



# TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

## JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Patterson: Coastal lawmakers must act now to help the coast**

*Land Commissioner rallies support behind restoring import oil tax to fund coastal projects*

AUSTIN — In the final, frenzied days of the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session, Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson is working to rally support to save funding for coastal protection projects worth millions.

During the session, Patterson met one-on-one with lawmakers working to convince them to restore a 2-cent fee on each barrel of oil imported to Texas. This import fee was dropped in 2005.

“Texas needs a dedicated source of funding for coastal protection,” Patterson said. “Restoring this fee of just 2-cents for every 42-gallon barrel of imported oil would provide the funding we sorely need and have never had.”

Patterson said restoring the 2-cent fee is just too important to be lost in the final crush of issues that crowd the end of each session.

Since 2000, the Texas General Land Office’s Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA) program has funded more than 200 projects with \$62 million dollars. But the impact of that \$62 million in state money was more than doubled by leveraging an additional \$62 million in local and federal money.

Still, the needs on the Texas coast are greater than CEPRA’s budget. In the last grant cycle, the Texas General Land Office received more than \$136 million in grant requests for only \$17 million in available funding.

A fully dedicated and funded CEPRA program will enable the Texas General Land Office to better leverage federal dollars by more accurately planning for future expenditures. Just as Texas parks deserve a dedicated revenue stream, so do our beaches and the most sensitive ecological areas of our state, our bays and estuaries, Patterson said.

“For decades, we’ve left hundreds of millions of dollars in federal money on the table because we just didn’t have the local match,” Patterson said. “Restoring this fee on imported oil and dedicating the millions of dollars it will bring in each year to protect the Texas coast is a no-brainer.”

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