

**Mississippi Development Authority
Mississippi**

**Gulf Coast Regional Infrastructure
Program**

**Recovery Action Plan Amendment 2
Modification 2**

Overview

This modification to the Recovery Action plan pertains to an additional use of the \$5.058 billion allocation to Mississippi from HUD resulting from the \$11.5 billion federal appropriation through HR 2863 to the states of Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and Texas. These monies have been designated by Congress for "disaster relief, long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure in the most impacted and distressed areas related to the consequences of hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico in 2005."

The State of Mississippi also received a \$423,036,059 allocation in CDBG funding from HUD as part of the \$5.2 billion federal appropriation through the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109-234). These monies have been designated by Congress for "necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in the most impacted and distressed areas related to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, or Wilma".

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) is the State's designated agency responsible for administering CDBG funds. With regard to the Gulf Coast Regional Infrastructure Program, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will be responsible for accountability of funds, technical oversight, and project management.

The CDBG Disaster Recovery Partial Action Plans and proposed amendments and their status of funding from the HR 2863 allocation include:

- Homeowner Assistance Grant Program: \$3.26 billion, approved by HUD and operational;
- Public Housing Program: \$105 million, approved by HUD and operational;
- Regional Infrastructure Program: \$33 million, approved by HUD and operational;
- Ratepayer and Wind Pool Mitigation: \$410 million, approved by HUD and operational;
- Ratepayer and Wind Pool Mitigation: \$30 million, submitted for Public Comment; and
- Economic Development Program: \$500 million, approved by HUD and operational.

The total amount allocated for the Gulf Coast Regional Infrastructure Program including administrative cost, is \$641,075,000. Individual projects to be funded were identified in the Master Plan development. This Modification 2 is for the following:

	P.L.109-148	P.L. 109-234
Previously Approved Amount:		
Emergency Grants	\$33,075,000	
Planning/Administration		
Amount of Modification:		
Projects	\$526,000,000	55,000,000
Administration	27,000,000	
	553,000,000	55,000,000
Project Total	\$586,075,000	55,000,000

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It is anticipated that due to the widespread damage of residences in this area from the storm, many citizens will relocate to areas within the six-county coastal area which will not be prone to flooding and other storm related damage in a storm like Hurricane Katrina. Many of these areas do not have adequate water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure. Additionally, since August 29, 2005, the local governments of the Mississippi Gulf Coast have been working to address many infrastructure issues dealing with rebuilding and repair as well as determine and plan future infrastructure needs.

The Governor has recognized that providing our citizens with reliable water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure is critical to the long-term recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast - thus the creation of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Infrastructure Program. Specific deliverables of the program will be:

- 1) To provide infrastructure for the local areas which are reacting to demands placed on existing infrastructure caused by population shifts which have occurred as a result of Katrina and to accommodate future growth (whether driven by population shifts or economic development); and
- 2) to move toward and implement a regional infrastructure system - a necessity to promote maximum utilization of resources and efficiency of services.

One important step toward the regionalization effort taken by the State is the 2006 Mississippi Gulf Region Utility Authority Act. This new law provides for the creation of a water, sewer, and storm water utility authority for each of the six coastal counties in the disaster area - Pearl River, Stone, George, Hancock, Harrison and Jackson. A Gulf Region Utility Board will advise the six individual authorities. This regional concept will enhance local governments' abilities to work jointly in the management of water, wastewater, and storm water services, irrespective of political boundaries, and will provide a mechanism for sharing treatment systems and services to achieve cost efficiencies.

Beginning in April 2006, MDEQ contracted for the development of a Master Plan (Gulf Region Water and Wastewater Plan) to identify and prioritize the most critical water, wastewater, and storm water needs in the six Gulf Region counties. Infrastructure projects recommended for funding using these CDBG funds are contained in the Master Plan. The Master Plan was developed and submitted to the Mississippi Development Authority for approval in January 2007. A critical component in the development of the Plan was the involvement of local community stakeholders throughout the process. Stakeholders included members of the county utility authorities, public officials from both county and municipal governments, leadership from the private sector, state and regional agencies, and others. Stakeholders provided input regarding local infrastructure needs during the development of the Plan.

Eligible Applicants

Grant monies may be made available to the county utility authorities based upon the projects recommended for funding in the Master Plan. The recipients of the grants will be Pearl River County Utility Authority, Stone County Utility Authority, Hancock County Utility Authority, Harrison County Utility Authority, and Jackson County Utility Authority. Other units of government may also be eligible applicants.

During the review of any application, MDEQ reserves the right to adjust the amount of the application request. This adjustment will be based on verification of reasonable costs, need, and availability of funds

Available Funds

This Amendment provides approval to fund projects recommended for funding in the Master Plan estimated not to exceed \$581 million and for administrative costs not to exceed \$27 million. This is in addition to the \$33 million provided in Amendment 2 under the emergency program.

Eligible Activities

The principle eligible activities for this grant program will be the provision of public infrastructure (water, wastewater, and storm water), and other eligible activities as found in Section 105(a) of the 1974 Housing and Community Development Act.

Environmental

It is the intent of this program to pass the CDBG funds through to the utility authorities and local governments. Therefore, environmental requirements will be carried out by these entities. MDA and MDEQ will provide technical assistance to the utility authorities and local governments to assist in making sure the environmental requirements are met and documented.

Citizen Participation Plan /Solicitation of Public Comment

As provided in Amendment 2, a public comment period was included in the development of the Master Plan. Three public meetings were held.

November 27,2006	Orange Grove Community Center Lyman, MS, Harrison County	126 attended
November 28,2006	Gulf Coast Community College Gautier, MS, Jackson County	115 attended
November 30,2006	Coast Electric Conference Center Bay St Louis, MS, Hancock County	77 Attended

A court reporter was utilized at each of the public meetings to document comments.

The Master Plan was placed on MDEQ's website for 20 days. Public Notice of the Master Plan placement and notices for the public hearings were placed in nine Gulf Coast area newspapers. In addition, press releases were provided on the public meetings and placement of the Master Plan in the website. Copies of the Master Plan were placed in City Halls, Court Houses, and Libraries throughout the six coastal counties.

Comments were received in both written and oral form. Many of the comments were similar in nature and therefore in those cases, the comments were combined with one response. As a result of these comments, changes were made to the initial Master Plan. The Master Plan is currently available on MDEQ's website www.msgulfregionplan.org. The comments received and responses are included in this Modification 2.

This proposed modification – Number 2 – is submitted for public comment. Copies are available through request in writing or on the internet at <http://www.mississippi.org> or <http://www.deq.state.ms.us>. The modification will be available in Vietnamese and Spanish translations at the same web sites.

Written comments regarding the proposed modification may be mailed to the MDA, Post Office Box 849, Jackson, MS 39205 or sent via facsimile to (601) 359-9280. Comments may also be submitted online to gulfregion@mississippi.org. Comments must be received no later than March 23, 2007.

National Objectives

The national objectives of urgent needs and low and moderate income will be used for this program.

Minority and Women's Businesses

MDA and MDEQ recognize HUD's policy to award a fair share of contracts to minority and women's businesses and shall require that grant subrecipients provide the opportunity for participation to minority and women's businesses. Grant subrecipients shall comply with MDA's Policy Statement #90-3 regarding this issue.

Waivers

Due to the nature of the infrastructure program and its need to provide infrastructure throughout the Coastal region to enhance housing and economic development on behalf of all citizens, the State is requesting a waiver of the 50% low/moderate requirement.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina potable water was supplied to customers within the six counties of the Gulf Region by 185 different service providers, including municipalities, utility service districts, non-profit rural water associations, or private entities, each monitored by the Mississippi Department of Health. The Plan also identified 481 different facilities with permitted wastewater discharges in the Gulf Region. In addition to these permitted treatment and discharge facilities,

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over 85,000 individual, on-site sewage systems were reported to be handling wastewater from approximately 195,000 housing units throughout the region. The volume of wastewater being treated by these systems is approximately 7.3 million gallons per day. Consequently, an important goal of the Plan was to identify feasible alternatives for consolidating multiple facilities into more regionalized systems. Water and wastewater infrastructure throughout the Gulf Region suffered extensive damage as a result of both storm surge and high winds.

Clearly the area most severely impacted occurred to facilities located below Interstate 10 in the three coastal counties. Even if structures escaped wind damage, the excessive storm surge flooded most facilities and rendered electrical and mechanical equipment inoperable. Many of these damages to existing facilities are being addressed with hazard mitigation and other programs of funding from FEMA. Consequently, on the whole, the current plan does not seek to remediate damages to local facilities caused by Hurricane Katrina. Rather, the goal of this Plan is to provide new or enhanced infrastructure and to locate new facilities out of harm's way.

The HUD data for the low/moderate income residents along the Gulf Coast shows the following County or City information:

Local Government	Low/Mod%
Hancock County	42.6
Bay St. Louis	40.7
Waveland	43.4
Harrison County	36.6
Biloxi	42.2
D' Iberville	42.2
Long Beach	29.5
Pass Christian	36.0
Jackson County	32.5
Gautier	33.6
Moss Point	46.6
Ocean Springs	27.9
Pascagoula	45.6
Pearl River County	41.0
Picayune	44.1
Poplarville	45.4
Stone County	43.3
Wiggins	48.5

From these figures, the State expects that most of the infrastructure recovery projects will not meet the low/moderate national objective. The State will make every effort to qualify projects under the low/moderate national objective and report these projects to HUD. However, the

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above figures further document the need for the waiver on all of the infrastructure recovery projects.

Additional Information

For additional information about the Master Plan and resulting projects please visit our web site at www.msgulfregion.org or contact Mr. Steve Spengler, Project Manager, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 10385, Jackson, MS 39289-1385, (601) 961-5102, e-mail Steve_Spengler@deq.state.ms.us.

Public Comments and Responses

1. The Plan supports growth in the rural areas north of I-10, while residents in these areas would prefer to maintain the rural lifestyle.

Response:

Since the storm there has been significant population shifts within the region. In development of the Plan, studies of the existing growth patterns as well as projections on growth patterns that may occur over the next five years, ten years, and twenty years have been made. These projections helped identify areas where infrastructure needs may exist.

The infrastructure needs have been evaluated from a regional approach. By using this approach the region's infrastructure can better be protected from storms, provide a higher level of public safety, and can support economic development that will be beneficial for the entire region. The proposed infrastructure will allow people to live in areas less vulnerable to future hurricanes and will allow more dense development, thus providing more efficient land use and preserving more land for rural land use.

Growth is occurring in many of the rural areas now. This infrastructure will help provide adequate wastewater and water supply for these citizens.

2. The Plan seems to ignore the cities where the largest concentrations of people live and were hardest hit by the storm.

Response:

FEMA is responsible for funding the restoration of infrastructure, which was damaged by Hurricane Katrina, in the cities and other areas. The objective of the Plan is to identify the most critical water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure needs within the Gulf Region and to prioritize those needs within the framework of an implementation plan for allocation of the funds. The improvements are intended to support existing and future growth patterns, particularly as realized through new housing construction, and to promote economic development.

In support of its objective, the Plan focuses on the Gulf Region, more than on individual units of government, and encourages centralization and consolidation of infrastructure where practicable. Furthermore, the Plan provides for infrastructure in areas of current and projected development and supports location of facilities in areas that are less vulnerable to hurricane impacts.

It is recognized that there are areas in or near municipalities that have inadequate water and sewer infrastructure and hence have not fulfilled their full potential for build out. Many of these areas contain vacant lots or land areas with the potential for infill development, if adequate infrastructure were available. The potential for municipal infill into these under-served areas is great and would allow for additional housing and economic growth. Based upon these facts, an additional \$55 million is being funded in the Supplemental Program for Municipal Infill areas.

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The Plan as amended reflects additional infrastructure projects within the municipalities along the coastline.

3. There were a number of comments that were dissatisfied with the County Utility Authorities and the Gulf Region Utility Act.

Response:

The Gulf Region Utility Act legislation was passed in April 2006. The Plan did not create the formation of these authorities.

4. Comments were received on the demographics and the basis of these projections. There was a comment that the information in Tables 4.2 and 4.8 in the Plan were contradictory.

Response:

Angelou Economics, a member of the Mississippi Engineering Group, Inc. team developed the demographic projections. There was coordination with local and regional planning agencies during the demographic development.

Table 4.2 in the Plan reflects growth rates of permanent citizens in each county prior to Hurricane Katrina. Table 4.8 reflects a projected population range for each county. The population range in Table 4.8 includes permanent and transient population such as temporary residents living in condominiums and visitors staying in hotel rooms and was utilized to make projections of future water demands and wastewater generation.

5. Septic tanks and water wells should be allowed in areas where they work until the new infrastructure can be built. How can developers meet housing needs prior to infrastructure being put in place?

Response:

Developers and residents should work with their county utility authority, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and the Mississippi Department of Health to identify appropriate solutions to water supply and wastewater disposal if regional water and wastewater systems are not available.

6. The Plan should consider the use of alternative wastewater treatment systems such as constructed and natural wetlands for effective and efficient wastewater treatment and no-discharge systems. Additionally, where electrical/mechanical treatment systems are used, facilities should be equipped with backup power systems.

Response:

The Plan does consider the use of biological wastewater treatment systems, both mechanical types and wetlands (constructed and natural). There are two proposed no-discharge systems in Stone County, one proposed constructed wetland system in Jackson County and a proposed facility in Hancock County using natural wetlands. The use of additional alternative treatment

systems may be considered during the engineering phase of implementation. The use of backup power systems for critical infrastructure is also recommended.

7. Hancock County lacks the ability to implement local water distribution and wastewater collection lines to complement the regional (backbone) systems that are proposed. Hancock County needs to have funding for "complete projects" to be part of the Plan.

Response:

In order to promote recovery in areas of Hancock County, the modified Plan recommends Supplemental Program funding of approximately \$47 million for local water distribution and wastewater collection projects in the ultra-distressed areas in Hancock County.

8. No sewer is provided in the Menge Avenue area in Long Beach.

Response:

A north-south wastewater transmission line is proposed along Menge Avenue. The area to be served by the transmission line will depend upon the extent of collection systems to be put in place by the local authorities. The exact location of the infrastructure is subject to change upon further planning/engineering.

9. Most of the monies are provided for the cities while development is ongoing in the unincorporated areas.

Response:

Much of the infrastructure is being proposed in growth areas outside of the municipalities.

10. Will there be another comment period regarding the Plan? The comment period provided was too short.

Response:

The comment period that was provided was the last opportunity for comment on the Plan. The comment period provided for this Plan was 20 days. The public notice was provided in local newspapers and on MDEQ's website. In addition, a press release was sent out regarding the three public meetings.

11. Give the HUD monies to Hancock County and let them decide how to spend it.

Response:

MDEQ was directed by the Governor to develop a Plan to identify the infrastructure needs and to prioritize the needs in the six counties. The recommended needs developed in the Plan will be funded through the allotment of HUD funds. During the development of the Plan, MDEQ solicited input from the local stakeholders and tried to address their priorities.

12. Many of the wastewater treatment plants were inundated and severely damaged. The wastewater treatment plants need to be moved to higher ground.

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Response:

The relocation of existing wastewater treatment plants was evaluated during the development of the Plan. It was determined that the costs to relocate these facilities, many of which had significant available capacity, would be very high. The infrastructure needed to meet the objectives of the Plan could not have been achieved if the monies were spent to relocate the wastewater treatment plants.

13. Will development stop where the trunk lines end?

Response:

No, developers and others should work with the local county utility authorities, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and the Mississippi Department of Health to determine the best way of providing water and wastewater services to areas not covered by municipal or regional systems.

14. A comment was made that Big Hill Acres, Ocean Beach Estates, Gulf Park Estates, and Helena were left out of the Plan and that no collection systems were provided.

Response:

While there are no wastewater collection or water distribution systems proposed for these areas, consistent with the objectives of the Plan, backbone wastewater infrastructure is provided near Big Hill Acres, Gulf Park Estates, and Ocean Beach Estates. Additional wastewater transmission lines for Ocean Beach Estates are proposed in the amended Plan. Water supply is also being provided in areas that Big Hills Acres and Helena can access. It will be up to the local authorities to provide the collection and distribution systems to connect to this backbone infrastructure.

15. Water is needed along Ocean Springs Road and Riley Road for residents in the Pine Grove Water Association.

Response:

The amended Plan provides for a water transmission line along Ocean Springs Road that would be available for the Pine Grove Water Association.

16. Why are there no storm water projects in Ocean Springs?

Response:

Evaluation of storm water projects was made during the development of the Plan. However, it was determined that water and wastewater infrastructure was a higher priority.

17. Citizens on the east side of the Pascagoula River should not be forced to go to surface water.

Response:

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Due to the uncertainty of the construction of the proposed surface water treatment plant in Jackson County, the Plan was modified to include groundwater supply to provide for water supply in the Hurley, Wade, and Big Point areas.

18. Plan should key in more on sewer and water in the Tradition/Saucier area.

Response:

The Plan contains modifications that provide for a regional water and wastewater system to serve this area.

19. Stone County is not receiving its fair share of the funds.

Response:

The projects in the Plan were developed to address near term needs in each of the six counties. The projects recommended for Stone County should help address many of these needs. Funds were not available to fund all needs in the counties.

20. The Pearlinton Water and Sewer District should be dissolved.

Response:

No response is needed.

21. Let Port Bienville operate its wells.

Response:

The Plan does not prohibit Port Bienville from using its wells.

22. Will money have safeguards?

Response:

MDEQ will be responsible to ensure that all funds are utilized in compliance with HUD regulations and requirements.

23. Can money be used in partnership with developers?

Response:

The monies proposed are for specific projects. If a developer wishes to work with the local authorities to expand or enhance the recommended projects, that would be up to the local authorities.

24. What constitutes economic development?

Response:

Economic development would include commercial development or industrial development.

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25. How many residents will be hooked up once the infrastructure is installed and what will the costs be to citizens?

Response:

The number of users will be determined in large part on the amount of complementary infrastructure that is provided by the local authorities. The costs to the citizens will be determined by the amount of collection systems and distribution systems provided by the local authorities. The infrastructure provided by this program is 100% grant money and the only costs will be operational and maintenance costs.

26. If standards provided by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design are incorporated in new development, it would be possible to downsize infrastructure and costs.

Response:

This could be considered by the local authorities.

27. Service customers should be billed according to metered consumption.

Response:

This would be up to the local county utility authority, municipality, or utility district that provides the service.

28. Wastewater treatment plans should not be so ugly and be landscaped to included constructed wetlands.

Response:

No response required.

29. Increased levels of wastewater treatment should help clean up the impaired waters in the region.

Response:

The requirements placed on any new or expanded wastewater treatment facility will be required to protect water quality standards in the receiving stream. It is expected that by providing new wastewater treatment facilities and allowing existing residents access to central wastewater treatment, surface water quality may be improved.

30. Live oaks should be preserved along Menge Avenue where there is proposed infrastructure.

Response:

This should be brought to the attention of the city and the Harrison County Utility Authority.

31. Commenter likes his private well and doesn't want chlorinated water.

Response:
No response required.

32. Encourage rainwater harvest and use of grey water for irrigation.

Response:
This would be a local decision by the city, county utility authority, or utility district.

33. City of Pascagoula submitted a list of prioritized water and wastewater projects.

Response:
These projects were evaluated and the following projects were proposed for funding in the amended Plan: water and wastewater transmission lines on the east side of Beach Boulevard, Chipley area, and River Park area, and a wastewater transmission line in the Shortcut Road area.

34. Request that Diamondhead wastewater treatment facility be relocated north of Kiln-Delisle Road and the discharge applied onto the NASA buffer zone area.

Response:
The proposal in the draft Plan to route the wastewater from the Diamondhead area to the proposed regional Kiln wastewater treatment facility in the NASA buffer zone was deleted due to lack of support for this project.

35. More infrastructure is needed in the Cowan-Lorraine Road and Highway 67 areas.

Response:
The North Gulfport/Lyman Regional Water Supply system as proposed will supply water from Cowan-Lorraine Road to Lyman. A water supply system is also provided along Highway 67 to I-110. A new 2 million gallon per day regional wastewater treatment is recommended in the Plan in the Tradition area which will provide wastewater treatment availability for the Highway 49 and Highway 67 corridors. The exact location of this infrastructure will be determined after further planning/engineering.

36. Population in Stone County will increase to 30,000 by 2020. Request an additional \$18 million for wastewater infrastructure. Projects should be aligned to support high growth in the south end of the county. Plan should allow for flexibility to adjust projects to reflect new areas of development.

Response:
The population projections in the Plan recognize significant growth will occur in Stone County over the next 15 – 20 years. The projects recommended for funding in the Plan focus on a narrower period of time. The Plan does recommend a wastewater treatment facility and wastewater transmission lines in south Stone County along with a water supply system south of Wiggins along Highway 49 to the McHenry area. The amended Plan also recommends funding

for additional wastewater transmission lines southeast of Wiggins. The Plan may be modified at some later date if needs change.

37. Monies are needed to improve existing problems with collection systems.

Response:

As per HUD requirements, these funds could not be used to make repairs to existing infrastructure problems that were not caused by Hurricane Katrina.

38. The criteria for selection were not applied evenly as the majority of the projects relate to providing new services in rural areas in order to promote economic development.

Response:

The objectives of the Plan were to provide infrastructure in areas of growth that had no infrastructure or in areas where the infrastructure was lacking in order to provide for housing and economic development. These funds could not be used to repair existing problems. A systematic approach was used to identify the infrastructure needs and to prioritize the needs based on the criteria established in the Plan. There were many projects identified that were worthy projects that were not able to be funded within the allocation of money provided.

39. Plan provides subsidies for developers.

Response:

The infrastructure proposed does not provide the infrastructure such as collection and distribution systems that are generally provided by the developers within their planned developments. The backbone infrastructure is generally provided by local governmental entities. By providing this backbone infrastructure, residents can have access to reliable water and sewer services and in a way that is protective of the environment.

40. Commenter objects to the use of funds for industrial development.

Response:

Many times the public sector provides infrastructure such as water and wastewater services for industrial parks whether they are publicly or privately owned.

41. Why pay for infrastructure in Bayou Casotte?

Response:

The draft Plan included proposed water and wastewater transmission lines along the city's new Bayou Casotte Parkway, which has the potential to develop as a commercial and industrial area. This project was removed in the amended Plan to address other higher prioritized projects in the City of Pascagoula.

42. Why are four decentralized systems proposed in north Jackson County instead of one central system?

Response:

A decentralized system was proposed because it was more economical than a centralized system due to the lower density of housing. The wastewater transmission lines in decentralized systems are much less expensive than those required for central systems.

43. Exclude the Diamondhead project, which included pumping wastewater from the Diamondhead area to the proposed wastewater treatment facility in the NASA buffer zone.

Response:

This project was excluded from the amended Plan due to lack of support.

44. What process was used to determine projects in Stone County?

Response:

Several stakeholder meetings were held in Stone County where input was solicited. In addition, meetings were held with the Stone County Utility Authority to solicit their input. Furthermore, a 20-day comment period was provided to solicit input on the draft Plan. All input was evaluated and considered based upon the selection criteria.

45. Request was made that projects be funded to support development in the Hickory Hills area of Gautier.

Response:

The amended Plan addresses water and wastewater infrastructure in the Hickory Hills area.

46. There is no infrastructure proposed in the Highway 63 corridor and additional infrastructure is needed along Highway 63 between Highway 63/613 and Highway 63/614.

Response:

The amended Plan consists of water supply transmission lines along Highway 63 in Moss Point, and along Highway 63 north of Highway 614 to Polletown Road, and from Fredric Street northward to Elder Ferry Road.

47. A request was made that funds be spent to help fund a new water treatment plant and water transmission lines in Moss Point.

Response:

The amended Plan provides funding to help fund the water treatment plant and water transmission lines. See comment #46.

48. Infrastructure is needed in Ocean Springs on Highway 90, along Highway 57, and down Ocean Springs Road.

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Response:

The amended Plan provides funding to address water transmission lines along Highway 90 from Highway 57 westward to approximately Riley Road. Water transmission lines are also proposed which would connect existing segments of Ocean Spring's water system to the West Jackson Regional Water Supply system along Highway 57 near the Sunplex Industrial Park. A wastewater transmission line is proposed from Reilly Road to the intersection of Highway 90 and Highway 57 and then northward along Highway 57. The exact location of this infrastructure will be determined after further planning/engineering.

49. Why provide infrastructure in "undeveloped areas"?

Response:

The objectives of the plan are to provide infrastructure in areas that are experiencing growth and are projected to have growth in the future and do not presently have infrastructure or the infrastructure is underserved, meaning that it is not adequate to handle the growth which is occurring.

50. There were no funds proposed for storm water infrastructure in Pass Christian.

Response:

It was determined early in the process from input from local stakeholders that water and sewer infrastructure was a higher priority for the local communities. These funds could not be used to repair existing problems. Many of the storm water projects identified addressed pre-Katrina conditions and could not be related to the hurricane.

51. Who contracted for this Plan?

Response:

The Governor directed MDEQ to develop the Plan. MDEQ contracted with Mississippi Engineering Group, Inc. to assist in the Plan development.

52. Who will implement this Plan?

Response:

MDEQ will be responsible for implementing the CDBG Infrastructure program in the state for these funds. The individual county utility authorities will be awarded grants to construct these projects.

53. What is meant in the Plan by "limited permitting requirements"?

Response:

During the prioritization process, one of the considerations was the time required to implement the project. One of the factors considered included permitting timeframes necessary for a project. This was not intended to mean that the normal permitting process would be altered in any way.

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54. Comment received in support of the Tradition Project.

Response:

No response is necessary.

55. Do any of the HUD monies go toward salaries?

Response:

Certain administrative costs are allowable by HUD and this would include salaries for implementation of these projects.

56. Is the Plan to protect people or help engineers and contractors?

Response:

No response is necessary.

57. Can the HUD monies be used for matching other funds?

Response:

These funds may be used as match to other federal funds.

58. The Pearlington/Port Bienville Regional Water System is not necessary and will encourage growth in a vulnerable storm area. Developers should pay the cost of infrastructure in this area.

Response:

It is expected that residents will relocate in this area. This area was previously served by septic tanks and private wells. This infrastructure will assist in the recovery of this area in a way that is more protective of the environment. Developers will be required to provide local collection/distribution systems in any new developments.

59. Comment was made in opposition to the use of funds to supply water for industrial development in George County.

Response:

This project was not recommended for funding in the amended Plan.

60. Developers should help pay for part of the costs of the wastewater treatment facility in south Stone County.

Response:

The developers will be required to pay for infrastructure within their developments.

61. It is not wise to use these funds to develop reservoirs and we support the Plan's recommendation to not fund any reservoir development.

Response:
No response is needed.

62. Funds in Stone County could be used by attaching the funds to a large development in south Stone County that is being built and by giving the infrastructure to the county utility authority so that connections could be made to the system as other areas grow.

Response:
No response is needed.

63. Requests that Helena community be provided with water and sewer infrastructure, including collection systems.

Response:
The amended Plan provides for water transmission lines that will be accessible to the Helena community.

64. Requests that projects in the Plan recognized as eligible but not recommended for funding be considered if a recommended project is not implemented.

Response:
We will certainly consider other projects identified in the Plan if additional monies become available.

65. Comment was made that a stakeholder match should be considered for the funds.

Response:
These HUD funds are 100% grants. There will be significant costs to the locals to provide the complementary infrastructure such as collection and distribution systems to complete many of these projects.

66. Recommends providing for a storage tank in the West Jackson County Utility District.

Response:
A regional West Jackson County water supply system is proposed which should benefit the West Jackson County Utility District. This system should provide adequate water and storage to meet the needs of the district.

67. Proposed location of the wastewater transmission lines in the Saucier/Tradition area is questioned and the wastewater transmission lines should be gravity and not sewer. A concern was also raised regarding the possibility of the line traversing the DeSoto National Park and its implications regarding the gopher frog, an endangered species.

Response:

The amended plan increases the capacity of the proposed wastewater treatment facility in the Tradition area from 1.5 to 2.0 million gallons per day. Wastewater transmission lines are proposed from Saucier area south along Highway 49 and across Highway 49 at Wortham Road, and then to the East Central Harrison County Wastewater Treatment Facility. Construction of gravity lines are much more expensive than force mains, thus the proposal to not use gravity lines. The exact siting of the transmission lines will be determined during the planning and preliminary engineering process, which will have to consider environmental impacts such as endangered species. The wastewater treatment facility in the Tradition area will be able to serve Saucier/Tradition area along with the Highway 67 corridor.

68. Plan fails to provide wastewater transmission lines through Tradition along Tradition Parkway, east and west of Highway 67, as well as north and south along Highway 67 and Highway 605 corridors to Woolmarket and up and down East Wortham to South Saucier.

Response:

Please refer to #67. Funds were not available to provide all infrastructure requested. A backbone system is proposed for the Saucier/Tradition area. Likewise, a wastewater treatment system and transmission system is proposed for the south Woolmarket area. It will be up to the local cities and utility authorities to provide additional infrastructure.

69. Plan fails to address water supply needs along Tradition Parkway West and Wortham Road along Tradition Parkway East down to Highway 605 to connect to east and west of Highways 67 and 605.

Response:

The amended Plan proposes the Eastern Harrison County Regional Water Supply System. This proposes a water supply system along Wortham Road, Tradition Parkway, and Highway 67 through Biloxi/Woolmarket area to Highway 67/I110 at the City of D'Iberville. In addition to water supply, it includes water transmission lines along Highway 49 from Biloxi Cutoff Road southward to East Wortham Road, then eastward along East Wortham Road and along western Tradition Parkway and along Highway 67 from Highway 605 southeastward through the Woolmarket area into the City of D'Iberville. The exact location of this infrastructure will be determined after further planning/engineering.

70. There were a number of written and oral comments in support of the Plan.

Response:

No response is required.

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