



May 25, 2022

Mayor Grover Robinson, IV  
City of Pensacola  
222 W Main St.  
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear Mayor Robinson,

At the May 25, 2022 Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program Policy Board meeting, the Board authorized transmittal of this letter to your organization requesting a local government contribution to the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program for FY22-23.

Since 2019, the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program has been funded by a \$2 million RESTORE Act grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Division to support establishment of the Program and development of the Program's first Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), Monitoring Strategy, Education and Outreach Strategy, Finance Strategy, and State of the Bays Report Card. The Program is on target to reach all of the milestones outlined in the grant workplan by the EPA grant deadline in December 2022.

Securing sustainable funding for Program operations is critical to the long-term success and viability of the Program, and implementation of key restoration objectives outlined in the CCMP. To date, the Program has secured approximately \$2.5 million on top of the \$2 million RESTORE Act grant. This trend is anticipated to continue into 2023 and beyond. Several exciting initiatives are underway, chief among them is legislation filed by Senator Rubio and cosponsored by Senator Scott to designate Pensacola and Perdido bays as estuaries of national significance. Passage of this legislation will result in increased funding and resources available to improve water quality, oyster and seagrass habitat, and community resilience, among numerous other initiatives.

For that to happen, we must demonstrate both financial and in-kind support from our local government partners. We hope you will strongly consider an appropriation to the Estuary Program in your FY22-23 budget.

Matt Posner, Executive Director of the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program, will be in touch in the coming week to schedule time to discuss the Program's appropriation request with your administration and City Council.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Robert Bender in blue ink.

Robert Bender, Chairman  
Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program

Handwritten signature of Matt Posner in blue ink.

Matt Posner, Executive Director  
Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program