

THE NEWS ROOM

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## **BOEMRE Approves \$552,000 Grant for Mississippi Park Project**

*CIAP Grant Will Fund Restoration of Pascagoula Natural Beachfront Area for Public Use*

**NEW ORLEANS, LA** – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) has awarded a grant for \$552,000 to the state of Mississippi through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) for a project to acquire and restore Point Park, a vacant 1.61 acre parcel of beachfront property in the city of Pascagoula.

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 will continue to assist Mississippi in its coastal restoration efforts through the CIAP program,” said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. “Our support of conservation and public outreach initiatives like the Point Park Acquisition reaffirms our partnership with the state as it works to rebuild its coastal counties.”

Grant funding for the appraisal, acquisition and restoration of the Point Park beach parcel will allow Pascagoula and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to preserve the beachfront property and develop a nature park accessible to the public. The project will restore and conserve the area’s natural resources and native coastal vegetation with the clearing of debris, installation of walkways and nature trails, and landscaping with trees and plants.

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 – Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

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