

# RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

## Department of the Treasury

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

**Directions: Use this form for the Initial Multiyear Plan and any subsequent amendments to an accepted Multiyear Plan. For amendments, include only new and/or materially modified activities.**

Multiyear Plan Version (Initial or Amendment Number):	Amendment #1
Date of Initial Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	May 19, 2016
Date of Last Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	May 19, 2016

Eligible Applicant Name:	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:	
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:
<p>1. A description of each activity, including the need, purpose, objective(s), milestones and location. Include map showing the location of each activity.</p>
<p>A map showing the location of each activity is attached as Exhibit A.</p>
<p><b><u>Activity #10: Planning Assistance – Project Management System</u></b></p>
<p>This project was accepted under Mississippi’s initial Multiyear Implementation Plan (MIP) by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in May 2016. The State of Mississippi is removing this project from the MIP.</p>
<p><b><u>Activity #11: Planning Assistance – MIP Amendment Development</u></b></p>
<p><b>Project Summary:</b> This project was accepted under Mississippi’s initial MIP to provide planning assistance to support the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in the development of MIP amendments. Proposed project modifications include an update to the scope and an increase in funding to support MDEQ in the development of future MIP amendments.</p>
<p>Planning assistance will be used to support MDEQ in the identification and evaluation of projects, programs, and activities and the development of MIP amendments. The RESTORE Act requires the State to develop a MIP describing the projects, programs, and activities for which Mississippi will seek funding under the Direct Component. Amendments to the existing MIP will be developed as additional funding for projects becomes available. Planning activities may include, but are not limited to identifying and evaluating potential projects, programs, and activities for eligibility, development of project components, review of reasonableness, and stakeholder and public engagement. Activities may also include the development of the MIP narrative and oversight and management. The scope has been updated to include coordination activities with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as needed, and development and execution of grant awards between MDEQ and Treasury.</p>
<p><b>Need:</b> Projects, programs and activities need to be identified and evaluated for potential funding under the Direct Component. As additional funds become available under the Direct Component, amendments to the MIP will also be needed.</p>
<p><b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of this project is to provide planning assistance to identify and evaluate projects, programs, and activities, as well as to develop MIP amendments as needed.</p>

**Objective:** Support the identification and evaluation of projects, programs, and activities, as well as the development of MIP amendments, as needed.

**Milestones:**

- Identification of eligible projects, programs, and activities
- Evaluation of projects, programs, and activities
- Engagement of the public and stakeholders
- Development of MIP amendments, as needed

**Location:**

Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

**Activity #12: Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program**

**Project Summary:** This proposed program will support the restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region through water quality improvement projects. Improvement projects may include the implementation of new or repairing/upgrading existing stormwater and wastewater systems, including conveyance and treatment that have demonstrated impact to improving water quality in a coastal water resource.

Restoration of water quality has been identified as a major restoration goal by GoCoast 2020, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, and in several focused stakeholder engagement forums within the State of Mississippi such as community conversations and resource summits. These stakeholder engagement forums have identified the improvement of water quality within Mississippi water resources as a priority for promoting ecosystem health and enhancing recreational and economic opportunities. Improvements to water quality can occur through the implementation of stormwater and wastewater management projects, including those addressing water conveyance and treatment that are foundational and have demonstrated impact to downstream water quality problems and the mitigation thereof within coastal waters.

This proposed program will be administered by MDEQ and will implement infiltration, inflow, and discharge controls in order to improve water quality in coastal waters. Projects may be identified under this program as well as through other (non-Direct Component) projects and programs. This program may be coordinated with complementary water quality improvement efforts under other Deepwater Horizon related funding streams, including water quality activities funded under the Spill Impact Component of the RESTORE Act. Program activities may include the implementation of new, repairing, or upgrading stormwater and wastewater systems, including conveyance and treatment. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and any sub-recipients.

This proposed program aligns with the eco-restoration priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission, and will coordinate and integrate with other water quality improvement efforts under other Deepwater Horizon related funding streams.

**Need:** Mississippi coastal water resources are impaired from various sources of pollutants. In order to restore water quality, promote ecosystem health, and enhance recreational and economic opportunities of our water resources, water quality improvement is needed.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this program is to improve water quality by reducing pollutants (nutrients, sediment, pathogens, and/or organics) that are impairing coastal water resources by implementing solutions to infiltration, inflow, and discharge concerns.

**Objective:** Implement applicable stormwater and wastewater management projects to mitigate infiltration, inflow, and discharge concerns to provide water quality improvements within the Mississippi coastal environment.

**Milestones:**

- Identification of water quality improvement projects

- Implementation of applicable solutions
- Measurement of change because of applicable solution

**Location:** Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi

**Activity #13: University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center**

**Project Summary:** This proposed project will provide additional infrastructure that will benefit the ecological resources of the Gulf Coast Region by supporting the University of Southern Mississippi with the acquisition of an existing oyster hatchery and research center.

In Mississippi and throughout the Gulf of Mexico, the oyster industry serves as an integral part of the ecology and economy of coastal communities. Events over the past decade such as Hurricane Katrina, the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, and multiple spillway openings have impacted oyster resources in Mississippi and caused significant reductions in oyster landings. The State of Mississippi, through the Governor's Oyster Restoration and Resiliency Council, has prioritized oyster aquaculture as a key component for restoration of regional oyster stocks for economic and ecological restoration.

In order to elevate oyster stocks to the goals set forth by the Governor's Oyster Restoration and Resiliency Council, the investment in an oyster hatchery will benefit recovery of oyster production and landings in the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region. The facility will further be supported by the ability to conduct research on oyster husbandry and rearing techniques, thereby supporting anticipated incremental advances in oyster larvae production. Realized advances would allow for a sustainable supply of seed, which could be used for replenishment of harvest reefs. Seed could also be used in non-harvestable areas for water quality improvement, to create habitat, enhancing recreational fishing, and support shoreline stabilization efforts. The facility is located inland and employs artificial seawater recirculating aquaculture systems to produce oyster larvae to support State restoration activities. Utilization of recirculating artificial seawater provides for sustainable production and controllable water quality to allow for optimum survival and growth of oyster larvae. Anticipated research would also include development of improved feed (algal) stocks, disease-resistant strains, and triploid oysters.

This proposed project will provide the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region with a viable and sustainable method for oyster aquaculture to support state restoration objectives in a controlled environment. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury, and the sub-award between MDEQ and the sub-recipient. This project will aid in the restoration of Mississippi oyster reefs for economic and ecological enhancement in the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region.

This proposed project aligns with the eco-restoration, seafood, and research and education priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:** Commercial oyster landings in Mississippi have declined from more than 400,000 sacks in 2004 to less than 25,000 sacks in 2015. Oyster hatcheries are key components in elevating oyster stocks and will support the goals set forth by the Governor's Oyster Restoration and Resiliency Council.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to continue advancing and increasing oyster larvae production to aid in the restoration of ecosystems and fisheries of the Gulf Coast Region.

**Objective:** Acquire an existing oyster hatchery to aid in the restoration of ecosystems and fisheries of the Gulf Coast Region.

**Milestones:**

- Satisfaction of real property acquisition requirements
- Acquisition of the oyster hatchery

**Location:** Perkinston, Stone County, Mississippi

**Activity #14: North Rail Connector – Planning Assistance**

**Project Summary:** This proposed project will provide planning assistance to support the Jackson County Port Authority (Port

Authority) in the development of a rail infrastructure project that will benefit the economy of the Gulf Coast Region. Planning may include preliminary engineering, surveying and permitting activities, and will support the development of a rail infrastructure project that is part of the Port Authority's larger intermodal improvement program.

The Port Authority operates the Port of Pascagoula and is currently implementing an intermodal improvement program. The Port Authority has leveraged \$44 million in federal, state and local dollars to implement improvements to efficiency, safety and enhance community livability by reconfiguring rail connections through the cities of Moss Point and Pascagoula to the Port of Pascagoula's Bayou Casotte River Harbor. The Port Authority's intermodal improvement program includes the relocation of existing rail out of higher populated areas to a more direct route and relocation of a rail interchange resulting in the closure of 18 rail crossings through the two cities and provides additional rail efficiency by eliminating 3.7 miles of track.

This proposed project will provide planning assistance to the Port Authority for its intermodal improvement program. Planning activities may include, but are not limited to, preliminary engineering, surveying and permitting activities. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury, and the sub-award between MDEQ and the sub-recipient. The Port Authority's intermodal improvement program will significantly improve rail access, increase competitiveness and business opportunities, and enhance job opportunities at the Port of Pascagoula, while also enhancing safety and community livability.

This proposed project aligns with the economic development and infrastructure priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:** The Jackson County Port Authority is implementing an intermodal improvement program to improve the efficiency of rail serving the Port of Pascagoula as well as community safety and livability. Planning activities are needed to support the development of a rail infrastructure project that is part of the Port Authority's larger intermodal improvement program.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to fund planning activities to support the development of a rail infrastructure project that is part of the Port Authority's larger intermodal improvement program.

**Objective:** Provide planning assistance necessary to support the development of a rail infrastructure project that is part of the Port Authority's larger intermodal improvement program.

**Milestones:**

- Planning activities which may include engineering and design, surveying, and permitting activities

**Location:**

Jackson County, Mississippi

**Activity #15: National Oceans and Applications Research Center (NOARC) – Planning Assistance**

**Project Summary:** This proposed project will provide NOARC with planning assistance funding to support job creation through development of an industry growth plan for the unmanned environmental monitoring industry in the Gulf Coast Region. Planning activities, which may include data gathering, studies, modeling, analysis and other tasks necessary for testing and validating innovative environmental monitoring technologies, will support job creation and ecosystem restoration efforts in the Gulf Coast Region.

NOARC was established to focus on developing, testing, and validating new environmental monitoring technologies deployed on unmanned systems to support growth of this industry on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This project will provide funding for NOARC to develop a plan supporting job creation and industry growth for unmanned environmental monitoring technologies. Activities necessary to complete this plan will include, among other planning activities, testing and validation of advanced instrumentation technologies that will be developed to support environmental monitoring and restoration. These advanced instrumentation technologies will be deployed on autonomously controlled, unmanned (or optionally-manned) aircraft and maritime vehicles for field testing and validation over various environmental restoration projects.

Development of an industry growth plan requires validation of this technology, which may include data gathering, studies,

modeling, and analysis. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury, and the sub-award between MDEQ and the sub-recipient. NOARC's development of an industry growth plan, based upon the testing and validation of new technologies, is anticipated to support growth of the unmanned environmental monitoring industry in the Gulf Coast Region.

This proposed project aligns with the economic development priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:** Innovative technologies are being created, generated, and marketed, but they must be validated in order to be commercially viable. Planning activities are needed to test and validate innovative technologies for monitoring and to translate proven technologies into business development opportunities supporting job creation in the Gulf Coast Region.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to support job creation through the development an industry growth plan for the unmanned environmental monitoring industry in the Gulf Coast Region that is based upon the testing and validation of advanced environmental monitoring and unmanned systems technology. Planning assistance (data gathering, studies, modeling, analysis, or other required tasks) is necessary to demonstrate the quality and integrity of information collected in developing a plan for industry-specific job creation.

**Objective:** Provide planning assistance to support job creation through development of an industry growth plan for the unmanned environmental monitoring industry in the Gulf Coast Region.

**Milestones:**

- Completion of a plan to support job creation through growth of the unmanned environmental monitoring industry on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

**Location:** Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi

**Activity #16: Salvation Army Center of Hope**

**Project Summary:** This proposed project will support workforce development activities conducted by the Salvation Army to support community skills training and workforce development programs at the Center of Hope, which is located in the Gulf Coast Region.

The Salvation Army's Center of Hope will be a multi-purpose facility in Gulfport, Mississippi, serving the region's underserved and impoverished populations. The facility will provide residents with educational opportunities and workforce training in the basic skills necessary to succeed in today's workforce. Through partnerships with local non-profits and other agencies, the Salvation Army will provide GED classes and assistance, workforce retraining, assistance with job applications, and training in basic interview skills. The Salvation Army will also partner with the Mississippi Department of Employment Security's WIN Job Center on job placement initiatives to bring previously-unskilled or untrained people into the Gulf Coast Region's workforce.

This proposed project will support workforce development initiatives at the Salvation Army's Center of Hope on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Center will provide classrooms/training rooms to support the educational and training services offered by the workforce development program. Direct Component funds will be used for portions of the facility supporting workforce development; other third party funds will be leveraged for components of the Salvation Army Center of Hope that are unrelated to workforce development activities. Direct Component funds may also be used to purchase equipment and/or supplies needed for workforce development programming. Activities may include, but are not limited to, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury, and the sub-award between MDEQ and the sub-recipient.

This proposed project aligns with the workforce development priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:** Workforce training programs are needed to assist the underserved and impoverished community with the traditional basic skills required for success in the workforce, such as GED attainment, workforce retraining, job application preparation, and training in basic interview skills.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to support workforce development activities that will teach basic skillsets necessary for success in the workforce, assist with workforce retraining, and implement job placement initiatives.

**Objective:** Support workforce development, workforce retraining, and job placement activities on the Mississippi Gulf Coast by supporting the Salvation Army Center of Hope.

**Milestones:**

- Completion of planning and design
- Completion of workforce development facilities
- Workforce development programming initiated

**Location:**

Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi

**Activity #17: Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center Site Capacity Improvements**

**Project Summary:** The proposed project will support infrastructure benefiting the economy in the Gulf Coast Region by supporting the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center's site capacity improvement, which will enhance opportunities to attract more conventions and events. Improvements may include infrastructure improvements or costs associated with land acquisition to support additional amenities.

The Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center is a multi-purpose convention and entertainment complex that hosts local, regional, and national events attracting over 700,000 visitors annually to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This facility is a vital component of tourism promotion on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The GoCoast 2020 Tourism Committee and other studies identified several competitive asset gaps associated with the Coliseum and Convention Center, which currently limit tourism industry growth on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center's ability to attract more conventions and events is limited by current site capacity and the lack of accommodations and amenities on site and within walking distance. Enhancing the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center's site development capacity will enable the facility to remain competitive in attracting more visitors to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

This proposed project will support the implementation of site capacity improvements to the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. Activities may also include, but are not limited to, program oversight and management, development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and the sub-recipient.

This project aligns with the tourism, economic development and infrastructure priorities developed by the GoCoast 2020 Commission.

**Need:** The Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center's ability to attract more conventions and events is limited by current site capacity and the lack of accommodations and amenities on site and within walking distance.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to support site capacity improvements at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, in order to support economic growth and attract more convention and entertainment events to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region.

**Objective:** Implement site capacity improvements at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center.

**Milestones:**

- Identification of needed site capacity improvements
- Implementation of needed site capacity improvements

**Location:**

Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the multiyear plan was approved after consideration of all meaningful input from the public and submit documentation (e.g., a letter from the applicant's leadership approving submission of the multiyear plan to Treasury or a resolution approving the applicant's multiyear plan).

On November 15, 2016 Mississippi made available its amended MIP for public review and comment. The amended MIP was announced by Governor Phil Bryant at a press conference in Biloxi, MS on November 15, 2016. Also, on November 15, 2016, MDEQ held the first Mississippi Restoration Summit at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. The MIP amendment was announced at the Summit and project information was provided to the public. MDEQ representatives were available to the general public to discuss the projects and Vietnamese translation services were also available. A notice was published in the Sun Herald and Clarion-Ledger newspapers informing the public that the amended MIP was available for public review and comment (See Exhibit B). An email blast and text message blast were also sent to those registered to receive notices (See Exhibit B). The amended MIP and a corresponding map were posted to [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms) and made available in both English and Vietnamese. The amended MIP could also be requested via email, fax, telephone, or mail directly from MDEQ. Submission of public input was accepted electronically via [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms), as well as via email, fax, telephone, or mail directly to MDEQ. On December 15, 2016, MDEQ delivered email messages to remind the public that the public review and comment period for the amended MIP would close on January 17, 2017. A final email was delivered to the public on January 13, 2017 as a reminder that the public review and comment period for the amended MIP would close on January 17, 2017 (See Exhibit B).

During the public review and comment period, MDEQ received a total of 5 sets of comments. MDEQ reviewed all comments. Similar or related comments have been grouped and summarized for purposes of response and are represented in parentheses behind the comment. All comments submitted during the public review and comment period were considered by MDEQ and each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of meaningful input from the public. MDEQ drafted summary comment statements to consolidate groups of similar comments into one statement or to summarize a particularly long comment.

This document includes the following sections:

- Section 1: Comments on Specific Projects on Amended MIP
- Section 2: General Comments on Amended MIP

## **SECTION 1: COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS ON AMENDED MIP**

### **1.1 MDEQ received a comment supporting Mississippi for prioritizing Direct Component Funds towards coastal water quality improvements. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges the comment received in support of MDEQ's proposed action regarding coastal water quality improvements.

### **1.2 MDEQ received a comment recognizing the importance of a project tracking platform, or similar tool, and requested an explanation to be included in the final amended MIP as to why the *Planning Assistance – Project Management System (Activity #10)* was removed from the initial MIP via the amended MIP. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges this comment.

### **1.3 MDEQ received comments supporting the *University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center (Activity #13)*. (4)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments received supporting the proposed *University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center (Activity #13)*.

### **1.4 MDEQ received comments supporting the *Salvation Army Center of Hope (Activity #16)*. (3)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments received supporting the proposed *Salvation Army Center of Hope*

(Activity #16).

**1.5 MDEQ received a comment supporting the *Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program (Activity #12)*. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges the comment received supporting the proposed *Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program (Activity #12)*.

**1.6 MDEQ received a comment regarding the *Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program (Activity #12)* stating that it reflects long-standing concerns expressed by many Mississippians and others through various public engagement venues. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges this comment.

**1.7 MDEQ received a comment supporting the *National Oceans and Applications Research Center project (Activity #15)*. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges the comment received supporting the proposed *National Oceans and Applications Research Center Project (Activity #15)*.

**1.8 MDEQ received several comments requesting that African-American training organizations are included in the post-construction programming of the *Salvation Army Center of Hope (Activity #16)*. (3)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments received. MDEQ is seeking funding under this MIP Amendment to support job training and workforce development by providing learning facilities for the Center of Hope building under the *Salvation Army Center of Hope (Activity #16)*. MDEQ is not, however, seeking funding under this MIP Amendment for any post-construction activities (such as programming) under this proposed Project. The Salvation Army will be responsible for all post-construction workforce development programming; as such, MDEQ will provide a copy of these comments to the Salvation Army so that they are aware of these comments.

**1.9 MDEQ received several comments requesting that African-American, Latino, and other ethnic minority residents are prioritized for the Aquaculture Workforce program that the *University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center (Activity #13)* will directly support. (3)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments received. The proposed Project is using funds to acquire an existing hatchery to be operated by the University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center; it is not a workforce development project.

**SECTION 2: GENERAL COMMENTS ON AMENDED MIP**

**2.1 MDEQ received a comment supporting the inclusion of projects that have multiple direct and indirect benefits, namely those that support the recovery of Mississippi's coastal and marine resources; promote coastal resiliency and protection from storms, sea level rise, and extreme weather; enhance research and monitoring; and/or support recreational opportunities. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges the comment received supporting the projects proposed in the MIP Amendment, which the commenter believes has multiple direct and indirect benefits.

**2.2 MDEQ received a comment acknowledging that several projects proposed in the amended MIP reflect or support recommendations that are included in the Mississippi Environmental Focus Group's shared set of restoration priorities, and provided examples of such projects which include: the *Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program (Activity #12)*, the *University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center (Activity #13)*, and the *National Oceans and Applications Research Center project (Activity #15)*. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges this comment.

**2.3 MDEQ received a comment urging Mississippi to draw on efforts like the NFWF GEBF-funded *Mississippi Gulf Coast Restoration Plan* and MCERT to support restoration planning through this and future MIPs. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges the comment provided. MDEQ understands and appreciates the importance of utilizing tools already available, such as MCERT, and plans such as *Mississippi Gulf Coast Restoration Plan*, as planning tools or guidance in restoration planning. To the extent it is practicable, MDEQ has and will continue to consider building off such efforts in future MIP planning efforts.

**2.4 MDEQ received a comment encouraging Mississippi to incorporate environmentally-sensitive approaches for infrastructure projects whenever and wherever possible, and further, provided examples of environmentally-sensitive approaches and examples for how to incorporate such approaches. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges the comment received. In developing infrastructure projects, MDEQ is taking environmentally-sensitive approaches into consideration and, where feasible, will request these measures to be incorporated into project designs.

**2.5 MDEQ received a comment urging Mississippi to avoid projects that will have direct or indirect adverse environmental impacts, namely degrading or negatively impacting the Coast's natural resources and/or reducing the impact to other completed or planned restoration investments. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges the comment received. In implementing projects, MDEQ will comply with all environmental rules and regulations to ensure that any collateral impacts associated with projects are minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

**2.6 MDEQ received a comment recommending that where minor and/or short term adverse impacts may occur up-front to the Coast's natural resources or other restoration activities/projects, projects should set aside funds for compensatory mitigation and identify a detailed plan and timeline. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges this comment. MDEQ has and will continue to comply with all environmental rules and regulations to ensure that any collateral impacts associated with projects are minimized to the maximum extent practicable, and has and will continue to take into consideration how best to mitigate potential adverse impacts.

**2.7 MDEQ received a comment requesting an additional two-week extension of the public comment period. (1)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges this comment. MDEQ did not extend the public comment period as this comment has requested. The public comment period for the proposed MIP Amendment was open from November 15, 2016 to January 17, 2017 for a total of 64 days, which exceeds the required 45-day comment period.

**2.8 MDEQ received comments requesting that MDEQ's public engagement include targeted outreach and presentations to African-American and minority organizations and residents along the Gulf Coast. (3)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges these comments. MDEQ has and will continue to take such requests into consideration.

**2.9 MDEQ received comments stating that MDEQ must pursue its own high standards for meaningful involvement and provide documentation of past outreach and/or planned efforts to engage and consult unemployed and underemployed demographics and sub-demographics along the Coast to ensure that the *University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center (Activity #13)* and the *Salvation Army Center of Hope (Activity #16)* fully serves the minority and undeserved residents. (3)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges these comments. MDEQ has and will continue to take such comments and requests into consideration.

**2.10 MDEQ received several comments stating that MDEQ should fully comply with the original intent of Executive Order 12898, and provide documentation that it did so with specific regard to African-American, Vietnamese-American, and Latino populations along the Coast. (3)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges the comments regarding Executive Order 12898, and has considered this comment in its proposed MIP Amendment. MDEQ has provided various stages of public involvement as it relates to the proposed MIP Amendment. In the development of the Amendment of the MIP, the public had the opportunity to be a part of the project development process by submitting project ideas in the Project Portal found on the restore.ms website. MDEQ also provided materials and information related to the proposed MIP Amendment at the Mississippi Restoration Summit held on November 15, 2016, which was open to the public. At the Mississippi Restoration Summit, MDEQ provided Vietnamese translation services. Additionally, on November 15, 2016, materials regarding the MIP Amendment were also made available on the restore.ms website; these materials on the website were also made available in Vietnamese. Further, MDEQ provided a 64-day public comment period for the public to review and provide comments on the MIP Amendment, which exceeded the required minimum 45-day public comment period.

**2.11 MDEQ received several comments requesting that, with reference to the *Salvation Army Center of Hope (Activity #16)* and the *University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center (Activity #13)*, MDEQ hold public meetings and provide presentations in Vietnamese in order to accommodate the large number of impacted Vietnamese-American fisherfolk. (3)**

MDEQ appreciates and acknowledges all comments regarding the request for MDEQ to hold public meetings and provide presentations in Vietnamese in order to accommodate the large number of impacted Vietnamese-American fisherfolk. MDEQ has and will continue to take such requests into consideration. Regarding the MIP Amendment, and its proposed projects, MDEQ provided materials and information related to the proposed MIP Amendment at the Mississippi Restoration Summit held on November 15, 2016, which was open to the public; these materials were also made available on the restore.ms website and were made available in Vietnamese. At the Mississippi Restoration Summit, MDEQ also provided Vietnamese translation services.

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan narrative meets all the requirements under the RESTORE Act, including a description of how each activity is eligible for funding based on the geographic location of each activity and how each activity qualifies for at least one of the eligible activities under the RESTORE Act.

**Activity #10: Planning Assistance – Project Management System:** This project was accepted under Mississippi's initial Multiyear Implementation Plan (MIP). MDEQ is removing this project from the MIP through MIP Amendment #1.

**Activity #11: Planning Assistance - MIP Amendment Development:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2, as each severable part of the activity is primarily designed to restore or protect that geographic area. This project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding through 31 C.F.R. §34.201(j) - planning assistance and through 33 U.S.C. §1321(t)(1)(B)(i)(VIII) of the RESTORE Act. This project will be implemented by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and will comply with the definition of planning assistance in 31 C.F.R. §34.2.

**Activity #12: Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program:** This program is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This program qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding through 31 C.F.R. §34.201(a) - restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region, and 33 U.S.C. §1321(t)(1)(B)(i)(I) of the RESTORE Act. This program will be implemented by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; individual projects within the program may be implemented by eligible sub-recipients. Best Available Science: Sustainability of water quality in receiving water bodies requires a science-based approach to discovering source loads. Source tracking, geospatial analysis, and potentially associated modelling approaches will provide the mechanism to identify load sources. Advanced systems engineering will be utilized in implementation to ensure repairs, upgrades, or construction will deliver the maximum sustainable water quality improvement.

**Activity #13: University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding through 31 C.F.R. §34.201(f) - infrastructure benefitting the economy or ecological resources, and 33 U.S.C. §1321(t)(1)(B)(i)(VI) of the RESTORE Act. This activity will be implemented by the University of Southern Mississippi and will comply with the definition of infrastructure in 31 C.F.R. §34.2.

**Activity #14: North Rail Connector – Planning Assistance:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding through 31 C.F.R. §34.201(j) - planning assistance and through 33 U.S.C. §1321(t)(1)(B)(i)(VIII) of the RESTORE Act. This project will be implemented by the Jackson County Port Authority and will comply with the definition of planning assistance in 31 C.F.R. §34.2.

**Activity #15: National Oceans and Applications Research Center (NOARC) – Planning Assistance:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding through 31 C.F.R. §34.201(j) - planning assistance and through 33 U.S.C. §1321(t)(1)(B)(i)(VIII) of the RESTORE Act. This project will be implemented by NOARC and will comply with the definition of planning assistance in 31 C.F.R. §34.2.

**Activity #16: Salvation Army Center of Hope:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding through 31 C.F.R. §34.201(d) – workforce development and job creation, and through 33 U.S.C. §1321(t)(1)(B)(i)(IV) of the RESTORE Act. This project will be implemented by the Salvation Army.

**Activity #17: Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center Site Capacity Improvements:** This project is located in the Gulf Coast Region as defined by 31 C.F.R. §34.2. This project qualifies as an eligible activity for Direct Component funding under 31 C.F.R. §34.201(f) - infrastructure benefitting the economy or ecological resources, and 33 U.S.C. §1321 (t)(1)(B)(i)(VI) of the RESTORE Act. This activity will be implemented by the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center and will comply with the definition of infrastructure in 31 C.F.R. §34.2.

4. Criteria the applicant will use to measure the success of the activities included in the multiyear plan narrative in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast Region impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

**Activity #10: Planning Assistance – Project Management System:** This project was accepted under Mississippi’s initial Multiyear Implementation Plan (MIP). MDEQ is removing this project from the MIP through MIP Amendment #1.

**Activity #11: Planning Assistance – MIP Amendment Development Measures of Success:** Identification and evaluation of projects, programs, and activities; Issuance of amendments to the MIP, as needed.

**Activity #12: Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program Measures of Success:** Installations, repairs, or upgrades of stormwater, and/or wastewater systems; Decrease pollutants in Mississippi coastal water resources.

**Activity #13: University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center Measure of Success:** Acquisition of an existing oyster hatchery to benefit ecological resources in the Gulf Coast Region.

**Activity #14: North Rail Connector – Planning Assistance Measure of Success:** Completion of necessary planning activities to support the development of an infrastructure project benefitting the economy in the Gulf Coast Region.

**Activity #15: National Oceans and Applications Research Center (NOARC) – Planning Assistance Measure of Success:** Development of an industry growth and job creation plan.

**Activity #16: Salvation Army Center of Hope Measure of Success:** Workforce development and training program in the Gulf Coast Region supported by the Salvation Army’s Center of Hope.

**Activity #17: Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center Measure of Success:** Enhancement of site capacity for infrastructure benefitting the economy in the Gulf Coast Region.

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan narrative were prioritized and list the criteria used to establish the priorities.

The projects were prioritized using the following three (3) criteria:

1. All seven (7) projects included on MIP Amendment #1 are eligible for RESTORE Act funding under the Direct Component eligible activities for restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats,

beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region; infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure; and workforce development. In addition to the above activities, the MIP Amendment project, the North Rail Connector project, and the NOARC project are eligible for planning assistance.

2. Mississippi utilized two stakeholder-driven components to identify and prioritize all projects for inclusion on MIP Amendment #1: The GoCoast 2020 Commission and the Restoration Project Idea Portal. Items (a) through (e) below provide explanation:
  - (a) Governor Phil Bryant created GoCoast 2020 to serve as an advisory body to the Governor for the allocation of funds received by Mississippi under the RESTORE Act.
  - (b) GoCoast 2020 is comprised of more than one-hundred business and community leaders and elected officials from across the Mississippi Gulf Coast.
  - (c) GoCoast 2020 formed eight committees that focused on eight key areas related to the activities specified in the RESTORE Act (eco-restoration, economic development, infrastructure, research and education, seafood, small business, tourism, and workforce development).
  - (d) GoCoast 2020 produced a report with recommendations and priorities for selecting projects under the Direct Component. See the GoCoast 2020 Final Report for additional information at <http://www.gocoast2020.com/gocoast-2020-final-report/>.
  - (e) GoCoast 2020 chairmen developed recommendations for these projects by reviewing more than 800 project ideas that had been submitted in the Restoration Project Idea Portal against previously developed priorities and criteria. Each of the projects identified in MIP Amendment #1 were developed and informed directly from a project (or projects) submitted in the Restoration Project Idea Portal.
  - (f) Additionally, preliminary due diligence performed on each project included a review of anticipated project activities and estimates of costs, reasonableness, and compliance with applicable rules, laws, and regulations.
3. Comments received during the public comment period for Mississippi's initial MIP were utilized to prioritize activities included on MIP Amendment #1.

6. If applicable, describe the amount and current status of funding from other sources (e.g., other RESTORE Act contribution, other third party contribution) and provide a description of the specific portion of the project to be funded by the RESTORE Act Direct Component.

**Activity #10: Planning Assistance – Project Management System:** This project was accepted under Mississippi's initial Multiyear Implementation Plan (MIP). MDEQ is removing this project from the MIP through MIP Amendment #1.

- Accepted project cost: \$500,000
- Funding change requested: \$500,000 decrease
- Total estimated project cost: \$0
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$0

**Activity #11: Planning Assistance – MIP Amendment Development:** Direct Component funds will be used to provide planning assistance for the identification and evaluation of projects, programs, and activities and the development of MIP amendments, as needed. Direct Component funds will also be used for project oversight and management activities and the development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Accepted project cost: \$400,000
- Funding change requested: \$500,000 increase
- Total estimated project cost: \$900,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$900,000

**Activity #12: Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program:** Direct Component funds will be used in support of construction of new or repairing/upgrading stormwater, and/or wastewater system projects, and monitoring activities. Direct Component funds will also be used for project oversight and management activities and the development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and any sub-recipients. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated program cost: \$11,000,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$11,000,000

**Activity #13: University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center:** Direct Component funds will be used for activities associated with acquisition. Direct Component funds will also be used for project oversight and management activities and the development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and the sub-recipient. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated project costs: \$7,700,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$7,700,000

**Activity #14: North Rail Connector – Planning Assistance:** Direct Component funds will be used for planning assistance activities. Direct Component funds will also be used for project oversight and management activities and the development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and the sub-recipient. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated project cost: \$550,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$550,000

**Activity #15: National Oceans and Applications Research Center (NOARC) – Planning Assistance:** Direct Component funds will be used to support the development of a plan for industry-specific job creation by testing and validating innovative environmental monitoring technologies. Direct Component funds will also be used for project oversight and management activities and the development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and the sub-recipient. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated project cost: \$2,750,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$2,750,000

**Activity #16 Salvation Army Center of Hope:** Direct Component funds will be used in conjunction with leveraged funding to support the Center of Hope in delivering workforce development and training programs. Direct Component funds will also be used for project oversight and management activities and the development, coordination, and execution of the grant award between MDEQ and Treasury and sub-award between MDEQ and the sub-recipient. The Salvation Army has allocated approximately \$4,500,000.00 in leveraged funding toward program costs.

- Total estimated project cost: \$5,820,000
- Total RESTORE Direct Component Funding: \$1,320,000
- Non-RESTORE Leveraged Funding by Salvation Army: \$4,500,000

**Activity #17: Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center Site Capacity Improvements:** Direct Component funds will be used to support implementation of site capacity improvements and project oversight and management activities. No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

- Total estimated project cost: \$3,520,000
- Total Restore Direct Component Funding: \$3,520,000

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this Information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, Office of Gulf Coast Restoration, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC20220.

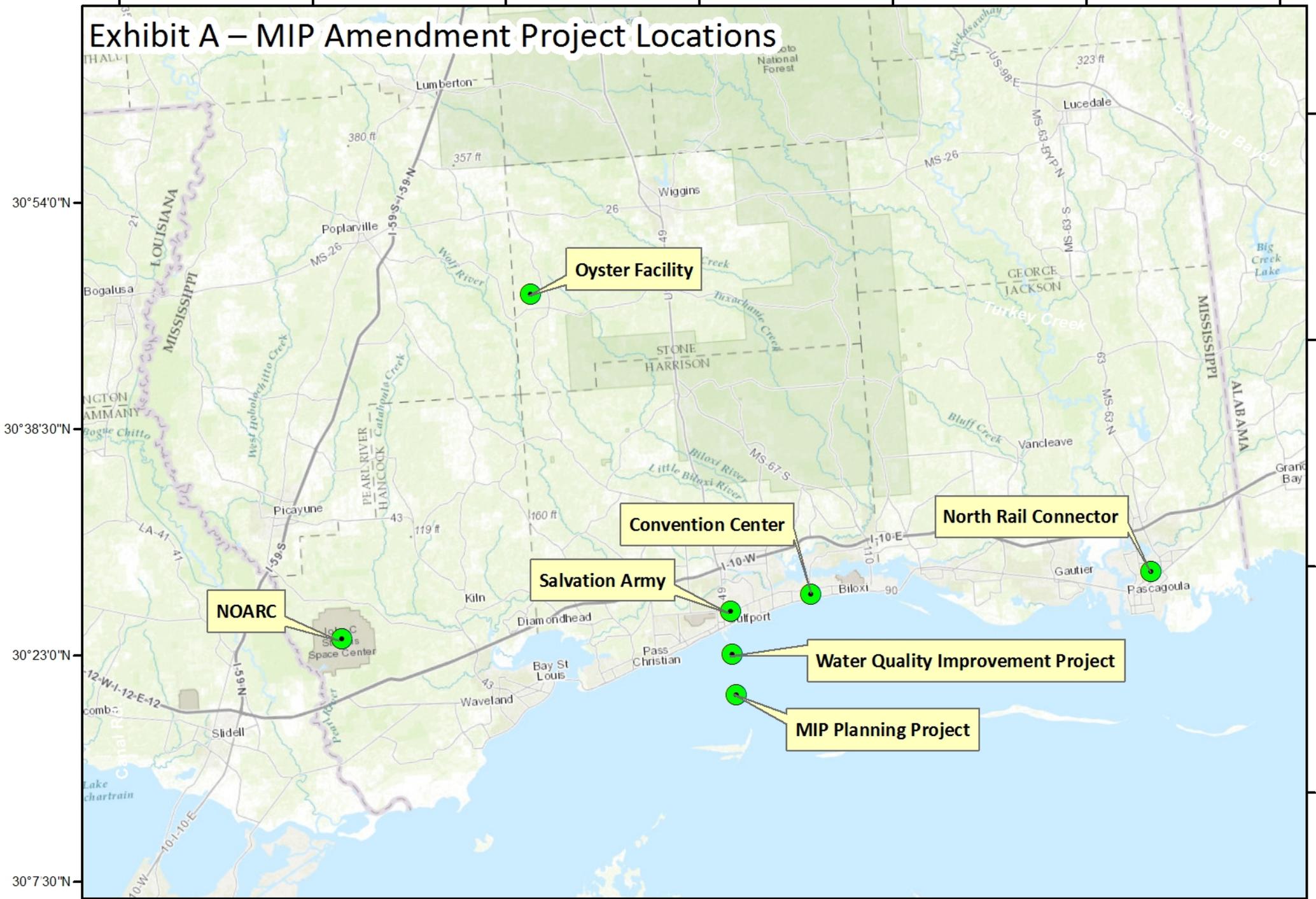
RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Matrix							OMB Approval No. 1505-0250			
Applicant Name:		Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality								
1. MULTIYEAR PLAN VERSION (INITIAL OR AMENDMENT NUMBER):		Amendment #1		2a. DATE OF INITIAL MULTIYEAR PLAN ACCEPTANCE (mm/dd/yyyy):			5/19/2016	2b. DATE OF LAST MULTIYEAR PLAN ACCEPTANCE:		5/19/2016
3. CUMULATIVE DIRECT COMPONENT ALLOCATION AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO APPLICANT:				\$66,068,936.56			4. TOTAL ALLOCATIONS PLUS KNOWN FUNDS NOT YET DEPOSITED IN TRUST FUND FOR DIRECT COMPONENT:			\$371,995,127.20
5. Primary Direct Component Eligible Activity Further Described in Application (Static Field)	6. Activity Title (Static Field)	7. Location (Static Field)	8. Estimated Total Funding Contributions For Proposed Activity(ies)(refer to Instructions)				9. Proposed Start Date mm/dd/yyyy	10. Proposed End Date mm/dd/yyyy	11. Status (refer to Instructions)	
			8a. Direct Component Contribution	8b. Other RESTORE Act Contribution	8c. Other Third Party Contribution	8d. Total Contribution				
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #1: Stennis International Airport Hangar	Kiln, Mississippi	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,075,000.00	\$ 4,075,000.00	07/01/2016	07/01/2018	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP) and Application Submitted	
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #2: Port Bienville Trans-Loading Terminal Facility Completion	Bay St. Louis, Mississippi	\$ 8,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 775,000.00	\$ 8,775,000.00	05/01/2017	09/01/2019	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP) and Application Submitted	
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #3: Improved Fiber Optic Infrastructure	Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, Mississippi	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000.00	12/01/2016	11/30/2021	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP) and Application Submitted	
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	Activity #4: Mississippi Aquarium	Gulfport, Mississippi	\$ 17,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 46,400,000.00	\$ 63,400,000.00	05/01/2017	12/01/2020	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP) and Application Submitted	
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #5: Jackson County Corridor Connector Road - Phase I	St. Martin/D'Iberville, Mississippi	\$ 10,200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,200,000.00	12/01/2016	12/01/2019	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP) and Application Submitted	
Workforce development and job creation	Activity #6: Work Ready Community Program	Long Beach, Mississippi	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000.00	01/01/2016	12/01/2020	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Funded	
Workforce development and job creation	Activity #7: Accreditation Support for William Carey University School of Pharmacy	Biloxi, Mississippi	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 4,000,000.00	07/01/2016	12/01/2018	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP)	
Workforce development and job creation	Activity #8: Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program	Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, Mississippi	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000.00	01/01/2018	12/01/2020	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP) and Application Submitted	

Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region	Activity #9: Strategic Stream Restoration	Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, Mississippi	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000.00	01/01/2017	01/01/2020	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP) and Application Submitted
Planning assistance	Activity #10: Planning Assistance - Project Management System	Jackson, Mississippi	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	07/01/2016	07/31/2021	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP)
Planning assistance	Activity #10: Planning Assistance - Project Management System	Jackson, Mississippi	\$ (500,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (500,000.00)			Activity Deleted. Decreased by \$500,000. Total Amount \$0.00. (Amendment #1)
Planning assistance	Activity #11: Planning Assistance - MIP Amendment Development	Jackson, Mississippi	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400,000.00	07/01/2016	06/30/2021	Activity Accepted (Initial MIP), Application Submitted, and Activity Funded
Planning assistance	Activity #11: Planning Assistance - MIP Amendment Development	Jackson, Mississippi	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	07/01/2016	06/30/2021	Activity Amended (Amendment #1) to add \$500,000 (\$900,000 Total) to expand scope of work and budget
Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region	Activity #12: Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program	Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi	\$ 11,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,000,000.00	08/01/2017	07/31/2022	New Activity (Amendment #1)
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #13: University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center	Perkinston, Stone County, Mississippi	\$ 7,700,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,700,000.00	09/01/2017	12/31/2018	New Activity (Amendment #1)
Planning assistance	Activity #14: North Rail Connector - Planning Assistance	Jackson County, Mississippi	\$ 550,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 550,000.00	08/01/2017	07/31/2020	New Activity (Amendment #1)
Planning assistance	Activity #15: National Oceans and Applications Research Center (NOARC) - Planning Assistance	Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi	\$ 2,750,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,750,000.00	09/01/2017	08/30/2019	New Activity (Amendment #1)
Workforce development and job creation	Activity #16: Salvation Army Center of Hope	Gulfport, Mississippi	\$ 1,320,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,500,000.00	\$ 5,820,000.00	10/01/2017	09/30/2019	New Activity (Amendment #1)

Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Activity #17: Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center Site Capacity Improvements	Biloxi, Mississippi	\$ 3,520,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,520,000.00	08/01/2017	07/31/2019	New Activity (Amendment #1)
12. ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ACTIVITY(IES) (refer to Instructions)			\$80,940,000.00	\$0.00	\$56,750,000.00	\$137,690,000.00	Please note: Grant awards may reflect non-material changes in proposed dates and estimated funding.		
<p><i>According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, Office of Gulf Coast Restoration, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.</i></p>									

89°50'30"W 89°35'0"W 89°19'30"W 89°4'0"W 88°48'30"W 88°33'0"W 88°17'30"W

# Exhibit A – MIP Amendment Project Locations



 MIP Project Locations

0 5 10 20 Miles

