



Final Consent Decree Entered in Federal Court



On April 4, 2016, Judge Barbier, at the District Court for the Eastern District of LA, entered the final [consent decree](#), resolving the years of litigation among the Gulf Coast states, the Department of Justice and BP Oil (and other responsible parties). The final decree is similar to the draft decree that was released in July 2015. The summary of the decree can be [viewed and printed here](#). The official Department of Justice fact

sheet on the decree can also be [viewed and printed here](#). The total amount to be paid by BP under the decree is \$20.8 Billion, which includes \$5.5 Billion being paid in RESTORE/Clean Water Act Fines. For Florida, under Pot 1 of the RESTORE Act, \$308 Million will be distributed directly to the Florida Gulf Coast counties. For Florida, under Pot 3 of the RESTORE Act, \$286 Million will be distributed to fund the State Expenditure Plan, as developed by the Gulf Consortium. Payments by BP will begin on April 4, 2017, and will continue over the next 15 years in equal installments (except for Year 2). The payout schedule is on page 19 of the Consent Decree. Other Florida specific parts of the Consent Decree (like economic damages) have been summarized by Florida's Attorney General Bondi and can be viewed [here](#).

Comments Being Prepared for US Treasury General Counsel

Related to the Consent Decree, Sarah Bleakley, the Gulf Consortium General Counsel is preparing a letter, to be sent to the General Counsel of US Treasury, under the Chairman's signature, asking for assistance on being able to pledge the RESTORE Act payments and distributions for debt or to use the proceeds for another advance funding or financing technique. The Department of Justice did not address this issue in the final Consent Decree, as the Consortium and individual counties had requested.

Gulf Consortium Meets with Commissioner John Morroni and Small Group of Counties

Welcoming Commissioner Morroni to the Gulf Consortium Board were Ginger Delegal and Scott Shalley, with a one-on-one briefing of "all things" Gulf Consortium so that Commissioner Morroni will hit the ground running at the next Board meeting. Later that same afternoon, Ginger and Scott met with several county staff members, including a few RESTORE Act Coordinators, from Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties to hear, in person, reaction to the revisions to the process of developing the State Expenditure Plan that are being proposed by the ESA Consultant Team. In addition, Scott and Ginger were able to discuss issues of common concern and interest to the counties about Gulf Coast restoration in an informal setting. Thank you to Pinellas County for hosting this meeting!



Pinellas County Commissioner
John Morroni

Gulf Consortium Executive Committee Meeting Wrap Up

The Executive Committee for the Gulf Consortium met, via conference call, on March 30, hearing (among other things) two important agenda items.

- Update on the Revisions to the State Expenditure Plan: Doug Robison from the Consultant Team, briefed the Executive Committee on the latest proposed revisions to the development of the State Expenditure Plan. A summary of those changes and what the entire revised process, including cost numbers, would look like can be [viewed and printed here](#).
- Update on Planning Grant Application: Lisa King from Langton Associates discussed the latest conversations, submissions, and meetings having transpired between Consortium staff, the ESA Consultant Team, and the Restoration Council staff. Again, a summary of that presentation can be [viewed here](#). It is anticipated that immediately following the next Gulf Consortium Board Meeting (being held on April 21) in Hillsborough County, that the revised grant will be ready for its final submission to the Restoration Council.

Please click [here](#) to see the full agenda and back up [packet](#) for the March 31th meeting. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th at 4:00 p.m., ET.

Gulf Consortium Meets Again with Restoration Council



RESTORE Act.

Consortium staff and members of the ESA Consultant Team met with Mary Pleffner, the Restoration Council CFO in Tampa on March 6 to continue to refine the Planning Grant Application. Thank you to the Council for continuing to work with the Gulf Consortium in an iterative and informal fashion as Florida may well be the first Gulf Coast State to submit a planning grant application under the Spill Impact Component of the

Full Board Meeting Coming Soon

Thursday, April 21, 2016
2:00 P.M. Eastern
Hillsborough County
Frederick Karl Center
601 E. Kennedy Boulevard
26th Floor, Conference Rooms A & B
Tampa, FL

(888) 670-3525
Passcode: 998-449-5298#

Among other action agenda items, the 2016 Officer Elections will take place, so you will want to attend and participate. For additional information regarding the Gulf Consortium meetings, including call information, please visit www.FACRestore.com.

Gulf Consortium | 850-922-4300 | gdelegal@fl-counties.com | <http://www.FACRestore.com>
c/o Florida Association of Counties
100 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Copyright © 20XX. All Rights Reserved.