

Texas' Multi-Year Implementation Plan for RESTORE grants accepted

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 - U.S. Treasury to begin the process of funding

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After Hrs

Millions of dollars in grant funds under the federal RESTORE Act, the law created to respond to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon blowout and oil spill, are coming to Texas. Texas' Multi-Year Implementation Plan was accepted by U.S. Department of Treasury yesterday. The plan lays out how funds for Texas under the Direct Component, also known as "Bucket 1," of the federal RESTORE Act will be distributed.

Twenty-six projects are included in [the MIP](#) with an estimated total cost of \$114.2 million. At this time, approximately \$85.6 million is available to Texas under the Bucket 1 program. These projects directly affect 12 coastal counties, including three conducting coast-wide activities.

The plan complies with the RESTORE Act requirement that activities directly benefit the coastal area. While planning for these funds began long before Hurricane Harvey developed, and are not necessarily related to hurricane relief, many areas devastated by the storm will benefit. The plan was developed as part of a robust, competitive process featuring listening sessions, workshops, and web-based training. During the public comment period, more than a thousand public comments were received and reviewed on the Texas draft list of projects before it was finalized.

"I am pleased the Department of the Treasury accepted the Texas plan after all the hard work, careful consideration, and public comment that went into it," reflects Toby Baker, commissioner of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Governor Abbott's appointee to administer RESTORE in Texas. "Now we can begin the process of submitting grant applications for projects based on available funding."

As more funds become available, additional applications for projects included in the accepted plan can be advanced.