



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Future Item for the City Council Meeting of May 28, 2013

**DATE:** May 13, 2013  
**TO:** Ronald L. Olson, City Manager  
**FROM:** Pete Anaya, Planning and Environmental Services  
PeteAn@cctexas.com  
361/826-3781

**Briefing on staff and consultant activities related to collection and evaluation of project information, potential regional collaborations, and strategic initiatives in anticipation of the State of Texas' response plan under the RESTORE Act.**

### **CAPTION:**

Briefing on staff and consultant activities related to collection and evaluation of project information, potential regional collaborations, and strategic initiatives in anticipation of the State of Texas' response plan under the RESTORE Act.

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide Mayor and City Council with briefings on an as-needed basis of the efforts taken by staff to involve the public, stakeholder organizations, and other governmental entities in an exercise to identify potential projects beneficial to the environment and economy of the Gulf of Mexico that might qualify for funding from the RESTORE Act.

### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act) was enacted on July 6, 2012, in response to impacts arising from the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill and the resulting restoration requirements.

The RESTORE Act established a Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (the Council), which is comprised of governors from the five affected Gulf States' (including Texas), the Secretaries from the U.S. Departments of Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and Homeland Security as well as the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Gulf States selected and President Obama appointed the Secretary of Commerce as the Council's Chair.

The RESTORE Act dedicates 80 percent of all administrative and civil penalties related to the *Deepwater Horizon* spill to a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund and outlines a structure by which the funds can be utilized to restore and protect the natural resources,

ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, and economy of the Gulf Coast region. The RESTORE Act sets forth the following framework for allocation of the Trust Fund:

- 35 percent of the money divided equally between the five Gulf States for ecological and economic restoration efforts in the region;
- 30 percent of the money through the Council to implement a comprehensive plan for ecosystem and economic recovery of the Gulf Coast;
- 30 percent of the money for States' plans to address based on impacts from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill;
- 2.5 percent of the money to create the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Program within the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and
- 2.5 percent of the money to the Centers of Excellence Research grants, which will each focus on science, technology, and monitoring related to Gulf restoration.

Other BP *Deepwater Horizon* related funding sources are going to be available for Texas restoration projects for a variety of projects and in as yet unknown amounts. The Natural Resources Damages Act and the criminal settlements already in with BP, Transocean, MOEX and expected soon from Halliburton could make tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars available for Texas restoration projects that the City of Corpus Christi can apply for in the months and years ahead.

The City held a public outreach meeting on April 10, 2013, at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development to initiate the exercise of gathering information and gauging the interest in regional approaches that accomplish one or more of the five goals established by the RESTORE Act. More than 100 citizens attended and presented ideas and projects that addressed a variety of potential strategies for restoring the Gulf of Mexico. City staff are continuing to develop a list of strategies internally and giving the public more opportunities to provide ideas for projects.

The State of Texas has not yet determined its process for the state's response plan and how it would ultimately solicit sustainable solutions for the environmental and economic restoration of the Gulf of Mexico. Additional, there is no commitment or guarantee the City of Corpus Christi will receive any funding from the BP *Deepwater Horizon* Trustee Council or the federal government.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

No action is being requested of the City Council.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION**

None

**CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:**

N/A

**EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:**

This is a non-emergency item.

**DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:**

Planning and Environmental Services, Intergovernmental Relations, ACM for Public Works, City Attorney

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Operating       Revenue       Capital       Not applicable

<b>Fiscal Year: 2012-2013</b>	<b>Project to Date Expenditures (CIP only)</b>	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Future Years</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Line Item Budget				
Encumbered / Expended Amount				
This item				
BALANCE				

Fund(s)

**Comments:** None

**RECOMMENDATION:**

No action is requested of the City Council, so no recommendations are being made.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

1. Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act)
2. Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council *The Path Forward to Restoring the Gulf Coast: A Proposed Comprehensive Plan.*