



Kurvin Qualls, Chair
Kasey Cuchens, Vice-Chair

Austin L. Mount, Executive Director

To: Bay Area Resource Council Member, City of Pensacola
From: West Florida Regional Planning Council
Date: July 5, 2017
Subject: Agenda Item – Estuary Program Proposal Updates/Consent
Contact: Katie Wilhelm or Jennifer Laurent, WFPRC

ACTION NEEDED

1. Consent for Escambia County to be the applicant on behalf of Bay Area Resource Council (BARC) to submit the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) proposal in response to EPA's RESTORE Estuary Program RFP.
2. Consent for the BARC to approve the final version (draft attached) of the proposal in response to EPA's RESTORE Estuary Program RFP at the next scheduled BARC meeting on July 19, 2017 or as quorum is available no later than the due date of August 1, 2017.

BACKGROUND

The RFP to fund the implementation of one Estuary Program in the Florida panhandle was issued on May 4, 2017. Funding in the amount of \$2 million is available through the RESTORE Pot 2 Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (The Council). The Council has entered into an Interagency Agreement with the USEPA to expend funds to carry out EPA assigned Comprehensive Plan projects and programs included in the Funded Priorities List.

The key components of the Estuary Program Implementation Grant will include establishing the host organization, hiring key staff, developing management and technical committees, determining stressors, and developing and approving a Comprehensive Management Plan (CCMP). Three panhandle watersheds will be competing for this opportunity, as only one implementation grant will be awarded for the region: Pensacola/Perdido Bay, Choctawhatchee Bay, and St. Andrews Bay.

On March 17, 2016 the City Council of the City of Pensacola, Florida adopted Resolution Number 06-16 expressing support for and requesting that the Bay Area Resource Council be designated the entity for the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Estuary Programs which manage comprehensive plans for the restoration and protection of Pensacola and Perdido Bay.

During the development of the proposal, WFRPC staff and the BARC Technical Advisory Committee determined that the \$2,000,000 budget award could be more efficiently allocated by naming Escambia County as the "applicant" on behalf of BARC rather than the WFRPC as initially planned due to differing overhead and indirect rates. The WFPRC encourages the establishment of an Estuary Program the most efficient way possible and continues to support the development of the proposal. As the applicant, Escambia county would maintain the administrative and financial structure required of the host organization for the Estuary Program. The BARC will transition into the Policy Board, the top-

level organizational unit within the Estuary Program Management Conference. Accompanying the BARC representatives on the Policy Board will be top officials from key local, federal and state resource or decision-making organizations.

REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION

1. WFRPC (BARC) staff requests that Escambia County is approved to be listed as the applicant on behalf of Bay Area Resource Council (BARC) to submit the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) proposal in response to EPA's RESTORE Estuary Program RFP.
2. WFRPC (BARC) staff requests that the Board consent for the BARC to approve the final version of the proposal in response to EPA's RESTORE Estuary Program RFP at the next scheduled BARC meeting on July 19, 2017 or as quorum is available no later than the due date of August 1, 2017.

FISCAL IMPACTS

BARC member governments would not be expected to contribute funds beyond requests for the current level of BARC dues until Year 5 of the Estuary Program project. Prior to Year 5, local government would contribute through in-kind contributions of staff and Commissioners.

NEXT STEPS

BARC Board will approve the final Estuary Program proposal to be submit by Escambia County staff "as-is" or "with-changes" prior to the deadline for submittal on August 1, 2017. EPA is anticipated to issue notice of tentative award on August 28, 2017, and the estimated project period for awards will begin in Calendar Year 2017.

Enclosure: Draft Narrative for the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program proposal.