

POTENTIAL DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL RESTORATION PROJECTS:

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO ASSIST WITH PROJECT ASSESSMENT

To help you propose projects to the State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we developed this project submission form. You are not required to complete this form to submit a project. However, completion of the form will help DEP gather the information required to completely and accurately evaluate a project against the selection and evaluation criteria. Where appropriate in the form, please provide references to any additional supporting information.

Project Name: *(Include project number from DEP's existing list of submitted projects, if applicable.)*

Mexico Beach - Beach and Dune Renourishment Project

Contact Information:

Chris Hubbard, City Administrator
1202 US Highway 98
Mexico Beach, FL 32410

Location for Project Implementation: *(For example, city and county, GIS coordinates if known.)*

From the West Side of the Inlet to the East Side and beach between FDEP Monuments
R-132 and R-138, Mexico Beach, Bay County, FL
Latitude: 57.0037 Longitude: 25.49123

Brief Project Narrative: *(Describe what the project will do.)*

There are two phases to this project. Phase I will include increasing the Sand Bypassing from the west side of the inlet to the east side. This phase should reduce the sediment settling into the inlet from the eastern shoreline and increasing the time between maintenance dredging activity. Phase II will include Beach and Dune Restoration within "critically eroded" shoreline by truck hauling material that has been stockpiled. This will increase storm protection, enhance recreational value, as well as restoring and preserving habitat. The project includes permitting and engineering associated with these tasks.

Estimated Project Costs: *(Describe the costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations and maintenance. Identify other available funding sources such as matching funds, in kind contributions or state or federal dollars. If possible, attach a schedule of anticipated costs, by year, over the anticipated project life.)*

The cost of the project is estimated to be \$6,158,775. The cost includes a 5% contingency and is only an estimate based on previous experience. The estimate includes preliminary engineering services, geotechnical fees, and construction phase engineering services.

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Screening Criteria

After the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, the City of Mexico Beach suffered from the loss of fisherman, tourists, charter boats, and visitors to the Beach and Gulf. This grant would greatly benefit both the residents and visitors of Mexico Beach by renourishing the beach, protecting the shoreline habitat, and enhancing the recreational value of Mexico Beach as well as protecting upland habitats.

S1. Technically and administratively feasible: *(Briefly describe the critical technologies involved and any relevant past experience with similar projects.)*

The critical portion of this project will include the beach and dune renourishment. Beach and dune renourishment have long been a proven method to protect endangered species that depend upon coastal beach/dune systems for survival. Their successful recovery/protection relies on the conservation, restoration, and management of these critical habitats. Preble-Rish has completed other beach renourishment projects in Mexico Beach and surrounding areas. From these projects, PRI has gained the experience to make this one a successful one for Mexico Beach.

S2. Provides environmental benefits: *(Briefly describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project and any potential environmental costs associated with implementing or maintaining the project, e.g., loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation.)*

The sand bypassing phase will be beneficial to Mexico Beach by reducing the dredging efforts, thus keeping the navigational channel open so as to not disturb existing habitat. The beach and dune restoration phase will be beneficial to buffer more severe storms as well as restoring and preserving sea turtle and shorebird habitat and protecting upland habitats from storm overwash.

S3. Does not conflict with any ongoing or planned response or remediation work: *(Briefly describe ongoing response activities in the project implementation area, if any, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work.)*

This project will not affect any ongoing response activities in the City of Mexico Beach. There are no known response activities currently in the area.

S4. Complies with applicable and relevant federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations: *(No information is needed for this screening criteria.)*

This project complies with applicable and relevant federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations.

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Evaluation Criteria

E1. Will restore, rehabilitate, or replace a natural resource or service¹ believed/demonstrated to have been injured as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill or associated response activities: *(Briefly describe the nature of any relationship between the new/improved resources or services and those adversely impacted by the oil spill.)*

After the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, the City of Mexico Beach lost income from fisherman, tourists, charter boats, etc. as the Gulf of Mexico was closed. Once the Gulf was reopened, tourists and residents were slow to return to the Gulf which continued to increase the economic troubles facing Mexico Beach. As a result, the public waterfront recreational areas suffered. This project would restore and enhance the City of Mexico Beach and the Gulf Coast by improving the City's ability to maintain their only inlet (through increased sand bypassing) and also beach and dune restoration in the City of Mexico Beach and thus promoting the use of the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf Coast's coastal habitat also suffered as a result of the oil spill. This project will enhance and restore that habitat in the Mexico Beach region.

¹ In this form, "Services" (or "natural resource services") refers to the functions performed by a natural resource for the benefit of another natural resource and/or the public. Services can be "ecological services" – physical, chemical or biological functions that one natural resource provides for another (such as provision of food) – or "human services" – the use of natural resources used by humans that provide value to the public (such as hunting and fishing).

E2. Is located in, or nearby, resources or services injured by the deepwater horizon spill: *(Briefly describe where the project would be implemented with respect to past/ongoing remediation work.)*

Mexico Beach is located directly on the Gulf of Mexico which was injured by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. This project would benefit users of the Gulf as well as the beach as it provides public beach and boating access to the residents and tourists to the City of Mexico Beach.

E3. Is ready for implementation, e.g., design, permitting, and necessary impacts assessments have been completed: *(Briefly describe where in the permitting process the project stands along with an estimated date of when the project can be implemented if it is not currently ready.)*

Design and permitting for the Beach and Dune Renourishment Project have been completed. Once funding has been secured, the project will be ready to move to the implementation phase.

E4. Is cost effective: *(Briefly describe why you think the project is cost effective. Discuss whether this project is more cost effective than alternative projects which would provide similar resource or service benefits.)*

This project will provide great improvements to Mexico Beach. The project will reduce time and costs by decreasing the need to re-dredge. It will reduce the effect of sand being transported back into the inlet and deposited within the navigation channel. This project is also cost effective because it provides inexpensive storm protection to upland structures as opposed to repairing individual homes and will provide additional dry beach for a large array of visitors as opposed to pumping sand from offshore or hauling beach compatible sand from an inland source.

E5. Has a high potential for long-term success as demonstrated by incorporating established/reliable methods and technologies: *(Briefly describe if/how critical methods and technologies that will be used to implement the project could be considered reliable or proven.)*

The success of the technologies to be used by the Mexico Beach Renourishment Project have been proven by their previous use in the City of Mexico Beach for a smaller scale project. The City currently uses the sand bypassing method to keep the canal open and renourish another portion of the beach. The proposed project will use mostly the same sand bypassing technology but will apply it to a different portion of beach.

E6. Is likely to provide benefits rapidly following implementation: *(Briefly describe the anticipated change in benefits anticipated over time.)*

The Mexico Beach Beach and Dune Renourishment Project will provide benefits to the community and the tourists as soon as the project is implemented. The project will improve the dredging efficiency by discharging the bypassed material to the far eastern end of the existing discharge pipe in the vicinity of R-129.5 and east of the Mexico Beach Pier. Moving the discharge further to the east of the navigation channel will reduce the probability of re-dredging. This project will almost immediately increase storm protection along this segment of Mexico Beach. The added berm will almost immediately enhance recreational value as well as habitat to the shoreline by providing additional dry beach.

E7. Has a high likelihood of public acceptance: *(Briefly describe evidence to support the given answer based on surveys or results and assessments from past projects. Known or likely opposition to a project should be recognized.)*

Opposition to this project is not expected. The increased sand bypassing will minimize or reduce the potential of sand from the eastern shoreline being transported into the inlet and deposited in the navigational channel. Reducing the sediment into the inlet should increase the time between maintenance dredging activity. Phase II of the project is a cost effective alternative to increase storm protection along this segment of Mexico Beach. The project will provide numerous benefits to residents and visitors alike by providing additional dry beach as well as restoring and preserving habitat and protecting upland habitats.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Submit this form via email to Jessica Kanes at Jessica.Kanes@dep.state.fl.us . If you have any questions or concerns about the process for submitting a project, please contact:

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Environmental Specialist I
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A current summary of projects is accessible through the Florida DEP's website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/projects.htm> (click on "View the list of restoration project ideas").