



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
441 G STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

OCT 25 2010

Planning and Policy Division

Dr. Jim Kundell  
Carl Vinson Institute of Government  
University of Georgia  
201 N. Milledge Avenue  
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear Dr. Kundell.

*Jim*

Thank you for your letter of September 2, 2010, providing the recommendations of the Environmental Advisory Board in response to the Deep Water Horizon Incident in the Gulf of Mexico.

As the Board is well aware, the situation in the Gulf has been and continues to be dynamic, with substantial uncertainty concerning the long-term impacts. The two-phase approach articulated by the Board provides a useful framework for thinking about and responding appropriately to the issues at hand. I find the characterizations of the large ecosystem efforts in the Great Lakes, Florida Everglades, Louisiana Coast and San Francisco Bay/Delta to be particularly valuable in placing the Gulf response in a larger context.

In 2009, President Obama, through the Council on Environmental Quality, established the Louisiana-Mississippi Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Working Group ("Working Group") to coordinate Federal actions among the various agencies, working groups and task forces working within the region, and to work with the States to develop a shared long-term Vision for the region. The Working Group, of which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a member, developed a "Roadmap" for guiding the near-term actions which is helping coordinate Federal restoration and protection activities and complement longer-term planning processes already underway at both the Federal and State levels. While the Working Group was formed and began implementation prior to the Deep Water Horizon Incident, its goals to enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the Gulf ecosystems and the services they provide still remain true. Potential areas of Corps support include coastal engineering expertise, contracting support, construction management, scientific skills/services and ecosystem restoration planning capability.

As part of the broad spectrum of coastal restoration plans that overlap Federal and state agencies across the Gulf of Mexico, the Louisiana Area Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) report and other Corps coastal plans, such as the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA)

program were considered in the inventory for Gulf Coast restoration associated with recovering from the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill. Potential activities include near term projects contributing to recovery actions and longer term projects that support development of a sustainable coastal system.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, continues to work with the Secretary of Navy who is responsible for the development of the report "America's Gulf Coast - A Long Term Recovery Plan after the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill". This report focuses on these three central requirements for recovery in the Gulf Coast: the environment; the economy; and health and human services. These three areas are inextricably linked - what happens to the ecosystem of the Gulf affects its economy and the welfare of all Gulf Coast residents.

Through an Executive Order, on October 5, 2010, President Obama initiated the Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. The Task Force is established to efficiently integrate Federal efforts with the local stakeholders. The Task Force covers all five Gulf States from Texas to Florida. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be represented by the Department of Defense representative on the Task Force. A conference call led by Ms. Lisa Jackson Director of the Environmental Protection Agency on October 7, 2010, kicked off this initiative. Callers consisted of Federal, State and local representatives and focused on overall goals of the President and Task Force recommendations. The first Task Force meeting will be held on November 8, 2010, in Florida.

The insights and recommendations of the Board are most appreciated. I look forward to further discussions at the public meeting on October 29, 2010.

Sincerely,



R. L. Van Antwerp  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Commanding

Enclosure