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#150115-RESTORE

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RESTORE Project Application Process Opens Today

Santa Rosa County is now accepting proposals for projects to be included in the county's RESTORE Multi-Year Implementation Plan. Approximately \$4.3 million is available to Santa Rosa County in the first dollars offered through the RESTORE Act. This initial release of funding is a small part of an estimated \$20-75 million Santa Rosa County is expected to receive once litigation and Clean Water Act fines against BP are finalized. The complete request for proposals, with submittal criteria, guidance, and milestones, are available online at www.santarosa.fl.gov/bocc/restore.cfm.

The preferred method for project submittals is online in PDF format at www.santarosa.fl.gov/bocc/restore.cfm. Proposals must be received no later than 4 p.m., Friday, March 13. Organizations with multiple projects should submit each project separately. *It is necessary that proposals be submitted during this cycle, even those project ideas previously submitted online for consideration.*

A pre-application workshop is scheduled during the Local RESTORE Council meeting Monday, Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. Interested applicants are welcome to attend and ask questions about the proposal process. Questions or issues with loading applications can be emailed to RESTORE@santarosa.fl.gov or contact Sheila Harris at (850) 983-1848.

The funding for the county's multi-year plan, called the direct component, is just one of the many sources of funding associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill ([click here to see flow chart of oil spill funds in Florida](#)). The direct component sets aside 35 percent of the penalties paid into the Trust Fund for eligible activities proposed by the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana and 20 Louisiana parishes, and 23 Florida counties. The RESTORE Act, which became law on July 5, 2012, diverts 80 percent of any civil and administrative Clean Water Act penalties collected as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Gulf coast for ecological and economic restoration.

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