



June 17, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As oil continues to flow into the Gulf of Mexico, the Water Resources Coalition asks for a more coordinated effort to address the immediate, mid, and long term effects of this disaster. We understand that the pressing concern is containing and responding to the spill and its initial impact. However, it is imperative that the mid and long term effects be considered and planning be shifted to focus on how to prevent further adverse affects to coastal communities and those who depend on the Gulf for their livelihood.

The Water Resources Coalition (WRC) commends the White House for assigning Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus to lead the development of a long term gulf restoration plan. The Water Resources Coalition stands ready to provide technical and policy assistance as you proceed.

The WRC represents state and local governments, conservation, engineering and construction industries, ports, waterways and transportation services. WRC works to ensure that a comprehensive, national water resources policy is developed and funded to provide a sustainable, productive economy; healthy aquatic ecology, and public health and safety.

Due to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the Coast Guard currently has exclusive jurisdiction over the clean up effort. However, the Water Resources Coalition asks that additional agencies continue to be engaged in the efforts and the varying expertise of these agencies be used to make the clean up and restoration more effective. With agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency involved in the efforts, affects to wildlife, the environment, and coastal communities can be better taken into account as well as more intense planning for mid and long term consequences to both the ecology and economy of the region. Additionally, in order to achieve success it is crucial for the White House to be

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improve, prevent, save  
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responsible for coordinating the efforts across the multiple agencies and bringing other effected and knowledgeable groups to the table, such as the Water Resources Coalition.

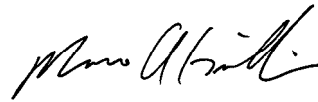
It is only through the combination of resources and expertise of these federal agencies, local organizations, and relevant national organizations that a real and sustained clean up can be accomplished and the affected communities protected.

We appreciate the attention and resources being focused on this tragedy and thank you for taking our recommendations into consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Pallasch  
Co-Chairman  
American Society of Civil Engineers



Marco Giamberardino  
Co-Chairman  
Associated General Contractors

Cc: Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of the Interior  
Administrator Lisa Jackson, Environmental Protection Agency  
Secretary Gary Locke, Department of Commerce  
Chair Christina Romer, Council of Economic Advisors  
Majority Leader Harry Reid, United State Senate  
Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, United State Senate  
Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, United States House of Representatives  
Minority Leader John Boehner, United States House of Representatives