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Interior Disburses \$95.3 Million to Texas from 2019 Energy Revenues

Increase of \$37.4 million in payments demonstrates energy agenda success; GOMESA funds important to coastal conservation, restoration and hurricane protection projects

WASHINGTON – U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced today that the Department disbursed nearly \$95.3 million to Texas and its coastal political subdivisions (CPS). This represents an increase of nearly \$37.4 million over the prior year. The funds will be used to support coastal conservation and restoration projects; hurricane protection programs; and activities to implement marine, coastal or conservation management plans.

“Because of policies put forth by President Trump, increasing energy revenues have generated more money for Gulf states to implement critical conservation, sustainability and infrastructure projects,” **said Secretary Bernhardt.**

Interior disbursed almost \$353 million in FY 2019 energy revenues to the four Gulf oil and gas producing states – Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, and their coastal political subdivisions (CPS) – an increase of 64.2% (\$138 million) over the prior year.

In FY 2019, revenues surpassed \$1 billion from GOMESA leases, which triggered the annual cap. The GOMESA legislation specifies the annual cap to be applied to the amounts disbursed to the Gulf producing states and their CPS each year. ONRR will disburse to the states and their CPS each fiscal year following the year of receipt: up to \$375 million for FY 2017 through FY 2019 receipts; up to \$487.5 million for FY 2020 and FY 2021 receipts; and up to \$375 million for FY 2022 through FY 2055 receipts. The cap is lifted beginning in FY 2056. The cap does not apply to qualified revenues generated in those areas associated with Phase I of the GOMESA program.

“The U.S. is the world’s energy leader, and the revenue from our offshore oil and gas production is vital to our coastal communities,” **said Texas Governor Greg Abbott**. “The GOMESA funds will strengthen conservation and restoration projects along the Texas coast and will assist in our hurricane preparedness efforts. I thank the Trump Administration for its continued commitment to America’s energy security and for its support of Texas’ coastal communities.”

“I’m proud to support the Trump Administration in their efforts to cement America’s energy dominance, and I am glad to at last see our district receiving a more equitable greater share of the revenue raised from the resources off our coast,” **said Texas Congressman Randy Weber**. “However, Congress has more work to do to provide equitable revenue sharing for onshore drilling and offshore drilling, and I will continue to work with my colleagues to bring this about.”

Texas projects funded with GOMESA dollars include \$4.5 million in funds committed by the Texas General Land office to construct 6.7 miles of living shoreline at Anahuac Natural Wildlife Refuge. The project is being completed by Ducks Unlimited and will protect the coastal marsh from further erosion. The Land office also committed \$1.1 million in GOMESA funds to complete the Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan. The plan provides a framework for community, socio-economic, ecologic and infrastructure protection from coastal hazards, including short-term direct impact and long-term gradual impacts.

Today’s action represents the third annual disbursement under Phase II of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA). Disbursements are subject to sequestration requirements under the Budget Control Act of 2011.

GOMESA funds are derived from qualified oil and gas leasing revenues on the Outer Continental Shelf and disbursed in accordance with the revenue-sharing provisions of the GOMESA legislation.

During FY 2019, Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) disbursed approximately \$125 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and \$549 million to the U.S. Treasury from bonuses, rentals and royalties paid for GOMESA leases. As required by the legislation, disbursements to the LWCF and Treasury are made in the same year of receipt; disbursements to the states and CPS are made the year following the year of receipt.

The following amounts will be shared with Texas and its subdivisions:

State of Texas	\$76,227,145.73
Aransas County	\$772,632.69
Brazoria County	\$1,267,015.77
Calhoun County	\$1,034,675.74
Cameron County	\$1,111,917.29
Chambers County	\$652,884.63
Galveston County	\$1,662,925.78
Harris County	\$3,706,345.68
Jackson County	\$496,817.57
Jefferson County	\$1,281,692.80
Kenedy County	\$1,065,791.46
Kleberg County	\$769,772.18

Matagorda County	\$1,473,898.11
Nueces County	\$1,018,807.82
Orange County	\$630,584.03
Refugio County	\$476,238.54
San Patricio County	\$500,448.31
Victoria County	\$515,446.15
Willacy County	\$618,891.86
TOTAL	\$95,283,932.14

Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue manages and ensures full payment of revenues owed for the development of the nation's energy and natural resources on the Outer Continental Shelf and onshore Federal and Indian lands. In performing this important fiduciary role, ONRR collects an average of over \$10 billion dollars in annual revenue, one of the Federal government's largest sources of non-tax revenue.

Revenue-sharing allocations and disbursement details for the FY 2019 receipts are available on the Department's website at: <https://revenue.data.doi.gov/how-itworks/gomesa>.