



Minerals Management Service

People Promoting Energy, the Environment, and the Economy

News Release

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MMS Approves \$400,000 Grant for Development and Growth Initiative

Funding to promote smart growth and sustainable development along coast

NEW ORLEANS – The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has approved a \$400,000 grant to the State of Mississippi through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), to develop a Sustainable Development and Smart Growth Management Initiative for the coastal counties of Mississippi.

Grant funding will create a comprehensive program to incorporate the principles of smart growth and sustainability into development activities within Mississippi's three coastal counties: Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson. The program is expected to improve natural resources conservation and management, land use decision making, and future policy creation.

“MMS is committed to assisting Mississippi in its vital coastal development efforts through the CIAP program,” said MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Director Lars Herbst. “We are proud to partner with the Department of Marine Resources in supporting important smart growth projects.”

The CIAP was created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Through the program, MMS will provide \$250 million in grants annually, from 2007-2010, to six eligible Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas producing states – Mississippi, Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, and Texas. The funding to Mississippi included \$30.9 million for each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and \$23.8 million for 2009 and 2010. Three Coastal Political Subdivisions (counties) share in the funding of projects outlined in the state's approved plan.

—MMS—

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