



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
341 Greeno Road North, Suite A  
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R4/DH NRDAR

Memorandum

February 29, 2024

To: Patricia Kelly, Panama City Ecological Services Field Office, Panama City, FL

From: Compliance Supervisor, Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office

Subject: Coastal Barrier Resources Act Consistency Determination Request for Implementation of the Gulf Breeze Septic to Sewer Conversion Project

The Department of the Interior Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office is working through various environmental compliance consultations on post-settlement proposed restoration projects. We are currently working on the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) consistency determination for the Florida Trustee Implementation Group Restoration Plan 3 project: Gulf Breeze Septic to Sewer Conversion.

We used the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) mapper and the Information for Consultation and Planning (IPaC) system [accessed February 29, 2024] to determine if the proposed project is located within a CBRS Unit. The proposed project does occur within a CBRS Unit.

This project was determined to have no effects on any federally threatened or endangered species and therefore has not be submitted via the IPaC system and has no tracking number.

### Project Location

The proposed project is located in coastal Florida. Please see project map below (Figure 1).

### Description of the Proposed Action or Project

The proposed project is designed to restore natural resources injured by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Please see below for project description and consistency analysis.

### Justification for Exception

Please see below for Justification for Exception.

Contact Information

Please provide response via email to the following:

Michael Barron  
Environmental Compliance Coordinator  
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office  
Tel: 251-421-7030  
[michael\\_barron@fws.gov](mailto:michael_barron@fws.gov)

## **Gulf Breeze Septic to Sewer Conversion**

This project would be implemented by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Florida TIG Trustee in coordination with the City of Gulf Breeze and the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Estuary Program. The project would improve water quality in Santa Rosa Sound and Pensacola Bay by reducing nutrient loading from antiquated septic systems by connecting homes that are served by septic systems to an advanced (i.e., higher than the typical secondary treatment level provided by most facilities) wastewater treatment plant.

Specifically, the project would:

- Decommission septic tank systems. Septic tanks from up to 1,030 residences on or near Bay Cliffs Road, Eufala Street, Fairpoint Drive, Florida Avenue, Gilmore Drive, Highpoint Drive, Hoffman Bayou area, Montrose Boulevard, Poinciana area, San Carlos Avenue, and Warwick Street within the City of Gulf Breeze (Figure 1) would be decommissioned. The tanks would be pumped, the bottom would be ruptured to prevent water retention, and the emptied tanks would be filled with clean, compacted fill to grade.
- Install municipal sewer connections. Following septic tank decommissioning, gravity sewer systems or low-pressure grinder pumps would be installed and linked to the City of Gulf Breeze's municipal sewage system, ultimately connecting to the Tiger Point Reclamation Facility. Installation would require excavation at a minimum of 30 inches to an average of 5 feet for low-pressure system mains, or up to 12 feet for gravity systems. Where low-pressure systems are used, a low-pressure pump would be installed at 5 foot-depth. A buried wire or wire in conduit from the existing electrical service panel would be installed to connect to the pump control panel. Off-site construction work would include infrastructure adjustments within the rights of way, including gravity and force mains, services to the property, manholes, and lift stations. Native plants would be planted along disturbed areas for stabilization.

### *Consistency Analysis*

The proposed action is within the following CBRS Unit: FL-98P. Therefore, this project is subject to a Consistency Analysis under CBRA. Within the CBRS Unit, the proposed action involves no construction and consists primarily of the study of fish and wildlife resources and habitats. Consequently, this activity is consistent with CBRA per exemption 16 U.S.C. 3505(a)(6)(A) for "Projects for the study, management, protection, and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources and habitats, including acquisition of fish and wildlife habitats, and related lands, stabilization projects for fish and wildlife habitats, and recreational projects." The purposes of CBRA are "to minimize the loss of human life, wasteful expenditure of Federal revenues, and the damages to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources associated with the coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts..." 16 U.S.C. §3501(b). This project is designed to enhance natural resources injured by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Accordingly, this project is consistent with the purposes of CBRA and the exemption discussed above.

*Applicable Exception(s) under 16 U.S.C. 3505(a)*

- 16 U.S.C. 3505(a)(6)(A): **Projects for the study, management, protection, and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources and habitats**, including acquisition of fish and wildlife habitats, and related lands, stabilization projects for fish and wildlife habitats, and recreational projects.

*Consistency Determination*

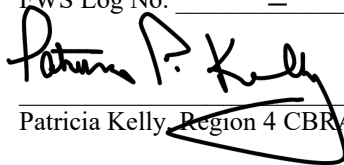
- Located within OPA and not subject to a consistency determination.
- Meets the selected CBRA exception(s) and requires no further case-by-case consultation
- Meets different CBRA exception(s) than the one(s) selected above (see additional information/comments below) and requires no further case-by-case consultation
- Does not meet the selected CBRA exception or requires separate case-by-case consultation (see additional information/comments below)

Additional Information/Comments:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1875 Century Blvd NE,  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
(850) 769-0552 Fax (850) 763-2177

Stationed at field office, Panama City, FL  
1601 Balboa Avenue, Florida 32405  
Phone: 850-769-0552 x45228

FWS Log No. 2024\_0086319



Patricia Kelly, Region 4 CBRA Coordinator

4/29/2024

Date

Figure 1. Map showing the Gulf Breeze Septic to Sewer Conversion project area.

