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## STATE SUBMITS PROPOSAL FOR STATE EXPENDITURE PLAN

April 6, 2015

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*--As required by the RESTORE Act, the Gulf Consortium outlines the  
development of the State Expenditure Plan--*

The Gulf Consortium's planning state expenditure plan (PSEP) was submitted to the Gulf Coast Restoration Council by Governor Rick Scott's office on Friday. The PSEP is an outline for the development of the State Expenditure Plan (SEP) as required by the RESTORE Act. The RESTORE Act passed in 2012 is intended to ensure that Clean Water Act fine monies collected as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill are returned to the areas hardest hit by the spill.

"The Gulf Consortium is pleased to take this step forward," said Chairman of the Gulf Consortium and Escambia County Commissioner Grover Robinson, "Once the planning document is approved we can continue moving towards full economic and environmental recovery."

Under the RESTORE Act, Florida through a consortium is required to develop a State Expenditure Plan to determine how a certain portion of the fine dollars will be invested. The PSEP ensures that Florida's State Expenditure Plan development will comply with the RESTORE Act and state law, ensuring a commitment to projects are identified and brought before Floridians with full transparency.

"When the Deepwater Horizon tragedy struck in April 2010, Florida was climbing into an economic and tourism peak. The crisis of oil reaching the white sand beaches of Florida launched an early economic decline in our coastal communities that was subsequently lead by the Great Recession." continued Robinson, "It is time now to take a major step so that Florida can

move forward with full recovery once a settlement has been reached and all fine monies are available for investment."

The Planning State Expenditure Plan ensures that citizens, counties and the state work as team to develop Florida's State Expenditure Plan. The SEP will be developed in four key phases over 24 months, with public participation a vital part of the implementation of every phase:

- Phase I: Funding & Goal Setting - Concurrent with the Council review of the administrative planning grant application, the Gulf Consortium will define goals, objectives, guiding principles, and success measures for the state expenditure plan that reflect Florida'-specific priorities while being consistent with the Council's Comprehensive Plan.
- Phase II: Project Nomination - Using a list of existing projects as identified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Consortium will sort, screen and map all projects as well as identify any gaps for new projects to be considered.
- Phase III: Project Evaluation - The Gulf Consortium will then conduct a comprehensive, multi-level approach to project screening, evaluation and ranking that includes eligibility, environmental and economic attributes and considers leveraging of various funding sources.
- Phase IV: Florida State Expenditure Plan Development - In close coordination with the Council, my Office and the Consortium will draft the State Expenditure Plan.

It is anticipated that a planning grant application will be submitted to cover contractual and administrative services in the development of the Florida State Expenditure Plan. This grant application amount includes pre incurred costs from August 2014 through the anticipated post-award costs to be incurred during the two year planning horizon.

The Gulf Consortium is comprised of Florida's 23 Gulf Coast Counties impacted as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Spill and required by the RESTORE Act to develop a State Expenditure Plan for the State of Florida. One representative, typically a county commissioner, from each of these counties represents their community on the Consortium Board.

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