

THE NEWS ROOM

THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT,
REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

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Office of Public Affairs

BOEMRE Approves CIAP Grant for Biloxi River Greenway

Phase 1 to Identify Land in Harrison County for Conservation

NEW ORLEANS – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) announced today that it has approved a grant for \$18,960 to Harrison County, Miss. through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). The funding will support the first phase of the Biloxi River Greenway project. It will allow the county to identify land along the Biloxi River in Gulfport, Miss., to purchase for habitat conservation and provide opportunities for restoration and long-term management.

Created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, CIAP provides funding to the six Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas producing states to conserve and protect the coastal environment. CIAP is an ongoing program with grant funding that is allocated based on the offshore energy revenues collected by the United States.

“BOEMRE’s continued support for essential conservation and preservation initiatives, such as the Harrison County Biloxi River Greenway, is critical to Mississippi’s coastal communities,” said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. “With these grants, we are able to partner with the state and coastal communities to restore and preserve our fragile environment for generations to come.”

Phase 1 of the Biloxi River Greenway project will identify and assign a high priority to 10 acres for acquisition within the floodplain of the Biloxi River.

The funding will enable the county to obtain appraisals and property surveys, negotiate with willing sellers and complete Environmental Site Assessments and Cultural Resource Surveys as necessary. At a later date, Phase 2 of the project is planned to include purchasing the properties identified in Phase 1 to ensure the protection and conservation of properties within a critical watershed for southern Miss.

CIAP will receive \$250 million in appropriated funds for each of the Fiscal Years 2007-2010 to be disbursed to six eligible Outer Continental Shelf oil- and gas-producing states – Mississippi, Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana and Texas.

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