

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*
Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

August 18, 2015



The Honorable Nelda Martinez
P.O. Box 9277
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469

Dear Mayor Martinez,

As Texas' designee to the RESTORE Council, I will be hosting four listening sessions along the coast in September. The purpose of the listening sessions is to give the public an opportunity to comment on the priorities for the Texas coast as we move forward with implementing the federal RESTORE Act and distributing RESTORE funds.

Specifically, the public is invited to comment on the *Priorities Document*, which outlines the criteria for awarding RESTORE funds and is based on elements of grant review processes currently accepted by the Federal government. In addition, a *Framework* document has been developed to facilitate the discussion of the implementation of the RESTORE Act in Texas. Among other things, the *Framework* document describes the importance of a healthy coastal community on both the environment and economy of Texas and the United States.

These documents, along with information on the listening sessions, will be posted on the web site - <http://www.restorethetexascoast.org/> on August 20, 2015.

The *Priorities Document* and the information sheet with the dates, times and locations of the four sessions are enclosed.

You and your staff are welcome to attend any session that is most convenient.

Please contact me at 512/239-5515, Diane Mazuca at 512/239-3504, or Stephen Tatum at 512/239-5537 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toby Baker".

Toby Baker
Commissioner

Enclosures

LISTENING SESSIONS on RESTORE ACT
Hosted by TCEQ Commissioner Toby Baker

Goal: To solicit public comment on priorities for the Texas coast for the purpose of implementing the federal RESTORE Act, including the distribution of the federal funds.

Monday, September 14, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Galveston

A&M Galveston
Classroom Laboratory Building (CLB)
Building 3007, Room 100 (Auditorium)
200 Seawolf Parkway

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Beaumont

Lamar University
University Theater Building
4400 S M L King Jr Pkwy

Monday, September 28, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Brownsville

UT Brownsville
El Gran Salon
One West University Blvd

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Corpus Christi

A&M Corpus Christi University Center
Anchor Ballroom A&B
6300 Ocean Drive

PRIORITIES FOR RESTORE FUNDED PROJECTS

A. ECONOMIC BENEFITS

25 Points

- Job Creation
- Infrastructure
- Economic Resiliency
- Impacts to Local & Regional Economy
- Tourism
- Gulf Seafood Marketing

B. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

25 Points

- Restoration, Conservation & Preservation of Habitat
- Protects or Enhances Rare and Threatened Resources
- Replenishment & Protection of Living Coastal & Marine Resources
- Restoration & Protection of Water Quality
- Project Synergy

C. COMPREHENSIVE FACTORS

20 Points

- Complements Other Projects
- Promotes Community Resiliency
- Promotes Ecological Resiliency
- Part of a Comprehensive Coastal Plan
- Recreational & Educational Uses

D. PROJECT LOGISTICS

20 Points

- Project Readiness & Planning
- Likelihood of Success
- Long-term Operation & Management
- Success Criteria & Monitoring
- Based on Best Available Science
- Cost-Effectiveness

E. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

20 Points

- Public Support & Participation
- Financial Partners & Funding