fit.

Susan Jacobson [suejacobson2@gmail.com] added: Restoration of the environment is essential to the health of people and the environment.

Larry Weeks [larryweeks@lynx.bc.ca] added: After the major disaster that you have had, I would have thought that you would try to put the environment back to its original glory. I think the world is watching to see what if any power government has over its corporations and its ability to correct a very large problem.
This affects the entire planet not just your area of the world.

Eva Cernik [evacernik@earthlink.net] added: And please! ... it seems off topic, but if any of the funds go to building highways after all, then there must be a requirement that there be abundant passages easily accessible to animals to cross underneath instead of becoming road-kill.

Laurel Crook [laurelcrook@gmail.com] added: Please use these funds to restore the Coast's ecosystems. These ecosystems help to protect the cities and towns from flooding and other disasters, as well as giving protection and refuge to the wildlife that inhabits the Coast.

Gail Blatt [ebrockfish@aol.com] added: With oil still washing up on beaches in the Gulf area, and no definitive idea of the damage that may still be ongoing, it is vital that the environment and wildlife be restored.

Daniel Jones [djdestin2003@yahoo.com] added: Governor Bryant of Mississippi is diverting $15 million to a minor league baseball club while Governor Bentley of Alabama is diverting $85 million to a beach hotel project. None of these funds should be stolen and given to businesses that didn't even exist at the time of the oil platform disaster. Please stop these and other giveaways. Save the Gulf and the wetlands.

Hazel Poolos [hazel@poolos.com] added: Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration is imperative for the Gulf Coast's economy and environment.

JoAnne Klein [katznk9s@yahoo.com] added: You are earnestly being begged to keep the pressure up on BP, their commitment, as well as continuing with vigor the Golf Coast Ecosystem Restoration project. There's no question regarding BP's lies and and phone attempts to convince those affected by that horrendous oil spill of BP's so-called honorable intentions. THOSE INTENTIONS WILL CEASE TO EXIST LET ALONE COME TO FRUITION UNLESS THE PRESSURE IS KEPT UP AND THE COUNCIL CONTINUES TO RESTORE, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, THE HORRIBLY DESTROYED ENVIRONMENT.

Diana Page [diana.page@comcast.net] added: Restoration must take priority. Too much has been irretrievably lost.

Anna Niemitz [annaniemitz@mindspring.com] added: Until this occurs, and success has been established, I will continue to avoid most seafood that lives on the floor of the Gulf.

Lyle McCormick [lylemccormick@bellsouth.net] added: The fines from an environmental disaster should be dedicated to environmental restoration.

Gerald Rilling [eafricabk@ix.netcom.com] added: I am a Zoologist by training and have lived in wild lands. There was significant damage done to wildlands and animals in the gulf area do to the oil spill. The money for damages from the oil spill MUST go to the areas & animals that were damaged by the spill ! ! ! If after the damage is repaired; then money remaining could be used to improve ecologically sound roads in the area, etc. But the environment comes FIRST ! !
The Gulf is not my main area of interest; but what little I have heard seems to indicate that work is being done on the environment.
Keep up the good work and DON'T let other interests get their hands on the money that should NOT go to them.

Tiffany Baker [tanchella@aol.com] added: Please dedicate more of the BP fines to environmental restoration since that is the reason for the fines. Do not let it be diverted to other interests, such as highway projects.

The full impact of the disaster is still unknown & continues to be discovered, so money should be set aside to do all that can be to repair the affected areas which helps both wildlife & the people whose livelihood depends on them.

John Dierig [jmdierig@hotmail.com] added: THE MORE I SEE THE DARN BP COMMERCIALS TOUTING THEIR SUCCESSES AFTER THE SPILL MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE....IT'S ALL BALONEY!!!

gayle goff [gayle.goff@gmail.com] added:
I am surprised to learn the plan devotes only 30% to environmental restoration. This is appallingly low.

Please reinforce the plan to restore the eco-system and environment.
This is absolutely the most important use of BP fines.

Dave Kisor [panther_dave@yahoo.com] added: Infrastructure maintenance and repair should come from another fund.
BP didn't foul up the roads, so none of that of that money should go to infrastructure.
april silverman [grinpower7@gmail.com] added: And I believe that BP should be sued for their ads that claim all is well, the environment is completely cleaned up, devoid of all oil. It's not!

David Swaim [ldswaim@yahoo.com] added: The environmental damage can never be completely healed, but every effort must be made to restore as much as possible.

Rob Cook [cic3ad@verizon.net] added: THE SONG OF THE WATER PLANET

Maryshka Miceli [alaskasnowbird89@yahoo.com] added: Having first-hand experience with the devastation from ExxonValdez oil spill in 1989 and knowledge about its perpetual impact on life, funds for the Gulf Coast ecosystem's restoration must be dedicated to that mission of restoration. Rehabilitation funds must not be hijacked for any other purpose. Humans are responsible for the Deepwater Horizon disaster -- just as much as we were for the ExxonValdez oil spill.

SisterAnne Michel,CSJ [sannemichelpavel@netscape.net] added: As one who taught both Earth Science and American History, I am disappointed I that the primary goal is not ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION.

Diane Brown [brown13da@gmail.com] added: The fines need to pay for what BP's oil spill ruined.

Gail Caswell [snowshoesmama@yahoo.com] added: Please support the recovery of the Gulf's wildlife!

Kathleen Acker [kacker_3dogs@yahoo.com] added: Take up the jobs programs the President has been trying to get through Congress, leave the money for environment rehabilitation for that purpose.

W.K. Grady [wkbg@pacbell.net] added: The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan must live up to its name. Please continue ecosystem-oriented focus. After all, it is the coastal waters ecosystem that was devastated by the spill, not the highways.

Adrienne Brietzke [brietzke1817@comcast.net] added: THIS IS A NO-BRAINER-THE MONEY IS FOR RESTORATION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT THAT WAS -AND IS STILL- REELING FROM THE BP SPILL. THE WETLANDS & WILDLIFE ARE STILL SUFFERING - PUT THE MONEY WHERE IT'S INTENDED TO GO.

Ana Salinas [asalinas@austin.rr.com] added: ******However, while the Gulf's wildlife and wetlands are still struggling to recover from the devastating effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, special interest groups are clamoring to claim the funds for highways and economic development projects. Meanwhile, three years after the spill, oil is still washing up on the shores of Louisiana, and its full impact on the environment is not yet
known.***** Don't let that happen.

Jerome Kirsling [kirslingj@uwstout.edu] added: I'm also pleased that you have indicated you will seek further public comment on a project list as it becomes available. It's important for stakeholders to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact their communities and inevitably have a national impact.
Christina Cowan [cowanc1028@earthlink.net] added: As far as economics -- if you restore the environment, it WILL pay off for the rest!

Jesse Siegel [siegje02@gettysburg.edu] added: It will be meaningless if the money is used for infrastructure that provides a better economic framework for an economy that never recovers due to the continued affects of the oil spill on the wildlife of the region.

Landry Wildwind [landry@kenney-consulting.com] added: The Gulf Coast is still suffering from the pollution and the damage has been well hidden by an industry-friendly press. However, BP's fine money should never be used for economic or infrastructure development.
Highways were not damaged in the spill and highways should not be built with the fines.

Rosita Aranita [rra8665@yahoo.com] added: Please see to the full recovery of the areas suffering from the oil spills!

Linda Yow [jandlyow@gmail.com] added: Please include language in the Final Initial Comprehensive Plan that will provide clear direction to the Gulf states that restoring the ecosystem is the best use of oil spill fine money. That will create jobs and restore the Gulf's resource-based economy, impacting communities and inevitably have a national impact.

Thank you for your work to benefit us and generations to come.

BJ Andrus [bonniejocean@gmail.com] added: As a resident of coastal Louisiana I plead with you: do NOT allow the use of fines for anything but restoring the damaged environments that resulted in the fines. To do otherwise is a major injustice to those living with the catastrophe incurred: plants, animals, and human beings.

a l [aalisbin@gmail.com] added: WE NEED TO STOP POISONING THE PLANET

Dale Weston [majortest@earthlink.net] added: So, there's a hint of truth to the BP claim that others are attempting to jump onto their bandwagon of $$$$ for clean up that are not cleaning or compensating for loss.

Just focus on honest reparations. The toll is very high without
adding long tail of feel good stuff.

Caroly Dennison [carolyndennison@hotmail.com] added: As inhabitants of the Earth, I believe that we are stewards of it and all life on it, as well as the environment and as such we have the respondsibility to protect it.

Sharron Buck [sharron.buck17@yahoo.com] added: REMEMBER...WE ARE ALL INTERCONNECTED....WHAT WE DO TO THIS EARTH....WE DO TO OURSELVES.

Holly Malarney [hmalarney@comcast.net] added: Thank you for your time and attention and I hope you will proceed as outlined above.

Frances Jerzgarzewski [franj12000@yahoo.com] added: Please preserve our nature for generations to come.

Emma Shook [shookemma@earthlink.net] added: Restoring the ecosystem is the fundamentally most important necessity for the clean-up.

Larry Manter [larryemanter@sbcglobal.net] added: Does no one have a sense of what's right? This disaster was truly a disaster for many and they are NOT being made even close to whole. This is just a travesty. The fines MUST go to cleaning up the Gulf - it's the ONLY ethical thing to do. Have we gotten so very far from the principles this country was founded on?

Judith Simons [judyjams@msn.com] added: BP's fines MUST be used to restore the ecosystem they destroyed through their greed.

Walt Brown [waltgoldenbrown@gmail.com] added: Yes, I know highways and other public infrastructure is important.
But, first things first! The earth is what must survive!

Nancy Lowell [lilyofthefield@tampabay.rr.com] added: To me, it seems like what we colloquial folk out here like to call a "no-brainer'. But, apparently not everyone gets that. So, please make sure it's spelled out so that the Gulf, its shorelines and wildlife have the money put toward their restoration.

Margaret Sellers [selldev@aol.com] added: I find it hard to believe after all the damage done to the environment that the states are not being required to do more.

J M [jay_miner@ymail.com] added: Let's make this happen! Lives depend on a healthy environment and ecosystem!

NOREEN MICHAUD [noreenmichaud@msn.com] added: The environment should came first.

Art Roberts [art1280rh@comcast.net] added: The whole purpose (not just 30%) of the Gulf Coast Restoration funding should be centered on restoring the Gulf ecosystem.

Roger Bau [rogerbau45@live.com] added: This plan will help project the recovery into the future when the lasting effects of the spill will have an effect on the local environments and economies.

Michele Shimizu [simizu@konan-wu.ac.jp] added: I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment.

Jan Emerson [janemerson777@gmail.com] added: Please keep environmental restoration a priority in the Gulf to restore ecosystems, jobs, and communities.

Stephen Sleeper [waloug@gmail.com] added: We've got to stop treating our planet like we have another one we can go to !!
Make 'em clean up EVERY BIT of the spill !!!

Deb Brown [deb@econweb.com] added: "Mankind's true moral test, its fundamental test (which lies deeply buried from view), consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals."

--Milan Kundera

Ryan Riddle [rriddle@windstream.net] added: It's interesting to note that the Prince Willam Sound spill by the EXXON Valdez in 1989 still is not cleaned up and the Supreme Court ruled that Exxon is no longer financially responsible. The ecosystem and fisheries will never be the same. Crude oil poisons everything.

Emma Bloebaum [bloebaumemma3@gmail.com] added: I urge you to use the funds for restoration of the ecosystem. Without the healthy ecosystem, tourists will not want to come to the area.

Olin Bray [odbray@msn.com] added: The BP oil spill devistated the gulf ecosystem, so please see to it that the money from BP's fines are used to restore the ecosystem that is so important to the area.

Thomas Gannon [constructionbydesign@embarqmail.com] added: If the damages were to the enviroment than all the awarded money should go to the repair of the ecosystem. It is the ecosystem that brings people to the shore and its economic survival

Jimmy Carrell [jcarrcat@aol.com] added: The road to a sustainable recovery is paved by restoration of natural systems, not asphalt.

William Handley [bhandly53@msn.com] added: I am not pleased that you people are even considering using your funding to benefit highway contractors, resort developers, and job stealers? That's not your purpose. We have Chambers of Commerce that do that already.

Leif Knutsen [l.e.knutsen@gmail.com] added: PERSONAL NOTE:
What a stupid idea, (unless you are for GOP profits from pollution of the commons), to spend the the money on anything but environmental restoration.
Captain Leif Knutsen

Barbara Lockwood [socdem@outlook.com] added: We are called to be faithful stewards of this precious planet that the Lord has given us;

Joy Schochet [joysch@moose-mail.com] added: The funds provided, even if completely dedicated to environmental restoration, would hardly cover the costs of doing so. The damage can never be undone, but we need to recognize that we ourselves depend upon a healthy environment, and that the Gulf is an especially sensitive and vitally important part of it. We must do all we can to ensure that the Gulf recovers insofar as possible, and that the marine and coastal ecosystems are restored so that fish and other marine life can flourish. This is urgent.

Marianne Mukai [mmukai@stny.rr.com] added: The Gulf Coast Ecosystem and all the creatures that inhabit it are a national treasure, as well as a vital component of the Gulf region's economy. The long-term health of the ecosystem has an incalculable value to our entire nation and it is vital the funds from BP's disaster fines be put toward restoring this unique ecosystem to pre-disaster quality, to the extent that is possible.

Barbara Richert [barbararichert@suddenlink.net] added: Want me to ever vacation on the Gulf Coast??

Dan Ninedorf [corona@maqs.net] added: These funds should also be buying long-term health insurance and building health care facilities - there will be family claims - as another form of Agent Orange-like diseases that will ravage the peoples of the Gulf Coast, the long-term health effects will destroy entire families starting within a few years.

The habitat will restore itself, the people will die.

Llyn French [nharjo@tampabay.rr.com] added: Having retired in 2011 after 25 years of service with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (which, following the oil spill, was Central Command), my personal wish is that ALL of the restoration funding would be spent on the natural environment, because that has suffered the most and is the basis, the absolute foundation, for everything man-made.

Mariann Ventura [jsventu@aol.com] added: It's 100 out today in New England. We have got to stop drilling and burning oil or we are going to kill future generations.

john aponick [johnaponick@yahoo.com] added: While economic development means infrastructure, a permantly damaged ecosystem will mean that the planet will not be sustained. Again, a short term goal will mean a long term solution will hurt life on this planet.

Sharon Coombs [sharon-coombs@hotmail.com] added: am a lover of Gulf shrimp but have been abstaining since the spill.
I'm waiting to hear that the waters are clean again. Give that

Carol Siewert [clsiewert@hotmail.com] added: Much of the economic impact has to do with lost tourism and lost fishing/shrimping revenue.
It seems obvious that money for reparations needs to be addressed for environment issues, not road building (unless the argument can be made that said road improves water quality??).

Joyce Cochran [cochransci@sbcglobal.net] added: Please Insure BP's $ (Oil Spill Fine) is Used to Restore Gulf Coast Ecosystem

Judith Wilson [judybrooklynus@gmail.com] added: I do wish that the environment would come first for a change instead of "special interests" which are not in the interest of the environment at all!!

Claire Joaquin [cjoaquin@comcast.net] added:
The Gulf is a naturally beautiful region. Do not let the shmooze-pr-talk from BP sway you from choosing restoration that looks to the long term effects of both weather and commerce. BP worships dollar-based profit; the people of the Gulf require their coastline and ocean to be healthy and oil-free.

Thomas Nass [tom@sciline.com] added: Irreparable damage has been done to the Gulf 's eco-system - our eco-system. Which includes damage to our dwindling Food and Drinking Water supply.
If what has been done to the Gulf is not a clarion call for more Restrictions and Oversight of the petroleum industry this industry will be our undoing and we are in deep, deep trouble!

Peter Motyka [peterbigbass@aol.com] added: BP should continue to be made to pay Billions for all the damage they have caused.

Arvin Blakeney [alblake15@juno.com] added: Please make sure these funds go towards the heavy needs of the Gulf where so much serious damage has yet to be discovered.

Judy Lamoureux [lamourjj@yahoo.com] added: All companies causing oil spills in our waters should be sued further for polluting my food source. We know that oil and chemicals have sunk to ocean bottoms creating dead zones where some fish live and eat. I'm afraid to eat gulf shrimps anymore. Stop drilling in our oceans. Find another energy source and jobs.

Michelle Davis [kampai.michelle@gmail.com] added: It's only right, that what was damaged the most (the ecosystems of the Gulf Coast), get completely healed before any of this money go anywhere else. This is not just about your particular states. This environment is every persons on this earths to steward. But yet, it looks like once again, the small minded view is clamoring. Please see the bigger picture and do the right thing. Ultimately it is in the best interest of all who live and work on the Gulf Coast.

William Hampton [fathertime4ever44@yahoo.com] added: P.S.
It is time for the politicians to take there hand out of the cookie jar, use the fines for what they we accessed for, the environment.

Mike Schacht [thedukeandclay@yahoo.com] added: It was a culture of corporate greed that created the disaster. Let our solution stay focused on restoration efforts and leave pork barrel politics in the past.

Linda Hayes [lindahayes92@yahoo.com] added: I am writing to say that I believe that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment.

Susan Bannister [suebirch@earthlink.net] added: Special interest groups are clamoring to use BP's fines to build highways and other coastal developments. This is unacceptable. Years after the Gulf oil spill, the environment is still suffering. Funds must be used to restore Gulf ecosystems while helping to rebuild the Gulf's resource-based economy.

Ted Pratt [anpra3@aol.com] added: I do ot like the fact that you are splurging with the money that's supposed to go for clean up of the GULF. Either you put the money in to where it was supposed to be spent or hire someone that will. It seems like you people CAN'T / DON'T KNOW HOW to manage money (that's why we got such a huge deficit).

Tom Jackson [scrimm@comcast.net] added: no more dirty energy

Larry Furgal [lfurgal@yahoo.com] added: Lets use any monies received from BP for Gulf restoration and not for other uses that lobbyists deem more important. Like lining the pockets of other who want to steal, yes steal, this money.

Jacque Lefler [jlefler@sonic.net] added: REPEAT: Use the moneys received from fines imposed on BP solely for restoration of the gulf ecosystem.

Michelle Macy [mmacyartist@yahoo.com] added: Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council: Stand Up for Wildlife NOT special interests!!

Jean Davis [jeandart@techline.com] added: Environmental restoration MUST be the primary consideration of any funding allocation.

Barb Drake [worldpeace7@comcast.net] added: In the name of goodness and decency, do the right thing.

Kayla Price [kaylacmp@hotmail.com] added: Special interest groups are clamoring to use BP's fines to build highways and other coastal developments. This is unacceptable!!!

Years after the Gulf oil spill, the environment is still suffering.
These funds should be used to restore Gulf ecosystems while helping to rebuild the Gulf's resource-based economy.

Paul Shabazian [pshab@earthlink.net] added: This is another example of the disregard of the polluting oil companies destroying a habitat and doing nothing about their mess and then putting out BS PR campaigns to convince the ignorant American public that they are cleaning everything up when they are doing NOTHING and then on top of it all diverting the money for other things that special interest wants. More lies, diversions, BS PR from the giant polluting corporate interests. This country has become a SAD MESS.

Juan Calvillo [juan@calvillophoto.com] added: What happened in the Gulf must be made right, and the plans need to be specific and supported by, and beneficial to, the public.

Nancy Hoort [nancysladyemily@hotmail.com] added: Do not add hypocrisy to the list of wrong and ignorant acts committed here. The money BP is required to pay to clean up the environmental disaster they created must be used to repair as much damage as we can!

Shelagh Mayhew [shelagh_mayhew@yahoo.com] added: Three years ago I was vacationing on the Gulf at Panama City Beach, Fl.
I was amazed at the beauty and awed by the sight and sound of the area. We we

Don Ries [linda_ries@yahoo.com] added: The fines for the spill are not some piggy bank that the states can raid for pet projects, it must be used for restoration of the environment.

barbara graham [barbistan@gmail.com] added: My public comment would be that I have no plans to visit the gulf states because I do not believe enough has been done and I'm not eating anything out of there.

We used to go fishing there, but you know what? The tuna are biting off Baja California. Don't need no oil soaked snapper.

BG Adams [birderonthego@yahoo.com] added: It was my understanding from the beginning that the fines imposed on BP would be spent to "clean up their mess" and restore the Gulf ecosystem. We should NOT deviate from that goal. Clean up and restoration will, in the end, be the most beneficial to both human and wild life.

Bonnie Avery [bonavery@gmail.com] added: I urge you to move now to restore environmental habitat to the Gulf Coast. We must try to heal what we have destroyed, as much as is humanly possible!

Ruth Miller [rmillerbrown@googlemail.com] added: Think of the environment!!!

christine waddell [christine@fluidwisdom.com] added: and give MORE to the environment that was destroyed, sullied, set-back

Linda T. Haney [lthaney2000@yahoo.com] added: The use of these funds shouldn't be in question. There is nothing more important than the health of our planet and our own Gulf. BP damaged this area, no question about that and no doubt promises were made.
Efforts to restore it should continue.Simple and true. Do it right, Finish what has been started. No other claim for these monies should be considered. How quickly we forget? Not all of us.

Steven Miller [millersmj@charter.net] added: It is very important to me that the environmental damage due to the BP oil spill be fixed so that the Gulf's ecosystem and economy can be restored.

Kathlyn Gilpin [kcgilpin01@aim.com] added: . And, in fact, I would suggest that the percentage allocated for environmental restoration projects should be MORE than 30%

David Hartgrove [birdman9@earthlink.net] added: When there's a large pool of money to be distributed, the number of people trying to get a piece of the action is directly related to the proportion

who think they have a politician in their pocket to help them get their greedy fingers in the pie. I think that mixes enough metaphors for one sentence.

Sandra Atkins [malibusandy@hughes.net] added:
I'm also pleased that you have indicated you will seek further public comment on a project list as it becomes available. It's important for stakeholders to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact their communities and inevitably have a national impact.

Kathleen Barnes [kabarnes52@verizon.net] added: STOP THOSE WHO WANT TO RIP OFF MONEY RIGHTFULLY INTENDED AND VITALLY NEEDED FOR ECOSYSTEM AND HABITAT RESTORATION!!

Elinor Perlich [elinperlich@hotmail.com] added: It makes no sense to have a pipeline go south from Canada to send oil to China..
Go overland Canada to the Pacific ocean to send it to China.

Kathryn Hughes [hugheka@sbcglobal.net] added: A damaged ecosystem only keeps tourists away which damages an already shakey Gulf Coast economy.

Jim Norgrove [jnorgrove@msn.com] added: Nothing like the G reedy O il P igs to continue to screw us all even when we're trying to clean up ANOTHER one of their disasters.
Republican rubber stamp sock puppets for corporate elitists.

Claudia Hall [aliceforest@comcast.net] added: AMERICA WAS BEAUTIFUL, ANIMALS THRIVED, THE AIR WAS CLEAR, THE WATER CLEAN....THEN, "MAN DISCOVERED" THE CONTINENT. SINCE THAT TIME, WE HAVE PLACED OUR ENVIRONMENT IN JEOPARDY. WE HAVE FOULED THE AIR & DIRTIED THE WATERS. WE HAVE CAUSED THE EXTINCTION OF SPECIES, IN THE AIR, ON THE LAND, & IN THE SEA!

PLEASE, I BEG YOU, DO NOT ALLOW THE GREED OF A FEW, TO DESTROY THE
LIVES OF MANY!!! WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT OUR HUMPTY DUMPTY
EARTH BACK TOGETHER & STOP DESTROYING LIVES, OUR ENVIRONMENT, AIR, LAND, SEA, ALL LIVING THINGS!! LISTEN TO YOUR CONSCIENCE, & SUPPORT THE PRISTINE & DELICATE ECOSYSTEMS, WHICH WERE ON OUR PLANET, FIRST!

PLEASE, USE YOUR VOICE, AS OURS! MAKE SURE THAT THE FINES FROM BP
& OTHER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HORRIFIC SPILL IN THE GULF - ARE USED TO RESTORE THE LIVES IN THE OCEAN, WILDLIFE & COMMUNITIES ALONG THE COAST!!

LOOK BEYOND THE DEATH & DESTRUCTION, BP CREATED & IMAGINE CREATURES OF OUR OCEANS AS THEY SWIM IN CLEAN, POLLUTION FREE SEAS!
THIS MAY HAPPEN, WHEN THE FINES ARE USED TO RESTORE OUR PRISTINE AREAS OF LIFE!!

"THE GREATEST OF A NATION & ITS MORAL PROGRESS CAN BE JUDGED BY THE
WAY ITS ANIMALS ARE TREATED." MAHATMA GANDHI

Georgeanne Samuelson [bgsamuelson@gmail.com] added: HOW CAN YOU DIVERT THIS MONEY WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE??

Kathleen Kreiselmeyer [kreiselmeyer@comcast.net] added: Please protect Mother Earth and We The People as you are elected/appointed to do.

Leslie Cirigliano [fireangel@comcast.net] added: Any money from fines should NOT go to any group other than those who want to rebuild the ecosystem that was damaged by BPs oil spill

Thank you for insuring that this won't happen.

Vivianne Mosca-clark [viviannegloriaan@yahoo.com] added: Repair the ecology, if that isn't repaired the rest is insignificant.
The people that live with the gulf are sea oriented couture. Not cleaning up the gulf will continue to hurt the area.

Jackie Jones [jabujo@gmail.com] added:
Repair the environment to the extent possible FIRST!

Louise Plante [alplante1@netzero.com] added: I believe that when the environment, wetlands ecosystem is fully restored, then other projects can be considered. Otherwise, it would be like using money that was designated to fix a leaky roof for building a new deck!

Tommy Yarbrough [tyarbro57@gmail.com] added: The Gulf Coast ecosystem is one of the most important in the world, because there is such diversity of the indigenous species that inhabit the area. Many of these species are still recovering from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and will continue to do so for years to come.
This was a disaster of epic proportion that affected all forms of land, sea, and human life that exist there. I personally know many, many people that agree with me when I say that oil is one of the dirtiest energy sources on earth, and that there is NO DOUBT that we need to research and implement cleaner, greener sources of energy. The technology is already being used all over the world, and the reason is simple. A vast percentage of these other countries have been greatly reducing their dependence on oil, while utilizing scientific research and implementation of cleaner, greener forms of energy for YEARS!!

The United States (and Washington) has, for YEARS been TOO BUSY utilizing lobbyists and special interests for their own personal gains, i e, power and money, instead of doing what is best and right for the country(the people), and reduce OUR DEPENDENCE ON OIL(foreign AND domestic), so that we can begin to utilize more clean, green energy, and at the same time, be helping the planet begin to restore itself, reducing the pollution in our atmosphere, and even slow down the effects of global warming.

I urge that The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council would please consider a new, unique approach for getting funds allocated, and acquiring those funds to push Gulf Coast cleanup efforts further and forward. Not only the Gulf Coast, but our entire planet depends on efforts such as these.

Joe Day [cday1@comcast.net] added: Please do not divert funds away from the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration

Susan Blain [s_blain@mwcc.mass.edu] added: Restoration is critical, and it is the fair and responsible thing to do.

Rory Pierce [roryanddee@comcast.net] added:

THERE ARE OTHER SOURCES FOR HIGHWAY FUNDS AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENTS.
USE THE BP MONEY FOR WHAT IT IS DESIGNATED -- ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP AND ECOSYSTEM RECOVERY.
Charles Alexander [ch_a_alex@hotmail.com] added: These fines were designed, legally as well as in spirit, to restore the damaged natural ecosystem. They were never meant to be used to build roads or buildings of any sort.

Michelle Pepitone [michelle@sfwtc.com] added: While I do not live along the Gulf Coast, I am someone who is very much invested in the outcome of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan.

Iva Jones [ivadora@pacbell.net] added:
I have visited this area and I firmly believe that fines for environmental disasters should only be used for restoration from each individual disaster, not for any other purpose.

Danielle Thomas [danielle_nicole_thomas@yahoo.com] added: Let's use a common sense approach. Fines gained from environmental penalties should be applied directly back to environmental cleanup. We don't need to built more roads, more businesses, more things that USE resources with these funds- we have already overreached ourselves as far as natural resources go on this planet. If we want our progeny to have breathable air and potable water we need to act NOW to preserve and protect what few precious resources we have left.

Christine Pylypowycz [chris210s@hotmail.com] added: RESTORATION OF THE GULF AND IT'S ENVIRONS SHOULD BE PRIORITY #1. USE OF THESE FUNDS FOR SPECIAL INTERESTS IS A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE.

Selene Ting [selene.ting@gmail.com] added: The Gulf ecosystem is a precious resource, and every effort must be made to restore it for the wildlife and the residents who live off its resources. The BP fines must first and foremost be reserved to undo the damage and assess future consequenes.

. These funds must be set aside first and foremost for stakeholders, and not special interest groups who were not affected by the spill.

Barbara SLanec [barbaraslanec@yahoo.com] added: This is more important than roads!!

The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment.

Elizabeth Molsen [emolsen@ispor.org] added: Hi. This is important.

Rosemary Nichols [rnichols@nycap.rr.com] added: The Gulf has been so horribly damaged by this terrible spill. The restoration resources should not be diverted to highways and other non-restoration purposes.

Rene Pugh [renerrp@verizon.net] added: Here'a comment....ALL OF BP'S OIL SPILL FINE MONEY SHOULD GO TO THAT WHICH BP DESTROYED.....THE GULF AND ITS' RECOVERY AND RESTORATION.TO DO OTHERWISE IS AN ETHICAL AND MORAL BREACH SO STRATOSPHERIC THERE ARE NO WORDS.IF THE COUNCIL GIVES EVEN $1 TO SPECIAL INTERESTS THEN THE COUNCIL LACKS ETHICS,MORALS AND SCRUPLES OR MORE PLAINLY THE COUNCIL IS JUST PLAIN DIRTY!

Christopher Rathbun [ypochris@yahoo.com] added: I feel the fines from environmental disasters should be dedicated to environmental restoration, not unrelated economic development schemes.

Mary Margaret Switlik [mmswitlik@csjoseph.org] added: Thank you for your time and consideration toward this important matter.

Thomas Reyer [tomas.reyer@gimmecoffee.com] added: It is the environment and wildlife that suffered most, not highways or other "hardware".

John Leith [jdleith@verizon.net] added: In particular, the funds should not be used for projects that would have a negative action on the local environment, such as real estate development for homes and businesses, and subsidizing more businesses that harm the environment, such as refineries.

Larry Kimball [kimball.magnuson@pronghornpix.com] added: The whole point is to restore as much as is possible that which the spill destroyed. Don't let this important work be derailed by special interests.

Paul Skurka Sr [ccchevydude@yahoo.com] added: Any monies allocated to the restoration SHOULD BE USED for that purpose AND NOTHING ELSE.
Businesses & OTHER man-made ventures ARE NOT vital to the ecosystem & ARE NOT necessary... the total restoration of the lands, waters, & habitats ARE & SHOULD BE the first & only priority.

Vicki Maturo [roseproductions@sbcglobal.net] added: We must do everything that we can to protect human health, the environment and animals.

Loretta Lane [lrttlane@yahoo.com] added: Yes, it advertise that BP is giving fundI to private entities and not in the Final Initial Comprehensive Plan to provide funds to restore the Gulf ecosystem is the only use, the money should be use for ...there is still a lot of work that has to be done...where damage isn't visible to the eye and shouldn't be ignored either...so let the money do its work by restoring what was damage to the "wetlands"..Thank you for listening!

Tami Calliope [casacalliope@myfairpoint.net] added:
Please bear in mind that years after the Gulf oil spill, the environment and its wildlife, both in sea and on land, as well as it people, their communities and businesses, are suffering incredible hardship. Every day oil-drenched corpses wash up on the beaches.

Meanwhile, special interest groups are clamoring to use BP's fines to build highways and other coastal development. That money was PROMISED to the Gulf: to its restoration. And it has not been restored.

Michael LaBrecque [jmmlsolar@comcast.net] added: Please act in the long term best interest of the Gulf's environmental well being, which will benefit the long term financial health of all in the region.

Mike Rudnick [mic.rudnick@gmail.com] added:
I'm an engineer living with my family of four in the Rochester NY area.
It's clear to me that class warfare is our most serious problem because it prevents us from promulgating rational public policy to deal with most of our serious problems, a host of environmental issues among them.

Below is a message from Environmental Defense Fund that I support. I urge you to heed their recommendations.

Sincerely,
Mike Rudnick

Peter Ayres [peter_yrs@yahoo.com] added: I will add to this, that 30% seems like much too little of the funds allocated, going to Gulf restoration. If it takes 100% to bring the Gulf areas back to what they were, if not better, then that is how much money should be allocated. Don't pilfer funds givien to restore destroyed land, water and habitat with uses like hotels, roads, bridges and infrastructured that is man made. The man made stuff can be replaced with man made funds. Nature needs help. It no longer holds all the cards when it comes to dealing with humans.

Susan Lea [suelea5@yahoo.com] added: The Deepwater Horizon disaster and clean up with toxic chemicals like Corexit has destroyed an ecosystem and forced the depopulation of a large community. Please relate to this disaster as the destruction of an ecosystem and restore the ecosystem, reimburse anyone or business for their losses, but relate to the environment and habitat! Please.

Suzanne Sutton [artemisprovence@gmail.com] added: Perhaps these folks would like to drink petroleum products for breakfast, lunch, and dinner as the other species of this environment are forced to do through human greed.

Celeste Black [cc.sungirl@verizon.net] added: It would be a crime to use the money for anything other than environmental restoration and wildlife-protection purposes.

Michael Bayouth [baybaysparky@sbcglobal.net] added: This has gone on too long....

Jennifer Coute [jlcoute@gmail.com] added: THIS IS INCREDIBLY VITAL!!!

john furlong [jjfu@aol.com] added: All proceeds from BP oil spill fines must be dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. Bastardizing this principal is totally unacceptable.

Randall Schmidt [clubirie123@gmail.com] added: Learn what the Keshe Foundation is doing to solve these issues and more. http://keshefoundation.org

L Steele [wentwest@peoplepc.com] added: The wild beings who call the Gulf of Mexico home have suffered and died and continue to suffer and die as a result of the BP Oil spill. The only harm to humans (other than those who lost their lives on the
platform) has been economic.

I'm sorry, but I feel it's the environment that is owed.

Tracey Archer [amethystladyt@hotmail.com] added: Habitat destruction is happening at an unsustainable rate. Loss of ecosystems equals loss of human, animal and plant life! Please wake up!

Justin Tentler [algonquinarcher@gmail.com] added: No monies from this should be earmarked for Highway construction or more canals,which caused the erosion of the wetlands and made the devastation of Katrina a hundred times worse than it would have been otherwise.

Genevieve Yuen [wongkarwhy@aol.com] added: Do the Right Thing. Restore wildlife ecysystem.

Katherine Flickinger [zeeandflick@charter.net] added: Since the money was designated for the recovery, environmentally, for the Gulf, please see that it is used for that and not for roads or economic development. The Gulf is extremely important, it's health should be priority!

D. Phoenix Hudson [phoenixhudson98007@yahoo.com] added:
Don't allow any theives to step in and attempt to put the money somewhere else. It belongs in the gulf where the disaster happened!

Steve Erickson [fh@whidbey.com] added: Fines for environmental damage are not intended either as punishment or deterrence but rather as redress - a means to fund the necessary restoration work to make whole (to the extent possible) the damaged ecosystem. It is vital that any fines received from BP be dedicated entirely to restoration of ecosystems damaged by the BP oil blowout.
It is already very late in the day for such work to commence. Time is of the essence, and every penny of the fines assessed - and more - will be needed in the restoration.

Betty Trentlyon [bettysvat@gmail.com] added: BPs fines must be used to restore Gulf ecosystems, and not for highways and other commercial development.

Sharon Lee McGraham [totolove@cruzio.com] added: The redemption should match the crime! Let's find other ways to repair the highways, for Pete's sake!

Roger & Gayle O'DONAHOO [rogergayle1@optusnet.com.au] added: Please, please, please - please listen.

This issue greatly concerns and deeply distresses us.

Please, please, please do not fail our precious environment, wild areas & wildlife.

Gone is gone - forever & ever, never to return again. What a sad, sad indictment & eternal shame on us all if we allow this to happen.

Thank you for listening and considering our comments.

Susan Bailey [imexport1990@aol.com] added: ALL FINES COLLECTED FROM BP FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER THEY CREATED IN THE GULF SHOULD GO TO RESTORING THE ENVIRONMENT! No amount should be used for any other project - that includes highways, budget shortfalls, or any thing else that is not directly environmental in nature - affected by the spill.

Nancy Brandt [nhbrandt@sbcglobal.net] added: The Gulf Coast is not yet restored,nor are the sea creatures that live along it.

Rochelle Kraut [krautrochelle@yahoo.com] added: Keep the focus on repairing the environmental damage caused by the oil spill. Thank you.

Rheba Symeonoglou [rhebasym@gmail.com] added: The effects of environmental damage can take a long sustained effort to reverse. That is why I believe environmental restoration on the gulf coast should be THE priority, far above the building of highways and other coastal developments.

Marti Nerenstone [mdnerenstone@iabar.org] added: We need to be good stewards fo the earth. We should never have allowed the situation/circumstances to allow this spill - now we must do everything we can do to clean it up.

Claude Phipps [here4now2@myfairpoint.net] added: But, 30% of projects dedicated solely for environmental restoration is way TOO LOW. The number should be greater than half of the projects.

Wayne Stalsworth [w.stal104@gmail.com] added:
Clean up the gulf, and stop whoring out to business people who could care less about our country!!!

Keith Allen [allnwood@msn.com] added: I'm sick of seeing the high-visibility campaign of LIES featuring BP, in concert with gulf state chambers of commerce, blaring "feel-good" ads on Sunday talks shows, implying that "the Gulf has recovered" from the gross environmental insult thrust on the region by BP's monumental greed and incompetence. BP, and the various chambers of commerce, pretend that gulf BEACHES are pristine (when they're NOT), and that ANY OTHER metric for measuring the economic chaos dumped on the region by BP isn't worth considering.
Eyeless shrimp and lesion-loaded fish? NOT A PROBLEM! Put on your swimsuits, and rev up your jetskis, folks! It's "business (and bullcrap) as usual" in the gulf!

Lynda Goin [tithonia65@gmail.com] added: I grew up near the Gulf coast, went there often to fish, and spent my honey moon there. I was devastated by the oil spill.

Martha Ann Carruthers [acarruthers@earthlink.net] added: (THIS IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR MISSION!)

Gordon Heavern [gheavern@yahoo.com] added: I am a firm believer in funds going to their designated location and not being slip-sided in other directions. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, PLEASE !
.
Thank you and good day, Gordon.

Don Phillips [don1023512012@yahoo.com] added: Greetings from Texas ...

We of the global web community send you this message:

We only have one planet to call home!

Carole Mayers [cdmayers@verizon.net] added: Do not allow special interest groups to gain a foothold on resources so rightfully belonging to environmental restorations.

Patrick Conley [pconleyc@gmail.com] added:
We are destroying our ecosystem on a massive scale out of a mistaken notion of entitlement that is proving lethal. I cannot think of a much better example than BP use of dispersant to poison the Gulf which has made its waters 33 times more toxic. It is nature which is in the driver's seat of our engine of destruction.

Robert Rice [rgrbfc@gmail.com] added: While I have no sympathy for BP, it seems like both fraud and a shakedown to take their money, meant to repair the environmental damage they did, and to spend it on pork barrel projects. Are gulf state leaders ethical or corrupt? Their actions will decide the answer.

Judy Skog [jskog83@gmail.com] added: Restoring habitat IS economic development. Where would the Gulf Coast be without its fisheries?

Do NOT use this money for highways. If you don't have an intact ecosystem that can buffer you from further monster storms, you're SOL, highways or not.

Sarah Hall [earthsmile@earthlink.net] added: The health of our environment is shaping up to be the primary issue of our time. It is linked to our survival as a species and the survival of our planet. Please give it the urgent, top priority attention and action that it demands.

Deborah Ellison [deborahlsn@hotmail.com] added: I'm not going to visit the gulf until the eco-systems are cleaned up-all the other stuff is just bullshit. I

Scott Williams [xenosfrog@comcast.net] added: I think that 100% of the funding allocation (less operating costs) should go to environmental restoration. Let's be honest and clear and act with impeccable integrity. Thank you.

Mary Ann Perry [auntiemamep@aol.com] added: I know that the Gulf Coast, actually the whole US has great needs in many areas, but Gulf Oil Spill Monies must go to Ecosystem Restoration and Environmental Needs. We must restore the basis for all Gulf recovery!

Joan Hunnicutt [joanhunnicutt@gmail.com] added: As the holder of M.A.s in Environmental Studies and Marine Biology, I am a staunch defender of our wildlife and its habitat, most especially that of the oceans.

annette kattau [kattau.annette39@gmail.com] added: HOW DARE THIS BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE . WIND AND SOLAR SHOULD BE OUR GOAL, BIG OIL HAS GOTTEN AWAY WITH MURDER AND SHOULD BE ON TRIAL.....

JoAnn Duman [jduman@juno.com] added: It is unfortunate that some are calling to use the restoration funds instead for highways and development.

Cynthia Lee [clee@hawaiiantel.net] added: THE MONEY SHOULD BE USED TO UNDO THE DAMAGE, NOT TAKE CARE OF HIGHWAYS.
Save the environment - that's more important than anything else.

Tara Dubarr [taradubarr12@gmail.com] added: As someone who lived for a period of time in Louisiana and has family living in Florida I know the value of a clean, pristine coastline and a thriving eco system. Please consider the following points about allocation and continuing restoration efforts. Science shows that the agents dispersed on the surface simply made the oil sink, which means it will continue for many years to come back to the surface affecting wildlife and plants

Joy Cassidy [1haydenjoy@roadrunner.com] added: THESE FUNDS MUST BE USED TO RESTORE THE WILDLIFE SO DEVASTATED BY THIS DISASTER!!

Cathy Smotherman [cathy.smotherman@yahoo.com] added: Restoring the environment and helping wildlife are the most important uses of BP fine funds. If you get the natural setting into better shape private investment and motivated tourists will take care of development. Our natural world is the main thing.

Beatrice Marino [bgmarino@verizon.net] added: Protecting our planet, in this case the Gulf Coast Ecosystem, is everyone's job especially yours.

Gary Alderette [alderette-g@sbcglobal.net] added:
The final plan should require that each Gulf states' plan complements the Council's efforts by also restoring the environment and not reward the always present cabal of greedy players that seek only to enrich their own financial fortunes.

Cheriel M Jensen [cherielj@earthlink.net] added: 100% of the funds must go to ecological restoration and stopping further leaks.

Virginia Murchison [ginnylon@hotmail.com] added: Do not steal from the funds to protect wildlife. Use the money from BP to clean up and protect wildlife.

Carol Fletcher [cefletch@umich.edu] added: The massive BP oil spill caused a huge disruption to the environment.
Therefore, restoration of the environment must remain a priority.

Mary Neland [vneland@comcast.net] added: Hiding the oil with Corexit was not enough. It actually needs to be cleaned up, too. So, let's get with it. No more failed governments using nondiscretionary monies for projects that haven't the backbone to raise taxes in order to fund. That's their problem. Yours is to finish restoring the Gulf to the same or better condition it was in before BP fouled it.

Doris Mclaughlin [hiklass@hotmail.com] added: Since the fines paid by BP for damaging the water and land due to the oil spill in the Gulf Council affect the Gulf Coast, the money should be kept there for habitat restoration, as well as to give work to area residents. These residents suffered greatly due to the terrible damage wrecked by the oil, that damage to livelihood and ecosystems, should be kept right there to attempt to repair that damage.

Marianne Corona [mjcorona@comcast.net] added: Please do this, the impact is felt by whole nation!

Pamela Themelis [pthemeli@ci.lowell.ma.us] added: SERIOUSLY?! DOESN'T GREED EVER GO AWAY??? PLEASE, YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE CORRECT DECISION OVER THIS MATTER. THANK YOU.

Drew Roenneburg [drewroenneburg@hotmail.com] added: Funds received from BP for irreparable damage done to the coastal ecosystem of the gulf, should be used strictly for restoration. These funds are not meant to stoke the coastal economy or replace funds from budget cuts.

Doris Buyarski [doris.buyarski@gmail.com] added: There is still much to do with the clean-up of the gulf and this money is needed for this purpose and this purpose only!!! It is not to be used for roads, etc. Do the right thing and clean up the gulf....

John Booth [jtbooth49@yahoo.com] added: Just one question, though. Has the fact that oil is still leaking from the sight and traces of it still reach the gulf shores after three years been addressed. Is BP planning to correct this?

Jan Wilson [joyfilled@comcast.net] added: To hell with roads. Save, repair, rescue the ecosystem!

Ann E. Schmidt [aeschmidt58@gmail.com] added: I am appalled that there is a possibility that this funding could be used for projects other than those that intend to bring about the greatest possible environmental restoration.

Robert McCombs [bobmcc@humboldt1.com] added: I won't come back until the Gulf is restored. Build your highways and develop anything you want - no Gulf the was it was before Macando, no me.

Gayle Spencer [bwfolks@pobox.com] added: Restoration of the ecosystems is the right and ethical action.

s k davis [kudlessdavis@aol.com] added: JUST BECAUSE THE GULF CATASTROPHE HAS FALLEN FROM NATIONAL HEADLINES DOES NOT NOT NOT MEAN THAT THE CLEANUP IS DONE. THE JOB MUST BE COMPLETED SUCH THAT THE ECOSYSTEMS AND WILDLIFE THERE HAVE RECOVERED - AS IN NOT DYING PREMATURELY, NOT HAVING REPRODUCTIVE ISSUES, NOT HAVING TO ADAPT TO A LOSS OF FOOD SOURCES.

Rose Bertrand [roseber@sbcglobal.net] added: I have a degree in Biology and years of graduate studies in Zoology and History of Science as well as lifelong personal study. We need to take care of this planet or it is going to stop taking care of us. That is a fact. We are already feeling the droughts, floods and excessive temperatures. We must use the monies gathered from the mammoth spill in the Gulf to FIX THE GULF insofar as it can be done.

Alex Mendelsohn [alexmm@roadrunner.com] added: The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's draft plan provides details on the Council's 30% funding allocation dedicated solely to environmental restoration projects. I urge the Council to continue to reaffirm this ecosystem-oriented focus.

Don't spend monies on anything except restoring the Gulf environment!

We are watching!

BettyJean Green [evergreens2@roadrunner.com] added:
I have been following the movement toward restoration of the ecosystems along the Gulg Coast. The use of poisonous dispersants in addition to the spilled oil adds to the urgency of take appropriate measures.

Laurinda Reinhart [spottedponyrider@netzero.net] added: Economic Development efforts cannot go forward until the environmental degradation affecting local communties, fisheries, and the safety of gulf towns is first addressed. local economies cannot rebound until the man made environmental issues affecting these communities are repaired.

Molly Brewton [m.brewton@frontiernet.net] added: I urge you to please use the funds paid in response to the BP spill to specifically mitigate the environmental damage done by the spill.
There is PLENTY to be done there, still.

If funds are used for any other purposes, it gives the impression of opportunism, which I'm sure you don't want.

Elizabeth Bird [lizzbird1@gmail.com] added: WILDLIFE FIRST. THEN ROADS.

Nancy Free [nefree@verizon.net] added: More should lhave been done already to restore the environment of the Gulf. Why hasn't it?

Elizabeth Nichols [eln2356@hotmail.com] added: THE ENVIROMENT SHOULD COME FIRST - OTHERWISE, WHY BOTHER.

CHAR BARCLAY [ms_spunky3@hotmail.com] added: This makes me sad to know we have to still fight to keep the gulf critters safe again and again.

Iris Csik [iriscsik@att.net] added:
I write today to ask you to please use the BP fine money to restore the environment to how it was prior to their manmade disaster. It is only a common sense use of these monies. Our natural resouces are priceless.

Paula DeFelice [paula.defelice@sbcglobal.net] added: Environmental damage funds should go to environmental reparations. Not just partially. Reparation in full.

Robert Cruder [bcruder@gmail.com] added: The Exxon Valdiz demonstrated that oil continues to do damage decades after the spill. It may be tempting to eliminate the visible oil and use remaining funds for other purposes. When the residual oil crashes the tourism and fishing industries once more how would one fund the cleanup/mitigation?

Rita Passer [rpasser@bellsouth.net] added: The last storm that went through there resurfaced just a part of it.

Shirley Powell [magicquilter@charter.net] added: I'm also pleased that you have indicated you will seek further public comment on a project list as it becomes available. It's important for stakeholders to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact their communities and inevitably have a national impact.

lawrence rosin [lawrencerosin@yahoo.com] added: The government should be using its money to support the development of the Gulf Coast system instead of big and immoral business leaders. There are animalsd in the Gulf Coast. Those animals could die. There are also plants there. They can die too. Some animals that live there will get sick if there are not enough plants around. They need plants, just like you and me. Special interest groups don't even deserve to get the funding. After causing money problems for the middle and lower classes, and all the pollution they caused; they deserve funding. I don't think so!

John Dabrowski [jldabrowski@verizon.net] added: It seems obvious that the fines from an environmental disaster should be dedicated to environmental restoration. Please in your final plan require that each Gulf state's plan also focuses on restoring the entironment, and reject any projects that do not support this goal.

Ecosystem restoration projects need to be the top priority. They will not only help wildlife deal with the lasting impacts of the oil spill, the will also protect communities and help restore the Gulf's resource-based economy. Restoring the Gulf ecosystem is the best use of BP's oil spill fine money. Please don't give in to special interests and allow the money to be used for other purposes.

Michele Shimizu [simizu@konan-wu.ac.jp] added: It's important for stakeholders to provide input on projects in the Gulf that will impact their communities and inevitably have a national impact.

Gulf Restoration Network (From 1,968 messages total):

Chair Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Rebecca Blank

Dear Chair Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Blank,

As the BP trial continues and we get closer to seeing billions of dollars in fines and penalties flow to the Gulf for restoration, many who supported the RESTORE Act are growing increasingly concerned about the direction that local and state governments are going toward in allocating funding through that Act. For example, at a roundtable discussion in Jackson County, Mississippi on April 11, local officials shared a laundry list of questionable projects that they'd like to use RESTORE dollars on, including the expansion of a highway and airport.
Economic development projects like these provide no ecosystem benefits and more importantly are likely to cause additional harm to the already fragile environment. This concern has led a diverse network of conservation, community, civil rights, and faith-based groups to release the Gulf Future Guidance for Sustainable Restoration (Read the full report here: http://bit.ly/11aXft4).

In this document, fifty-two organizations have outlined a vision and set of priorities for how the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council should consider which projects to fund. By prioritizing ecosystem restoration and the economic benefits it will have for local communities, and by ensuring these funds help create safer, healthier and just communities, the Council can build a better, more sustainable Gulf Coast.

The RESTORE Act offers the Gulf a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore decades of ecosystem damages and to repair and sustain the communities and economy that rely on that ecosystem. To date, the system for public input has limited the opportunity for people who live and work in these communities to share their real-world perspective on how best to restore them. The Gulf Future Guidance for Sustainable Restoration offers us a glimpse of what is possible especially when communities are engaged in the process. I urge the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council to adopt this vision as they move forward in drafting their plan for restoration.

It is imperative that the members of the Council fight against the urges of local and state governments to use this money as stimulus for pet, pork projects. The intent of the RESTORE Act was to restore a unique and historically damaged ecosystem that the entire nation depends upon for food, energy, tourism and its exceptional cultural significance. It is unlikely we will ever have another chance to restore and protect this national treasure that so many call home, so let's seize the opportunity.

Unique Alterations

Donna Emmett [d_emmett@hotmail.com] added:

Alabama's Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources wants to use RESTORE funds to replace a lodge and conference center, destroyed by a hurricane in 2004, on a stretch of undeveloped beach.

Barbara Vinson [wintonsvinson@frontier.com] added:

BP's fossil fuel all but destroyed the Gulf, and who's done anything about making them pay through the nose for what they did? Nobody.
Politics again.

theodore spachidakis [theo_spachidakis@yahoo.gr] added:

Today marks three years of BP's oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.
Three years of dead dolphins, oiled wetlands, and sickness. Three years of BP's misleading PR. Three years of fighting to hold BP accountable.

Georgia Locker [jslocker@yahoo.com] added:

call home, so let's seize the opportunity. SET UP A SPECIAL GROUP TO OVERSEE THE SPENDING OF THIS MONEY WHO HAVE THE INTEREST OF THE GULF IN MIND. DO NOT GIVE THE MONEY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO USE IN OTHER WAYS.

Margaret Fissinger [fissinger@hotmail.com] added:

As a senior citizen I am concerned about the possible misdirection of RESTORE funds to efforts that will do more damage to our environment. As the BP trial continues and we get closer to seeing billions of dollars in fines and penalties flow to the Gulf for restoration, many who supported the RESTORE Act are growing increasingly concerned about the direction that local and state governments are going toward in allocating funding through that Act.

Lynda Goin [tithonia65@gmail.com] added:

I am an American citizen who grew up near the Gulf of Mexico and loves it and its cultures.

Saran & Norton Kirschbaum [sarank@mac.com] added:

It is not business as usual unless you want a future that will be unlivable. This is the 21st century, BP has to find new ways of doing business or there won't be anyone left who will need to buy oil.

Thomas Moore [corruptedcanine@yahoo.com] added:

It is truly sad that this even needs to be said.

erin marshall [kismetdesign@comcast.net] added:

OUTRAGEOUS and soooo very typical of big oil!

Myrthe LeBourgeois [mimileb@gmail.com] added:

Let's not waste our chance to actually RESTORE the Gulf, better than it was before. We need to protect the ecosystem first and only with this money.

Pierre Champagne [pierrechampagne@att.net] added:

Please, do not betray us!! What would ypur mother say?

Susan Blain [s_blain@mwcc.mass.edu] added:

Too often money meant for restoration in response to harm has been spent on other things. Blacktop and airplane fuel will not restore the gulf. Please listen to the people most harmed; really listen.

Nina Council [babunina10@mind.net] added:

The funds are meant to help restore the Gulf for all the damage resulting from BP's huge spill, not to build any structures or roads with that money and further destroying natural lands which need healing.

Brenda Troup [brendat21@comcast.net] added:

Do not waste this chance to help the ecosystem of the Gulf, and make it thrive so the fishing and tourist industries can as well.

Anne ODonnell [odonnel_anne@yahoo.com] added:

Please support RESTORE for the gulf recovery. The Gulf has suffered enough without mismanagement of recovery money from BP settlement.

Katherine Whitson [katherine.whitson@gmail.com] added:

How is this going to help with the clean up and restoration? It won't!

Mercedes Lackey [helloelsie@gmail.com] added:

It's been three years. Why hasn't the RESTORE money gone to restore the environment? And why are you using money that should be going to salvage the ecosystem so fishermen can go back to work on a HIGHWAY?

Virgene Link [linkerwan@yahoo.com]

This more sustainable coast will support jobs, whose taxes will help fund transportation projects.
Sheral Marshall [sheralmar@aol.com] added:

Please guarantee that the RESTORE money goes to efforts to truly help the ecosystem recover!

Madolyn Crumpton [crumptonlaw@gmail.com] added:

Do not allow those who would hijack these funds to add insult to injury. The Gulf Coast Ecosystem is a living entity for which these funds are intended. Shortsightedness and cutting corners is what caused this mess. The injured party must have redress.

Jody Webb [webb3838@charter.net] added:

*BP Has Put This Community Through Hell For Way Too Long; NOW It's Time For BP To Pay Them Back In This At The Very Least!

Carole Osborne [carole.os@gmail.com] added:

The Gulf Future Guidance for Sustainable Restoration offers us a glimpse of what is possible especially when communities are engaged in the process. I urge the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council to adopt this vision as they move forward in drafting their plan for restoration.

James Lazell [hq@theconservationagency.org] added:

I am a professional biologist and ecologist with a long career invested in conservation.

Mark Prime [mrprime63@yahoo.com] added:

Perhaps its beneath our feet, this Heaven in my belief? I can't imagine why it isn't possible that the one thing we sought was always beneath our ungrateful feet. Never fear, my find-feathered spirits, we are on our way, I am packing my spiritual bags and heading across the ground, into the ground, the soil is calling me, so I thought why not make it about the community at large? Bing bang, the guitar sang, boom boom the drum chimed in, the tambourine goes (ping), the flute and clarinet dance their wind to my loving spirit and I am risen again to their song, their truth wafting all around my senses...

John Croom [jtc@osrestoration.com] added:

When restoration projects are being created and the specifications are being written as it relates to marsh grass planting, please ban the use of petroleum based, haber process, synthetic fertilizers in delicate eco systems already suffering from nutrification of N and P. The same fertilizers that create dead zones, high levels of toxicity, known carcinogenic chemicals and state clearly on their own MSDS to not use around, near or in bodies of water are being applied by the thousands of pounds due to current procedures. This is sheer ignorance and oversight by the "experts" who are experiencing mass die off's of spartina and juncus in current and past plantings. Please BAN the use of chemical fertilizers such as Osmocote and Terasorb from any use regarding coastal restoration. Natural fertility measures have proven beneficial and superior in long term growth, performance an cost savings.

holly dennin [chd@psly.net] added:

As a college instructor I have been using the BP disaster as a site of study for several years, and Katrina before that. So far we have only seen negative impacts. Here is a chance to show leadership!

Anne Prairie [aprairieincolorado@gmail.com] added:

HOLD BP ACCOUNTABLE TO THEIR MESS!!!

Janet Buchholz [jqbu@att.net] added:

Use these funds for restoration and NOT exploitation!

Della Pangborn [dellapang@aol.com] added:

This is the opportunity to correct the disastrous mistakes and errors of the past for the Gulf. We will not get another chance!

Kimie Gill [kimiekgill@aol.com] added:

Don't let greedy state and local politicians put RESTORE dollars into environmentally harmful projects instead of putting them to work to restore a healthy Gulf.

William Vaughan [wavaughan508@hotmail.com] added:

As a native Mississippian, I am sick of the fact that the only reason my state isn't notorious worldwide for graft and corruption is because it is in the same region as Texas and Louisiana. Just once, I would like to see federal money used for its intended purpose and not so that the local politicians can enrich their cronies.

Krishna Dangol [krishnabdrdangol@hotmail.com] added:

Also, Organic Vegan Lifestyle is the Fastest way to a Cool Planet - http://crisis2peace.org/bbs/board.php?bo_table=download

Harry Lowenburg [hlowenburg@gmail.com] added:

I am outraged... incensed, and unfortunately not surprised that Alabama, Mississippi and Florida are using their Natural Resource Damage Assessment dollars on economic development.