



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 8, 2025

Mr. Michael Leonard
City of Biloxi
140 Lameuse Street
P.O. Box 429
Biloxi, MS 39533
228-435-6254

Dear Mr. Leonard:

Re: City of Biloxi
Point Cadet Living Shoreline
Harrison County
COE No. SAM-2024-00093-MJF
WQC No. WQC2024084

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U. S. C. 1251, 1341), the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) issues this Certification, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing, to the City of Biloxi, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

City of Biloxi, Point Cadet Living Shoreline: Project to place approximately 18,200 cubic yards of sand fill material and approximately 6,900 cubic yards of riprap material at or below Mean High Water (MHW) for the construction of a 2.5-acre marsh island with emergent vegetation, a protective emergent breakwater, submerged breakwaters, an area for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) recruitment, a sand beach area, and a living shoreline with a riprap sill. The purpose of the project is to help restore Mississippi's gulf coast and shoreline, improve aesthetics, provide storm protection and estuarine habitat. A description of each component of the project is described below:

-Sand Beach: An existing sand beach located along the western portion of the project site will have debris removed and approximately 2,140 cubic yards of sand fill material added. Sediment source will be from upland borrow pits. No dredge spoil is proposed for the sand beach.

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-Living Shoreline: The area to the south of the proposed beach will be protected with a living shoreline comprised of a riprap sill, requiring approximately 443 cubic yards of material, and an emergent breakwater. This area will be planted with Smooth Cordgrass, Black Needlerush and Saltmeadow Cordgrass.

-Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) area: No plantings will take place as recruitment is expected to occur naturally. Fill material will be medium to coarse sand sourced from upland sources such as borrow pits. Approximately 2,430 cubic yards of material will be placed.

-Emergent Breakwaters: The breakwaters will require the placement of approximately 6,400 cubic yards of material. These structures will be comprised of a geotextile grid base with stone rip rap placed to grade. Maximum crest elevation will be $\pm 2.8'$ NAVD88.

-Submerged Breakwaters: The submerged breakwaters will require the placement of approximately 500 cubic yards of material. These structures will be comprised of a geotextile grid base with stone riprap placed to grade. Maximum crest elevation will be $\pm 0.7'$ NAVD88.

-Marsh Island: The proposed 2.5-acre marsh island will require the placement of approximately 13,100 cubic yards of borrow sand. Material will be sourced from upland borrow pits. This area will be planted with Smooth Cordgrass, Black Needlerush and Saltmeadow Cordgrass [SAM-2024-00093-MJF; WQC2024084].

MDEQ certifies that the above-described activity will be in compliance with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Section 49-17-29 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, if the applicant complies with the following conditions:

1. Best management practices should be used at all times during construction to minimize turbidity at the restoration sites. The restoration sites shall be constructed and maintained in a manner that minimizes the discharge of turbid waters into waters of the Mississippi Sound and surrounding waters. (Statement B) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
2. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.(3))
3. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.(3))

As part of the Scope of Review for Application Decisions, 11 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 6, Rule 1.3.4(B), the above conditions are necessary for the Department to ensure that

appropriate measures will be taken to eliminate unreasonable degradation and irreparable harm to waters of the State, such that the activity will not meet the criteria for denial:

- (A) The proposed activity permanently alters the aquatic ecosystem such that water quality criteria are violated and/or it no longer supports its existing or classified uses. An example is the channelization of streams.
- (B) There is a feasible alternative to the activity which reduces adverse consequences on water quality and classified or existing uses of waters of the State.
- (C) The proposed activity adversely impacts waters containing State or federally recognized threatened or endangered species.
- (D) The proposed activity adversely impacts a special or unique aquatic habitat, such as National or State Wild and Scenic Rivers and/or State Outstanding Resource Waters.
- (E) The proposed activity in conjunction with other activities may result in adverse cumulative impacts.
- (F) Nonpoint source/storm water management practices necessary to protect water quality have not been proposed.
- (G) Denial of wastewater permits and/or approvals by the State with regard to the proposed activities.
- (H) The proposed activity results in significant environmental impacts which may adversely impact water quality.

MDEQ also certifies that there are no limitations under Section 302 nor standards under Sections 306 and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act which are applicable to the applicant's above-described activity.

This certification is valid for the project as proposed. Any deviations without proper modifications and/or approvals may result in a violation of the 401 Water Quality Certification. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Barefoot.

Sincerely,



Becky Simonson
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

cc: Maryellen Farmer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Willa Brantley, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Patrick Mooney, Brown, Mitchell & Alexander, Inc.