Texas Multi-Year Implementation Plan for RESTORE grants posted

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 15, 2017 - Public comment is encouraged

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After Hrs

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Commissioner Toby Baker announces the opportunity for the public to comment on Texas’ draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan published in the Texas Register. This plan will provide the framework for the use of funds in this initial round of funding under the Direct Component, also known as “Bucket One,” of the federal RESTORE Act.

Baker was appointed by the governor and serves as the state’s representative on the federal RESTORE Council where he assists in implementation of the Federal RESTORE Act in Texas.

“There are many deserving projects under consideration but not enough funds to give grants to all of them,” says Baker. “That’s why it was very important for us to create a competitive, grassroots, and transparent process to evaluate which projects are funded.

The plan will be posted in the Texas Register for 45 days during which the public is encouraged to comment on the way funding is distributed for projects that directly benefit the coastal area and address ecosystem restoration, economic development and/or tourism.

Also, the plan is posted on the RESTORE website and includes the following documents:

• a matrix of general information on activities considered for inclusion in the plan, including implementation costs and costs to the state for management of the grants;

• a narrative describing activities considered for inclusion with information on the review and selection process used;
• a map showing the location of projects under consideration, and

• a draft project list of activities being considered for inclusion.

Written comments must be submitted electronically via e-mail no later than 5:00 p.m. Central Time on June 26, 2017.