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*NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM
BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE
LAW FUNDING
IMPLEMENTATION FOR FIRST
TWO YEARS*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2022

9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

HARRIS-GALVESTON SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT



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NEP BIL BASICS

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides \$132 million for NEP grants, including funding for the 28 longstanding NEPs.
- Distributed evenly between the 28 NEPs:~ \$909,800 in BIL funds every year per NEP for five years.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT WITH BIL FUNDING?

- Extended Spending Time Frame
- Focus on Environmental Justice and Coastal Resilience including green infrastructure
- Waiver of Cost-Share/Match Requirement
 - Waived for first two years
 - Approved equity strategy to waive for future funds

BUILDING THE ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF ECOSYSTEMS AND COMMUNITIES TO COASTAL RESILIENCE

- BIL funded projects should advance the coastal resilience of ecosystems and communities and deliver mitigation co-benefits.
 - Assessment and planning for coastal resilience;
 - Restoration projects related to coastal resiliency adaptation and hazard mitigation;
 - Water infrastructure, green infrastructure, stormwater management, and nonpoint source projects;
 - Coastal resilience monitoring and research projects, including measuring, monitoring, and increasing carbon sequestration; and
 - Projects focused on coastal resilience outreach
- NEP reporting on BIL funding will include metrics addressing coastal resilience benefits.

ENSURING BENEFITS REACH DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

- The BIL is a transformational opportunity to ensure that the benefits of federal investments are shared equitably by all communities.
- The NEP is covered under the Justice40 Initiative.
- Nationwide target: 40% of benefits & investments from BIL funding flow to disadvantaged communities.
- Each NEP will be required to develop an equity strategy for BIL funds

DEFINING DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

- Upcoming Supplemental Demographic Index (80% threshold) - EJScreen
 - % low income
 - % linguistically isolated
 - % less than high school education
 - % unemployed
 - Low life expectancy
- Baseline measurement

PROJECTS FUNDED BY GBEP

- The first two years of BIL funds will be combined for this first project cycle
 - Total of \$1,819,600
- Minimum budgeted cost of \$150,000
- Four-year maximum project length
- Project priorities are not determined by or selected by individual subcommittees
 - Selections will be made based on the consensus of the combined GBC and subcommittee members

PROJECTS FUNDED BY GBEP

- Infrastructure projects must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act
 - [EPA BABA Information](#)
- Incorporate Federal Flood Risk Management Standards
 - [FFRMS](#)
 - [EPA Green Infrastructure Managing Flood Risks](#)

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- **8/29/22** - Request for proposals sent out to GBC and Subcommittees
- **9/16/22** - Project proposals are due to GBEP by close of business
- **9/16/22** - GBEP and TCEQ begin review of project proposals
- **9/23/22** - Compiled proposals sent out to GBC and subcommittees
- **10/5/22** - Second combined GBC and subcommittee meeting to choose projects to be awarded BIL funds
- **10/11/22** - Selected projects are presented to the Budget & Priorities subcommittee
- **10/19/22** - Selected project proposals are presented to the GBC for approval

SUPPLEMENTAL SLIDES



CCMP Plan Priorities

THE GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION

PLAN PRIORITY 1: ENSURE SAFE HUMAN AND AQUATIC LIFE USE

ACTION
PLANS

IMPROVE WATER QUALITY THROUGH
NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION ABATEMENT (NPS)

IMPROVE WATER QUALITY THROUGH
POINT SOURCE POLLUTION ABATEMENT (PS)

PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH AND AWARENESS (PHA)

PLAN PRIORITY 2: PROTECT AND SUSTAIN LIVING RESOURCES

ACTION
PLANS

SUPPORT HABITAT CONSERVATION (HC)

SUPPORT SPECIES CONSERVATION (SC)

SUSTAIN FRESHWATER INFLOWS (FWI)

PLAN PRIORITY 3: ENGAGE COMMUNITIES

ACTION
PLANS

PRESERVE GALVESTON BAY THROUGH STAKEHOLDER AND PARTNER OUTREACH
(SPO)

SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS (PEA)

PLAN PRIORITY 4: INFORM SCIENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING

ACTION
PLANS

COLLABORATE WITH RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT FOCUS ON APPLIED
RESEARCH AND MONITORING (RES)

INCREASE ACCESS TO GALVESTON BAY
ECOSYSTEM INFORMATION (ACS)

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Ensure Safe Human & Aquatic Life Use

- Flooding impacts to Water and Sediment Quality
- "Direct pathogen monitoring as a public risk assessment for particular microbes"
- Soil health (urban/suburban workshops and toolkits)
- "Microbial concentration risk assessment studies conducted during large-scale flood events"
- Additional WPPs and implementation
- "Water quality monitoring for already constructed green infrastructure projects "
- Localized watershed protection in already identified problem areas
- Additional green infrastructure projects
- "Contributions/ effects of marinas and anchorages as geochemical stressor to the system"
- Waterway trash, marine debris, and/or macroplastics
- "Continued study of microplastics (abundance and effects on public health/environment)"
- Emerging Contaminants (M&R currently funding a PFOA project)
- Public awareness/ repository for current emerging contaminant studies
- "Human induced impairments (Build capacity to detect and quantify DNA from selected species that contribute to fecal"
- Targeted bacteria monitoring
- Increased sedimentation rates from runoff
- "Soil organic matter content and correlation to water quality impairments"
- Supporting management measures and watershed-based plans
- Soil health, workshops, and green infrastructure
- Targeted/Direct Monitoring

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Protect & Sustain Living Resources

- Habitat Acquisition
- Enhancement of Existing or Ongoing Restoration/Conservation Efforts
- Benefit to Native Fish and Wildlife, including Federal and State Listed Species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or Nongame Wildlife
- Brings Funding, Work Leverage, or Multiple Goal Benefits to the Subcommittee
- Project Urgency: Project must be completed in next 24 months or opportunity is lost

Engage Communities

- Identification of underrepresented communities and the needs of those communities as related to the CCMP
- Building programs, volunteer, and stewardship in underrepresented communities
- Workshops on how to partner with underrepresented communities
- Programs that address environmental careers targeting high schools and community colleges
- Securing funding for existing programs to incorporate outreach or to update an existing program
- Creation of a regional list of environmental volunteer and stewardship opportunities for young adults, adults, and afterschool programs
- Including diversity, equity, and inclusion in project proposals

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Inform Science-based Decision Making

- Projects addressing species of special concern
- Projects addressing invasive species monitoring
- Contaminants in aquatic organisms (co), sediments (cs), and water (cw)
- "Estimation of spatial and temporal trends in PS and NPS loading and compliance with effluent standards"
- Larval (meroplankton) transport within GB and GOM
- Waterway trash/marine debris
- Impacts of coastal spine structures on species movements
- "BMPs for oyster cultch plantings and potential impacts - working with oyster growers to restore reefs, plant limestone rock and oyster shell"
- Contaminants in aquatic organisms
- LID/green infrastructure performance data