



Board of Directors Meeting

December 3, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. CT

Orange Beach Council Chambers

4099 Orange Beach Blvd, Orange Beach, AL 36561

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Public Comment

4. Approval of Board Agenda

Recommend the Board approve December 3, 2025, meeting agenda.

5. Approval of September 24, 2025, Board Minutes

Recommend the Board approve September 24, 2025, meeting minutes.

6. Presentations

- a. Perdido Islands Restoration Project
- b. Presentation of the PPBEP 2025 Strategic Plan

7. Staff Updates

- a. Director's Update
- b. Technical Update
- c. Outreach Update

8. Action Items

- a. **Approval of an Agreement with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (JMT), in the amount of \$322,048.06, for RFQ P2425-02 Sediment Reduction Prioritization Action Plan**
Recommend the Board approve, and authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (JMT), in the amount of \$322,048.06, for RFQ P2425-02 Sediment Reduction Prioritization Action Plan.
- b. **Approval of an Agreement with the University of Southern Mississippi, in the amount of \$112,609, for RFP P2425-03, for submerged aquatic vegetation mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays**
Recommend the Board approve, and authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with the University of Southern Mississippi, in the amount of \$112,609, for submerged aquatic vegetation mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays.
- c. **Acceptance of EPA Notice of Award Number 05D42125, in the amount of \$750,000, for the Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative**



Recommend the Board accept the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Award Number 05D42125, in the amount of \$750,000, for the Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative.

d. Approval of a Contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, in the amount of \$24,982, for Compound Flood Model Technical Review Support

Recommend the Board approve, and authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group, in the amount of \$24,982, for Compound Flood Model Technical Review Support.

e. Approval of the 2026 Holiday Schedule

Recommend the Board approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule.

f. Approval of the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

Recommend the Board approve the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule.

g. Approval of the 2026 Travel Schedule

Recommend the Board approve the 2026 Travel Schedule for the Executive Director.

9. Discussion

- a. Executive Director Annual Evaluation & Evaluation Process
- b. Organizational Policy on Taking Legislative Policy Positions

10. Committee Updates

11. Board Updates

12. Public Comment

13. Adjourn



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. CT
Escambia County Commission Chambers
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, FL 32502

[Meeting Recording](#)

Members Present

Colten Wright, Chair	Santa Rosa County
Jared Moore, Vice Chair	City of Pensacola
Ben Boutwell	Town of Century
Vernon Compton	City of Milton
Ashlee Hofberger	Escambia County
Mike Kohler	Escambia County
Kerry Smith	Santa Rosa County
Woody Speed	City of Orange Beach

Members Absent

Tim Burr	City of Gulf Breeze
Mike Norberg	Okaloosa County

Interested Parties Present

Matt Posner	PPBEP
Whitney Scheffel	PPBEP
Bailey Walkinshaw	PPBEP
Mary Jane Bass	Phelps Dunbar
Darryl Boudreau	NWFWMD
Chips Kirschenfeld	Escambia County
Paul Looney	WRA
Noel Robinson	NWFWMD

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call (*Matt Posner, Executive Director*)

Staff called the roll. A quorum was present.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Board Agenda



The Perdido Islands Restoration Project presentation (6b) and water quality discussion (9b) were moved to the November 2025 Board Meeting.

With no objection, the Board accepted the agenda as presented with the postponement of 6b and 9b to the November 2025 Board Meeting.

5. Approval of July 30, 2025 and August 27, 2025, Board Minutes

Commissioner Mike Kohler (Escambia County) made a motion to approve the July 30, 2025 and August 27, 2025, meeting minutes. Councilperson Jared Moore (City of Pensacola) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Presentations

a. Northwest Florida Water Management District’s Watersheds Partnership Program (Darryl Boudreau, NFWFMD)

A brief presentation was given on the Northwest Florida Watersheds Partnership Program.

b. Perdido Islands Restoration Project

This presentation was moved to the November 2025 Board Meeting.

7. Staff Updates

a. Director’s Updates (Matt Posner, Executive Director)

i. National Estuary Program (NEP) Enrollment Update

Staff visited Washington D.C. with Chairman Wright to meet with congressional representatives and leadership from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Staff reported support from congressional representatives and EPA leadership. Staff reminded board members that the Program received designation in December 2024 but are waiting for formal enrollment into the National Estuary Program by the EPA Administrator.

1. NEP Reauthorization – H.R. 3962

The NEP Reauthorization – H.R. 3962 moved through the House of Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Program was already included in the reauthorization, but staff reported that one of the Program’s partners, the Mississippi Sound Estuary Program (MSEP) was added in. Staff expressed support for moving through the NEP designation process with MSEP.

ii. NWFL Legislative Delegation

Staff attended the NWFL Legislative Delegation held in Milton, FL to represent the Program and give the Program’s appreciation to Representative Andrade for his continued support of the Program’s legislative budget requests.

iii. Outreach and Education Program Manager

The Outreach and Education Program Manager position has closed, and 60 applications were received. Staff are currently reviewing the applications.



iv. Strategic Plan

Staff are continuing to work with idgroup on strategic planning. Staff have developed and refined primary objectives and are now working on building out action plans. During the November 2025 Board Meeting, there will be a presentation on the overall strategic plan concept and engagement with board members on organizational direction for the next five years.

v. Vessel Update

Staff reported that the Program's boat has been built and is ready to be picked up in Louisiana. Staff are continuing to work with Yamaha Rightwaters to secure an engine donation, which will likely be in January due to Yamaha's budgeting process. Posner Marine will be donating the engine installation services.

vi. Evening for the Estuaries Gala

The 3rd Annual Evening for the Estuaries Gala is October 16th at 6pm and will be held at the Coastal Arts Center of Orange Beach. Staff encouraged board members to help push gala ticket sales and that all the funds raised will go back to programming opportunities.

b. Technical Update (*Whitney Scheffel, Senior Scientist*)

i. Monitoring Underway

Staff are preparing for multiple monitoring events over the next several weeks, including seagrass and trawling surveys with the Gulf Coast Research Lab, continued spat and larval monitoring for the Pensacola Bay Oyster Restoration Initiative, the fourth quarter of living shorelines monitoring for C-STARS, and continued site visits and assessments for the Living Shoreline Assistance Program.

ii. Carpenter Creek Restoration

Staff are working on property owner engagement for the Carpenter Creek Restoration Project through door-knocking and securing property access agreements for data collection. An upcoming open house to discuss the project is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th from 5-8pm at Bayview Community Center.

iii. Living Shoreline Assistance Program

Staff have been working on site assessments, landowner meetings, and project designs for the Living Shoreline Assistance Program. Staff anticipate applying for permits for projects submitted in October, delivering reports to homeowners, and project implementation in 2026.

c. Outreach Update (*Bailey Walkinshaw, Community Outreach Assistant*)

i. Perdido Islands Volunteer Planting



Staff partnered with The Nature Conservancy in Alabama, the City of Orange Beach, and Moffatt & Nichol on a volunteer planting day for the lower Perdido islands restoration project. Approximately 2,500 native plants were planted on Robinson Island by 28 volunteers.

ii. National Oyster Day Celebration at Red Fish Blue Fish

Over 51 attendees attended a National Oyster Day Celebration thrown by the Program, Red Fish Blue Fish (RFBF), and OysterCorps, where participants could build vertical oyster gardens while partaking in an oyster special provided by RFBF. Dune Defenders and FL Sea Grant provided educational tabling, and the celebration closed with a showing of The Humble Oyster.

iii. National Estuaries Week

Staff shared a preview of upcoming events for National Estuaries Week, including a vertical oyster garden building event, the Program's annual Community Grant Symposium, a lunch and learn focused on water quality, and staff tabling at Pensacola Seafood Festival.

8. Action Items

a. Approval of Quarterly Financial Statements

Woody Speed (City of Orange Beach) made a motion to approve the FY24-25 Third Quarter Financial Statements. Vernon Compton (City of Milton) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of FY25-26 Operating Budget

With no objection, the Board accepted the action item as presented unanimously.

c. Renewal of PPBEP Office Lease with Empire Partners, LLC

Commissioner Colten Wright (Santa Rosa County) made a motion to approve renewal of PPBEP's office lease with Empire Partners, LLC for an additional one-year term. Commissioner Mike Kohler (Escambia County) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Authorization of the Executive Director to Negotiate a Contract with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (JMT) for RFQ P2425-02 Sediment Reduction Prioritization Action Plan

Vernon Compton (City of Milton) made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (JMT) for RFQ P2425-02 Sediment Reduction Prioritization Action Plan, and authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract, subject to legal review and approval, and ratification at the November 2025 Board Meeting. Woody Speed (City of Orange Beach) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Approval of an Agreement with Escambia County, FL, in the amount of \$487,527.40, for the Microbial Source Tracking NRDA Project

Councilperson Jared Moore (City of Pensacola) made a motion to approve, and authorize the



Executive Director to sign, an agreement with Escambia County, FL, in the amount of \$487,527.40, for the Microbial Source Tracking NRDA Project. Commissioner Mike Kohler (Escambia County) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- f. **Approval of an Agreement with Escambia County, FL, in the amount of \$49,329, for the NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Project**
With no objection, the Board accepted the action item as presented unanimously.

9. Discussion

a. Legislative Priorities

Staff attended the Escambia and Santa Rosa County delegation meetings and are preparing legislative priorities. Staff listed the following priorities:

i. **PPBEP Legislative Budget Request: \$1-\$1.5 million**

1. Oyster Restoration Initiative
2. Carpenter Creek Restoration
3. Community Grant Program
4. Monitoring Program
5. Community Outreach and Education

ii. **Northwest Florida Water Management District Watersheds Partnerships Program**

Staff recommended supporting the Northwest Florida Water Management District Watersheds Partnership Program, which was covered in the presentation given during this meeting. Staff have worked with the Northwest Florida Water Management District on this effort.

iii. **Escambia County's Carpenter Creek Acquisition Legislative Budget Request**

Staff recommended supporting Escambia County's Carpenter Creek Acquisition Legislative Budget Request, which would support the Program's planned restoration efforts for Carpenter Creek.

iv. **Board direction of PPBEP'S involvement in environmental policy legislation**

Discussion was held on the role of the Program when discussing environmental policy legislation and if advocacy should be permissible. There was agreement that the Program should continue this discussion and consider developing a board-level policy that can provide guidance on navigating environmental policy legislation on a case-by-case basis.

b. Water Quality

This discussion item was moved to the November 2025 Board Meeting.

10. Committee Updates

None



11. Board Updates

- a. Woody Speed (City of Orange Beach) shared that the City of Orange Beach, as part of the living shoreline cost share program, has been working to get their greenhouse under construction and that they are anticipating it to be built out in the next couple of weeks.
- b. The Lower Perdido Islands ribbon cutting will take place on Friday, September 26th at 11am at Cobalt to celebrate the restoration project. While the presentation was dropped for this board meeting, there is potential to take a trip to see the project on November 12th before the board meeting.
- c. Commissioner Colten Wright (Santa Rosa County) encouraged board members to stop by the Program's table at the Pensacola Seafood Festival to show public support for the Program and staff.

12. Public Comment

- a. Darryl Boudreau (NFWFMD) shared that the meeting pertaining to the Northwest Florida Water Management District Watersheds Partnership Program will be on October 15th from 6-8pm at the Santa Rosa County Auditorium.
- b. Commissioner Mike Kohler (Escambia County) asked staff about how to donate items for the Evening for the Estuaries silent auction, and staff requested potential donors to contact Matt, Whitney, or Bailey for donating items.

13. Adjourned



Agenda Item 8.a.

Approval of an Agreement with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (JMT), in the amount of \$322,048.06, for RFQ P2425-02 Sediment Reduction Prioritization Action Plan

Background: The goal of this project is to produce a Sediment Reduction Prioritization Action Plan. Project objectives include:

Identify Sediment Sources: The project should identify key contributors to non-point source sediment loading into the PBS with a particular focus on sediment impacting aquatic habitat within Blackwater Bay, East Bay, Escambia Bay, Pensacola Bay, and Santa Rosa Sound.

Quantify Sediment Loading: The project should establish erosion rates and quantify sediment loading from primary contributors to non-point sources of sedimentation, including severely eroding streams and gullies, and stormwater in the PBS.

Establish a Sediment loading Reduction Target: Based on the findings from the objectives above, the project should result in the establishment of a sediment loading reduction target based on requirements to sustain oyster and seagrass habitat.

Sediment Reduction Prioritization Action Plan: The project should result in the completion of a prioritization report and action plan that identifies specific projects, inclusive of sediment reduction metrics and preliminary cost estimates, PPBEP and its partners can use to secure funding.

PPBEP issued solicitation #P2425-02 Sediment Reduction Action Plan Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on May 19, 2025 and closed on June 25, 2025. The solicitation was properly noticed on PPBEP's website, newsletter, social media, and several distribution lists. Four firms responded.

The Selection/Review Committee shortlisted all firms on July 21, 2025. Interviews and final ranking were held with the shortlisted firms on August 12, 2025. JMT was ranked by the Committee as the number one ranked firm.

The Committee is comprised of Matt Posner, Whitney Scheffel, Haley Gancel, Tim Day (Escambia County), and Trent Matthew (Santa Rosa County).

Recommendation: Recommend the Board approve, and authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (JMT), in the amount of \$322,048.06, for RFQ P2425-02 Sediment Reduction Prioritization Action Plan.

Financial Impact: Approval of the agreement will obligate and encumber \$322,048.06 in the Grant Account from NOAA Cooperative Agreement No. NA23NMF4630079, in the amount of \$250,000, with the balance funded through PPBEP's FY25-26 Legislative appropriation through FDEP Agreement L0099.

Legal Review: General Counsel has reviewed and approved the standard agreement.



Agenda Item 8.b.

Approval of an Agreement with the University of Southern Mississippi, in the amount of \$112,609, for RFP P2425-03, for submerged aquatic vegetation mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays

Background: PPBEP issued the resolicitation of Request for Proposals (RFP) #P2425-03 Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays September 18, 2025 and closed on October 3, 2025. The solicitation was properly noticed on PPBEP's website, newsletter, social media, and several distribution lists. Three proposals were received.

PPBEP is seeking to retain the services of a qualified vendor to produce benthic habitat maps of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) coverage using aerial and satellite imagery for the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Systems.

The Selection/Review Committee ranked firms on October 14, 2025. The proposal by the University of Southern Mississippi was the unanimously ranked as the number one proposal.

The Committee is comprised of Whitney Scheffel, Haley Gancel, Brent Wipf (Escambia County), and Jane Caffrey (UWF).

Recommendation: Recommend the Board approve, and authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with the University of Southern Mississippi, in the amount of \$112,609, for submerged aquatic vegetation mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays.

Financial Impact: Approval of the agreement will obligate and encumber \$112,609 in the Grant Account from FWC PO C5E6CC, in the amount of \$98,000, with the balance funded through PPBEP's FY25-26 Legislative appropriation through FDEP Agreement L0099.

Legal Review: General Counsel has reviewed and approved the standard agreement.

AGREEMENT FOR PENSACOLA AND PERDIDO BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM

SAV MAPPING OF PENSACOLA AND PERDIDO BAYS (P2425-03)

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc., a nonprofit serving as an instrumentality of government, with administrative offices located at 226 Palafox Place, 5th floor, Pensacola, Florida 32502, (hereinafter referred to as "PPBEP" or "Estuary Program,") and The University of Southern Mississippi, FEI/EIN # 64-6000818, whose principal address is 118 College Drive #5157, Hattiesburg, MS 39406 (hereinafter referred to as "Consultant").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2025, PPBEP issued a Request for Proposals seeking a qualified firm to perform imagery acquisition and geospatial analysis for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays pursuant to Section 380.093, Florida Statutes, Specification Number P2425-03 (hereinafter referred to as "the Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Consultant is a firm with the requisite expertise to perform the Project; and

WHEREAS, PPBEP desires to enter into an Agreement with the Consultant for the performance of the Project as further set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual terms and conditions, promises, covenants and payments hereinafter set forth, PPBEP and the Consultant agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1
PREAMBLE

1.1 The recitals contained in the preamble of this Agreement are declared to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated into this Agreement.

1.2 In order to establish the background, context, and frame of reference for this Agreement and to generally express the objectives and intentions of the respective parties herein, the following statements, representations, and explanations shall be accepted as predicates for the undertakings and commitments included within the provisions which follow and that may be relied upon by the parties as essential elements of the mutual considerations upon which this Agreement is based.

1.3 The Estuary Program has complied with the requirements of the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act, as provided in Section 287.055, Florida Statutes, as amended, and has selected the Consultant to perform the services hereunder.

1.4 Negotiations pertaining to the services to be performed by the Consultant were undertaken between the Consultant and a committee selected by the Estuary Program, and this Agreement incorporates the results of such negotiations.

ARTICLE 2
SCOPE OF SERVICES

2.1 The Consultant will perform the tasks outlined in the Estuary Program's Request for Proposals Specification No.: P2425-03, attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**, and as represented in the Consultant's Scope of Work, attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit B**. Such services shall include those services performed by the Consultant, its employees, and subcontractors, as further described in the Scope of Work and any other services specifically included therein.

ARTICLE 3
TIME FOR PERFORMANCE

3.1 The schedule for completion of the Consultant's services shall be in accordance with **Exhibit B**, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. Consultant shall complete the Project on or before June 15, 2026. Such schedule may be modified from time to time upon the mutual consent of PPBEP and the Consultant.

3.2 These services shall be performed as expeditiously as is consistent with professional skill and care and the orderly progress of the Project. The Consultant's schedule for the performance of its services shall include allowances for periods of time required for PPBEP's review and for its approval of submissions by the Consultant. Time limits established by this schedule, which are hereby approved by PPBEP, shall not be exceeded by the Consultant, except for reasonable cause.

3.3 Prior to beginning the performance of any basic services under this Agreement, the Consultant must receive in writing a Notice to Proceed from the Executive Director.

ARTICLE 4
COMPENSATION AND METHOD OF BILLING AND PAYMENT

4.1 PPBEP agrees to pay the Consultant, as compensation for its services under Section 3.1 of this Agreement, an aggregate fee for certain project tasks pursuant to the fee schedule set forth in **Exhibit B**, attached hereto and made a part hereof. At the completion of each task, the Consultant will be compensated by a lump sum amount, which has been negotiated for that task, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the parties hereto. The total fee for all such services, to be performed by the Consultant, including costs, direct expenses, and any other charges be paid as follows: A lump sum amount of \$112,609. Final payment may be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

4.2 The Fee Schedule, as used herein, shall mean the charges shown in **Exhibit B** for certain tasks to be performed by the Consultant. Such fees shall include, all inclusively, the Consultant's salaries of professional and administrative staff, sick leave, vacation,

unemployment, excise and payroll taxes, contributions for social security, unemployment compensation insurance, retirement benefits, medical and insurance benefits, travel, lodging, per diem, telephone, facsimile, reproduction costs, other routine overhead expenses, profit, and all other expenses of every type.

4.3 The Consultant may submit an invoice to PPBEP upon the completion and approval of Project tasks in accordance with the Fee Schedule. Invoices shall reflect the amount due and owing for services rendered with appropriate supporting documentation as required by PPBEP. Requests for payment shall not be made more frequently than once a month.

4.4 Invoices shall be submitted via email to info@ppbep.org and addressed to the following:

Attn: Finance Manager
Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary
Program 226 Palafox Place, 5th floor
Pensacola, FL 32502

4.5 Payments under this Agreement and interest on any late payments shall be governed by the Local Government Prompt Payment Act, §§ 218.70, et seq., Florida Statutes, as amended.

4.6 In the event the Consultant is delayed in being able to make progress towards completion of any task for longer than thirty (30) days for reasons outside Consultant's control, including, but not limited to, delay or suspension on the part of the PPBEP or its agents, then Consultant may invoice for services completed on the task up to the point of delay on a percent completed basis, and PPBEP agrees to issue payment.

ARTICLE 5 **CONSULTANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

5.1 The Consultant shall be responsible for the professional quality, technical accuracy, and the coordination of all reports, drawings, specifications, and other services furnished pursuant to this Agreement. The Consultant shall correct or revise, without additional compensation, any errors or omissions in its reports, drawings, specifications, and other services furnished pursuant to the Agreement.

5.2 PPBEP's review/approval/acceptance of or payment for the services required by this Agreement shall NOT be construed to operate as a waiver of any rights or of any cause of action arising out of the performance of this Agreement. Additionally, the Consultant shall be and remain liable to PPBEP in accordance with applicable law for all damages to PPBEP caused by the Consultant's negligent performance of any of the services furnished under this Agreement.

5.3 The rights and remedies of PPBEP provided for under this Agreement are in addition to any other rights and remedies otherwise provided by law.

ARTICLE 6
GENERAL PROVISIONS

6.1 Ownership of Documents.

All data, drawings, specifications, models, photographs, reports, surveys, and other deliverables prepared by The University of Southern Mississippi under this Agreement shall be the property of USM. PPBEP shall have a non-exclusive, irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free license to use such deliverables solely for the purposes of the project described in this Agreement and for any other purposes for which PPBEP deems appropriate in its sole discretion.

USM retains all rights, title, and interest in and to any intellectual property, including inventions, discoveries, know-how, and copyrighted materials, developed by its personnel in performance of this Agreement, subject to any rights of the United States Government or other sponsoring agency under applicable law.

Pre-existing materials owned by either party shall remain the property of that party. To the extent pre-existing USM materials are incorporated into deliverables, PPBEP is granted a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use such materials only as part of the project deliverables and not for commercial or unrelated purposes.

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to restrict USM's right to use any general knowledge, skills, or experience acquired during performance of this Agreement for educational, research, or other institutional purposes consistent with its public mission.

6.2 Termination.

(a) This Agreement may be terminated by either party for cause upon fourteen (14) days' written notice to the other party. "Cause" shall include, but not be limited to, material breach of this Agreement, misuse of funds, fraud, or failure to comply with applicable laws, regulations, or material terms of this Agreement. In the event of termination for cause, the non-defaulting party shall be entitled to payment for all services properly performed and accepted up to the effective date of termination.

(b) Either party may terminate this Agreement for convenience upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the other party. In the event of such termination, USM shall be compensated for all allowable costs and non-cancelable obligations incurred and all services properly performed up to the effective date of termination. Termination for convenience shall not constitute a breach or give rise to any claim for damages or lost profits.

(c) This Agreement may also be terminated by either party upon written notice if funds are not appropriated or otherwise become unavailable to support continuation of this Agreement.

(d) Upon termination for any reason, each party shall return to the other any property or materials belonging to that party. USM shall retain ownership of all intellectual property and data generated under this Agreement, subject to the usage license granted to PPBEP under Section 6.1.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to waive or limit USM's sovereign immunity or the immunities provided under the Mississippi Tort Claims Act (Miss. Code Ann. §11-46-1 et seq.).

Nothing herein is intended to serve as a waiver by PPBEP of its sovereign immunity protection under §728.28, Florida Statutes, or other applicable law.

6.3 Public Records.

The parties acknowledge that the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program ("PPBEP") is subject to the Florida Public Records Law, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and that The University of Southern Mississippi ("USM") is subject to the Mississippi Public Records Act, Mississippi Code Annotated § 25-61-1 et seq.

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to require USM to comply with the Florida Public Records Law or to waive any exemptions, privileges, or immunities provided under Mississippi law. Requests for records in USM's possession shall be handled solely in accordance with the Mississippi Public Records Act and applicable institutional policies.

USM agrees to retain project-related records for a minimum of five (5) years following final payment or, if the Agreement is funded in whole or in part by federal funds, for the longer period required by 2 CFR § 200.334 et seq. PPBEP shall be responsible for its own compliance with Florida public-records requirements.

Each party will reasonably cooperate with the other in responding to lawful public-records requests consistent with their respective statutory obligations. Nothing in this Section shall be construed as a waiver of sovereign immunity or any other immunity or exemption under state law.

IF THE CONSULTANT HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE CONSULTANT'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT:

**Executive Director
Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary
Program 226 Palafox Place, 5th floor
Pensacola, Florida 32502
(850) 595-0820
mjposner@ppbep.org**

6.4 Conflict of Interest. Consultant agrees it shall not contract for or accept employment for the performance of any work or service with any individual, business corporation, or government unit that would create a conflict of interest in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. Consultant further agrees it will neither take any action nor engage in any conduct that would cause any PPBEP employee or official to violate the provisions of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, relating to ethics in government. Consultant also agrees to comply with PPBEP's Ethics Policy prohibiting conflicts of interest among retained consultants.

6.5 No Contingent Fees. The Consultant warrants that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Consultant, to solicit or secure this Agreement and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm, other than a bona fide employee

working solely for the Consultant, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement. For the breach or violation of this provision, PPBEP shall have the right to terminate the Agreement without liability and at its discretion, to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, gift, or consideration.

6.6 Truth-in-Negotiation. The signing of this Agreement by the Consultant shall act as the execution of a truth-in-negotiation certificate stating that wage rates and other factual unit costs supporting the compensation of this Agreement are accurate, complete, and current at the time of contracting. The original contract price and any additions thereto shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which PPBEP determines the contract price was increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or non-current wage rates and other factual unit costs. All such contract adjustments shall be made within one (1) year following the end of this Agreement.

6.7 Gratuities. Neither the Consultant nor any of its employees, agents, and representatives shall offer or give to an officer, official, or employee of PPBEP gifts, entertainment, payments, loans, or other gratuities. The Consultant acknowledges knowledge of the State of Florida's ethics statutes, and to the extent applicable to the Consultant, the Consultant agrees to abide with such statutes.

6.8 Independent Contractor Status. In the performance of this Agreement hereunder, Consultant is an independent contractor. Consultant shall not hold itself out as an employee, agent or servant of PPBEP; and Consultant shall not have the power or authority to bind PPBEP in any promise, agreement or representation, other than as specifically provided in this Agreement or as may be expressly provided hereafter in writing by an authorized official of PPBEP.

6.9 Assignment. This Agreement, or any interest herein, shall not be assigned, transferred, or otherwise encumbered, under any circumstances, by the Consultant, without the prior written consent of the Estuary Program. The Agreement shall, however, run with the Estuary Program and its successors.

6.10 Indemnification. Each party shall be responsible for its own acts and omissions and those of its officers, employees, and agents in the performance of this Agreement, to the extent permitted by law.

The University of Southern Mississippi ("USM"), as a public institution of higher learning and an instrumentality of the State of Mississippi, is subject to and protected by the Mississippi Tort Claims Act, Miss. Code Ann. § 11-46-1 et seq. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of USM's sovereign immunity or the immunities, defenses, and liability limitations provided by the Mississippi Tort Claims Act or other applicable law.

Accordingly, USM cannot and does not agree to indemnify, hold harmless, or defend PPBEP or any other party. USM shall be liable only for its own negligent or wrongful acts or omissions and those of its employees acting within the course and scope of their employment as determined under Mississippi law.

PPBEP, as an instrumentality of government in the State of Florida, is subject to and protected by the limited waiver of sovereign immunity in §728.28, Florida Statutes.

Nothing herein is intended to serve as a waiver by PPBEP of its sovereign immunity protection under §728.28, Florida Statutes, or other applicable law. Accordingly, PPBEP cannot and does not agree to indemnify, hold harmless, or defend USM or any other party. PPBEP shall be responsible only for its own negligent or wrongful acts and omissions and those of its officers, employees, and agents as determined by Florida law in any matter arising out of this Agreement.

Each party agrees to reasonably cooperate in the defense of any claim arising out of their respective actions or omissions under this Agreement.

6.11 Insurance. The University of Southern Mississippi is an agency of the State of Mississippi under the management and control of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL). As authorized by law, IHL maintains a program of self-insurance for purposes of workers' compensation and maintains a program of self-insurance for purposes of general liability, pursuant to the Mississippi Tort Claims Act, §§11-46-1, et seq., Miss. Code Ann.(1972), as amended.

6.12 Compliance with Laws. Consultant agrees to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, policies, or guidelines related to the performance of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, those dealing with taxation, worker's compensation, equal employment and safety, including but not limited to those laws listed in Exhibit E attached hereto, as applicable. Consultant shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant due to sex, race, color, creed, national origin or ancestry. Consultant further certifies they are eligible to perform this contract under local and federal law, is not now and has never been debarred from performing federal or state government contracts and that all subcontractors used in the performance of this contract have the same qualifications. In connection with the furnishing of supplies or performance of work under the contract, Consultant further agrees to comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act, Equal Opportunity Employment Act, and all other applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and executive orders, including but not limited to those listed in Exhibit E, to the extent that the same may be applicable and provider further agrees to insert the preceding provision in all subcontracts awarded hereunder.

6.13 Employment Eligibility Verification. In accordance with §448.095, Florida Statutes, Consultant shall register with and utilize the E-Verify System operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired during the term of the Agreement and shall expressly require any subcontractors performing work or providing services pursuant to this Agreement to likewise utilize the E-Verify System to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the subcontractor during the term of this Agreement. If Consultant enters into a contract with a subcontractor performing work or providing services on its behalf, Consultant shall also require the subcontractor to provide an affidavit stating that the subcontractor does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with an unauthorized alien. Failure to comply with these requirements shall be cause for immediate termination of the Agreement. Information on registration for and use of the E-Verify Program can be obtained via the internet at the Department of Homeland Security Web site: <http://www.dhs.gov/E-Verify>.

6.14 Prohibition against Contracting with Scrutinized Companies. In accordance with §287.135, Florida Statutes, by executing this Agreement, Contractor hereby certifies that the Contractor is not on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List created

pursuant to §215.4725, Florida Statutes, and is not engaged in a boycott of Israel as defined in §215.4725, Florida Statutes. Further, Contractor acknowledges that if the Contractor is found to have submitted a false certification, has been placed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List; or has been engaged in a boycott of Israel then PPBEP reserves the right to immediately terminate this Agreement.

6.15 Foreign Gifts/Contracts. In accordance with §286.101, Florida Statutes, by executing this Agreement, Contractor certifies it has timely disclosed any current or prior interest of, contract with, or grant or gift received from a "foreign country of concern" as defined in §286.101(1)(b), Florida Statutes, if such interest, contract, grant or gift has a value of \$50,000 or more and such interest existed at any time or such contract, grant or gift was received or in effect during the previous five (5) years. Reporting information can be obtained via the internet at the Department of Financial Services website: <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/Transparency>.

6.16 Notice. Any notice or payment under this Agreement required hereunder or desired by the party giving such notice shall be given in writing and delivered by hand or through the instrumentality of certified mail of the United States Postal Service or private courier service, such as Federal Express. A courtesy copy should also be emailed to info@ppbep.org. Unless otherwise notified in writing of a new address, notice or payment shall be made as follows:

To: The University of Southern
Mississippi
Attention: Associate Vice President for
Research
118 College Drive, #5157
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

To: Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary
Program Attention: Executive Director
226 Palafox Place, 5th floor
Pensacola, Florida 32502

Rejection, or other refusal by the addressee to accept, or the inability of the courier service or the United States Postal Service to deliver because of a changed address of which no notice was given, shall be deemed to be receipt of the notice sent. Either party shall have the right, from time to time, to change the address to which notices shall be sent by giving the other party at least ten (10) days prior notice of the address change.

6.17 Entire Agreement. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior oral or written agreements. Consultant acknowledges that it has not relied upon any statement, representation, prior or contemporaneous written or oral promises, agreements, or warranties, except such as are expressed herein. The terms and conditions of this Agreement can only be amended in writing upon mutual agreement of the parties.

6.18 Headings. Headings and subtitles used throughout this Agreement are for the purpose of convenience only, and no heading or subtitle shall modify or be used to interpret the text of any section.

6.19 Interpretation. For the purpose of this Agreement, the singular includes the plural and the plural shall include the singular. References to statutes or regulations shall include all statutory or regulatory provisions consolidating, amending, or replacing the statute or regulation referred to. Words not otherwise defined that have well-known

technical or industry meanings, are used in accordance with such recognized meanings. References to persons include their respective permitted successors and assigns and, in the case of governmental persons, persons succeeding to their respective functions and capacities.

(a) If the Consultant discovers any material discrepancy, deficiency, ambiguity, error, or omission in this Agreement, or is otherwise in doubt as to the meaning of any provision of the Agreement, the Consultant shall immediately notify PPBEP and request clarification of PPBEP's interpretation of this Agreement.

(b) This Agreement shall not be more strictly construed against either party hereto by reason of the fact that one party may have drafted or prepared any or all of the terms and provisions hereof.

6.20 Severability. The invalidity or non-enforceability of any portion or provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other portion or provision. Any invalid or unenforceable portion or provision shall be deemed severed from this Agreement and the balance hereof shall be construed and enforced as if this Agreement did not contain such invalid or unenforceable portion or provision.

6.21 Survival. All provisions that, by their inherent character, sense, and context, are intended to survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement will survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

6.22 Further Documents. The parties shall execute and deliver all documents and perform further actions that may be reasonably necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Agreement.

6.23 No Waiver. The failure of the Consultant or PPBEP to insist upon the strict performance of the terms and conditions hereof shall not constitute or be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of any other provision or of either party's right to thereafter enforce the same in accordance with this Agreement.

6.24 Third Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement does not and is not intended to confer any rights or remedies upon any person other than the parties hereto.

6.25 Authority. Any individual executing this Agreement on behalf of a corporate or governmental party represents and warrants that he is duly authorized to execute and deliver this Agreement on behalf of said party, in accordance with any duly adopted action of the governing board of said party, as may be applicable and in accordance with applicable law, and that this Agreement is binding upon said party in accordance with its terms.

6.26 Annual Appropriation. The Estuary Program's performance and obligation to fund this Agreement are contingent upon the availability of funds and annual appropriations by its Board of Directors, as required by applicable law.

In the event funds are not appropriated or otherwise become unavailable to support continuation

of this Agreement, either party may terminate the Agreement upon written notice, and neither party shall have any further obligation or liability to the other except for payment for services properly performed and accepted prior to the effective date of termination.

6.27 Contract Documents. The Contract Documents include this Agreement and any Amendments and Exhibits A-B as referenced herein. In the event of a conflict between the terms of the Exhibits referenced herein and this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement shall prevail.

[The remainder of this page intentionally left blank; signature page to follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have made and executed this Agreement on the respective dates under each signature:

Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program

By: Matthew J. Posner
Matthew J. Posner, Executive Director

Date: 10/23/2025

The University of Southern Mississippi

By: Erica Kennedy
Erica Kennedy, Associate Vice President
for Research

Date: 10/23/2025

EXHIBIT A



PENSACOLA
& PERDIDO BAYS
ESTUARY PROGRAM

Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc.

Request for Proposals

#P2425-03 – Resolicit

**Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Mapping of
Pensacola and Perdido Bays**

Release Date: September 18, 2025

Response Deadline: 11:59 pm October 3, 2025

PLEASE NOTE: The negotiated contract will be between the selected firm and Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc., subject to the approval of the PPBEP Board of Directors.

Respondent is hereby notified that Section 287.05701, Florida Statutes, requires that the PPBEP may not request documentation of or consider a vendor's social, political, or ideological interests when determining if the vendor is a responsible vendor. PPBEP will abide by the statutory provision and not seek or consider those interests.

Overview

The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program’s (herein after referred to as “PPBEP” or “the Estuary Program”) mission is to restore and protect the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds through restoration, education, and unbiased monitoring of the health of our bays, estuaries, and watersheds.

PPBEP is seeking to retain the services of a qualified vendor to produce benthic habitat maps of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) coverage using aerial and satellite imagery for the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Systems. For more information, please see Exhibit A – Scope of Services.

The PPBEP will competitively select a vendor in accordance with Florida Statutes 287.055. Final award will be contingent upon approval of the PPBEP Board of Directors. The PPBEP reserves the right to reject any and all responses, and to withdraw this Request for Proposals before or after responses are received.

Funding Sources

Up to \$98,000 is available to complete SAV extent mapping, inclusive of imagery acquisition, SAV classification, and map product development for aerial imagery sources. Funding is made available through Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) through their Seagrass Integrated Mapping and Monitoring Program (SIMM).

Contact Information

Matt Posner
Executive Director
Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
mjposner@ppbep.org
850.595.0820

Timeline

Please note the timeline is subject to change at PPBEP’s discretion.

RFP Release Date	September 18, 2025
Questions Due	11:59 pm CT September 25, 2025
RFP Response Deadline	11:59 pm CT October 3, 2025
Decision/Ranking Selection Meeting	October 14, 2025
Board of Directors Meeting Approval	November 12, 2025

Questions

Questions should be submitted by email to info@ppbep.org no later than 11:59 pm central time on September 25, 2025. Please include "RFP #P2425-03 Question" in the subject line. All questions will be collated, presented anonymously, and answered in a document posted on the PPBEP website by September 26, 2025.

Submittal Requirements

All responses must be received no later than 11:59 pm central time October 3, 2025. Responses shall be submitted via email to info@ppbep.org. Please include "RFP #P2425-03 SAV Mapping" in the subject line.

Responses, including all supplemental material, shall not exceed fifteen (15) pages. At a minimum, an 11-pt typeface, 1" margins, and 1.0-line spacing shall be used throughout the body of the text. Response shall be submitted as a single PDF file.

The response shall include the following sections:

1. Cover/Transmittal Letter
 - a. Include the RFP title, the company name, company UEID, address, and primary point of contact, including name, telephone number, and primary email contact.
 - b. State the names and titles of persons who will be authorized to make representations for the Respondent and the name of the person who will be authorized to bind the Respondent.
 - c. Summarize the Respondent's understanding of the services requested under this announcement, and why the Respondent is the best suited to carry out the scope of this project.
 - d. Describe quality control procedures and state whether the Respondent has been involved in a government contract that ended in termination or litigation.
 - e. State whether the Respondent has or anticipates a conflict of interest if the project is awarded.
2. Qualifications and Experience
 - a. Include a chart of the Project Team.
 - b. Identify project team members, their proposed roles on this project, their proposed time associated with this project, and their previous experience, education, and certifications.
 - c. Describe firm and project team's experience completing similar type mapping projects.
3. Project Approach
 - a. Provide a detailed scope of work that describes the approach that will be used to accomplish the tasks in the RFP.
 - b. Provide a schedule of initiation and completion of each proposed task and subtask, project milestones, and deliverables.
4. Budget
 - a. Provide a detailed budget for each task and subtask.
 - b. Provide a detailed budget narrative for each task and subtask.
5. References

- a. Provide names and contact information of client references for three (3) completed or ongoing projects. Provide a summary description of work conducted, key objectives, and outcomes for the three projects submitted.
6. Certificate to do Business
- a. Respondent shall provide their Certificate to do Business/Certificate of Status in the State of Florida. Respondents must be in good standing in the State of Florida and not be suspended nor debarred from Federal contracting or receiving Federal funds. Any respondent listed on the Excluded Party List System will be eliminated from further consideration.
7. Minority and Women Owned Enterprises
- a. PPBEP encourages minority and women owned business enterprises to respond to all applicable procurement opportunities in accordance with 2CFR 200.321 and Florida Statutes 287.09451. If the project team includes a minority and/or women owned business enterprise, please include the certification in the response package.

Evaluation Criteria

The following evaluation criteria will be used to assess proposal responsiveness.

No.	Evaluation Criteria	Scoring Method
1.	<p>Qualifications and Experience of the Respondent</p> <p>The Respondent shall demonstrate ability and experience with similar type and size projects. The Respondent should submit qualifications of the prime and subcontractors, including qualifications and experience of individual team members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the firm demonstrate the project team has the technical knowledge to implement the project? (10 points) 2. Does the firm demonstrate individual team members have successfully implemented similar scale and type projects? (10 points) 	0-20 Points
2.	<p>Project Approach</p> <p>Provide an organized and clear proposal describing the respondent’s project approach and workflow to complete the scope of services, and address PPBEP’s needs, local conditions, and Plan goals and objectives. Please specifically identify what makes the firm uniquely qualified to carry out the proposed scope of services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the firm demonstrate a well-defined scope of services with key milestones, deliverables, and responsibilities? (10 points) 2. Does the firm demonstrate how the project objectives will be achieved? (10 points) 3. Is the proposed approach for sourcing and selecting aerial imagery appropriate for SAV detection (e.g., spatial/spectral resolution, timing, water clarity)? (10 points) 4. Does the firm demonstrate a clear understanding of working in nearshore coastal environments dominated by seagrass beds? (10 points) 5. Does the proposal introduce new or improved techniques that enhance project outcomes and advance the state of SAV mapping? (10 points) 6. Are the image processing and classification methods clearly described and scientifically valid (e.g., supervised classification, machine learning, spectral analysis)? (10 points) 	0-60 Points

3.	Cost Provide a detailed budget and budget narrative for all tasks and sub-tasks. 1. Is the budget aligned with the tasks and deliverables outlined in the proposal? (10 points) 2. Does the budget reflect a cost-effective strategy for achieving project goals? (10 points)	0-20 Points
	Maximum Possible Score	100 Points

Evaluation Process

An Evaluation Committee shall meet for the purpose of discussing, scoring, and ranking proposals. All meetings of the Evaluation Committee are subject to, and must comply with, Florida’s Sunshine Law. Members of the Evaluation Committee will have demonstrated that they have no existing or anticipated conflict of interest in the project which they are evaluating.

Prior to the Evaluation Committee review meeting, PPBEP staff may contact references listed in proposals for information concerning performance history. To ensure that respondents are not suspended or debarred from Federal contracting or receiving Federal funds, PPBEP staff will check the Excluded Party List System (<https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM>). Any respondent listed on the Excluded Party List System will be eliminated from further consideration. This information will be provided at the Evaluation Committee meeting.

The Evaluation Committee will review and evaluate all proposals and select a firm based on the evaluation criteria. The Committee will rank firms according to the firm’s response and vote to enter contract negotiations with the top ranked firm.

Following the decision ranking and selection meeting, the final contract, scope, fee, and budget will be recommended to the PPBEP Board of Directors for approval.

EXHIBIT A
STATEMENT OF WORK
SAV MAPPING OF PERDIDO AND PENSACOLA BAY SYSTEMS

Program Overview

The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program’s (herein after referred to as “PPBEP” or “the Estuary Program”) mission is to restore and protect the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds through restoration, education, and unbiased monitoring of the health of our bays, estuaries, and watersheds.

The Estuary Program serves as a trusted source for residents, businesses, industry, and the community on issues relating to preserving, restoring, improving, and maintaining the natural habitat and ecosystem of the bays, estuaries, and watersheds of Pensacola and Perdido Bays. PPBEP strives to achieve a healthy and collaborative environment by:

1. Elevating and increasing the importance, awareness, and understanding of environmental quality.
2. Employing rigorous, unbiased, and scientifically sound science to inform and guide decisions, policies, and initiatives.
3. Funding programs and projects that protect the environment and increasing ecological resilience.
4. Building a network of inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships that takes into account factors affecting the environment, the economy, and the community-at-large for the benefit of improving the quality of life for all.

PPBEP is guided by a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), a ten-year roadmap for the restoration and protection of the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds. The CCMP can be viewed at <https://www.ppbep.org/the-plan/ccmp>.

Project Background

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) developed the Seagrass Integrated and Mapping and Monitoring (SIMM) Program to protect and manage seagrasses in Florida by providing a collaborative resource for seagrass mapping, monitoring, and data sharing. FWC received funding through the state to support SIMM program objectives, including leading proposal efforts to map and monitor seagrasses in data-poor locations. The objective of this project is to obtain 2025 SAV benthic habitat maps that can be used for PPBEP and FWC research and management needs. Previous mapping efforts in the PPBEP system have used fixed wing aerial imagery (30 cm resolution) to document the extent and distribution of SAV habitats in shallow coastal waters. More recently (2022), PPBEP partnered with the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and Old Dominion University to conduct a comparison study for aerial and satellite mapping techniques. Results from this study indicated satellite-derived imagery coupled with machine learning analysis captured comparable estimates of seagrass acreage. At minimum, this project will provide PPBEP and FWC with habitat maps of the project area to compare to previous mapping efforts. Satellite imagery acquisition and map product development are included as optional services as part of this RFP. This system has been

identified as a data gap for the SIMM Program and will aid the FWC in decisions related to endangered and threatened species, fisheries management, conservation priorities, restoration projects, and research and monitoring needs. By using the companion 2025 SAV ground truthing survey (presence/absence) and percent cover data collected by the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Lab, PPBEP can evaluate seagrass status and trends across the bay systems.

This project aligns with CCMP Goal 5: Conserve and Restore Critical Habitat; Objective 5.2: Assess seagrass health and distribution and develop a restoration strategy for long-term protection and recovery; Action 5.2.1: Conduct seagrass mapping and surveys (aerial and ground truth surveys) to assess the current extent, distribution, and condition of seagrass species in the Pensacola and Perdido systems.

Project Objectives

The project objectives referenced below are preliminary and intended to help firms orient their project approach. PPBEP intends to work with the selected firm to further refine and specify project objectives and metrics following project kickoff.

Acquire Aerial Imagery: The project should include details on how the firm plans to acquire, compile, and interpret high-resolution (≥ 30 cm) aerial imagery of the project boundary, which includes nearshore estuarine and marine aquatic ecosystems in Perdido Bay, Big Lagoon, Pensacola Bay, East Bay, Blackwater Bay, Escambia Bay, and Santa Rosa Sound (Figure 1).

Generate Benthic Habitat Maps: The project should result in the development of benthic habitat maps for aerial imagery. The proposal should include the firm's approach for utilizing seagrass percent cover and presence/absence survey data to generate SAV classification habitat maps for imagery including at minimum, continuous and patchy seagrass classifications.

Summary of Findings: The project should provide a summary of findings, including SAV acreage estimates.

Resources

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan: <https://www.ppbep.org/the-plan/ccmp>

2023 SAV Mapping of Perdido and Pensacola Bays Final Report

State of the Bays Report: www.stateofthebays.org

Scope of Services

PPBEP is seeking to retain the services of a firm or local entity to provide the following services: planning, data acquisition, field surveys, and image/map generation, including GIS shapefiles, to support the SAV mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays. Final award will be contingent upon approval of the PPBEP Board of Directors. The PPBEP reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to withdraw this Request for Proposals before or after proposals are received.

Timeline: PPBEP intends to enter into a contract with a single successful respondent on or before October 31, 2025. The project shall be completed within 8 months of contract execution.

Budget: Approximately \$98,000 has been budgeted to carry out the project scope of services.

Tasks include, but are not limited to, the following. In the firm's submittal, the firm should identify subtasks and additional tasks that may be required based on the firm's expertise. The firm has discretion to reorder the tasks as presented and/or present alternative tasks to achieve the goals and objectives of the project.

- 1. Aerial Imagery Acquisition:** The selected firm will acquire high quality aerial images (≥ 30 cm) of the project boundary, which includes nearshore estuarine and marine aquatic ecosystems in Perdido Bay, Big Lagoon, Pensacola Bay, East Bay, Blackwater Bay, Escambia Bay, and Santa Rosa Sound (Figure 1). The aerial surveys will be conducted based on the best environmental factors such as cloudiness, turbidity, atmospheric clarity, and local seagrass seasonality (October – November). The imagery will be compiled, processed, and interpreted using approved methods to produce final orthoimage products.

Accepted deliverables include final aerial imagery files in accepted GeoTIFF format.

In the event aerial imagery cannot be acquired in fall 2025 due to schedule constraints, April-May 2026 can be proposed as an alternative option.

- 2. Benthic Habitat Map Production:** The selected firm will generate benthic habitat maps of SAV coverage and distribution of the project boundary based on aerial imagery interpretation and ground-truthed SAV survey data (presence/absence and percent cover) collected by PPBEP partners to validate coverage estimates. These benthic habitat maps shall conform to protocols established by the Florida Land Use and Cover Classification System (FLUCCS) for continuous and patchy seagrass, and open water classifications.

Accepted deliverables include final SAV classification map with associated ESRI ArcGIS shapefiles (.shp) containing at minimum all attributes with proper identification labels, metadata, completed polygon shapefiles displaying project boundaries, cover classifications (including patchy versus continuous seagrass), and acreage calculations with units of measurement specified relevant to the project. The firm shall provide a final photointerpretation key containing at minimum: the standardized methods used and FLUCCS codes assigned to cover classes. The ESRI ArcGIS Shapefile and File Geo-database shall conform to the following characteristics:

These shapefiles and Geo-databases shall meet the minimum National Map Accuracy Standards for maps at 1:12,000 map scale. The minimum acceptable error in positional accuracy is that no more than ten percent of the line work shall be in error by more 33.3 feet from their correct geographical location. The ESRI ArcGIS Pro Shapefile and File Geo-database shall conform to the following characteristics:

1. Double precision
2. Full arc and polygon topology
3. Polygons must not overlap
4. Polygons must not have gaps/voids

5. Projected to North American Datum (NAD) 1983, HARN, UTM, Zone 17, units meters
6. Polygon Attribute Tables
7. One attribute per polygon
8. Unique cover name – IDs



Figure 1. Project area (blue dashed line) including Perdido Bay, Wolf Bay, Big Lagoon, Pensacola Bay, Escambia Bay, Blackwater Bay, East Bay, and Santa Rosa Sound.

3. **Final Report:** The firm will submit a draft and final report containing at minimum: the image acquisition and selection, image pre- and post-processing, image classification, accuracy assessment, summary of findings, map products, SAV coverage estimates and classification for the entire project area, lessons learned, and recommendations.

Optional Services

The firm should include as an optional service the acquisition of satellite imagery. The firm’s budget proposal should include this optional service as a separate line item.

Satellite Imagery Acquisition: The selected firm will acquire high quality ($\leq 4m$) satellite images of the focus area. The imagery will be obtained over the study area for the same time frame as the aerial surveys using the same environmental criteria. The imagery will be compiled, processed, and interpreted using approved methods to produce final orthoimage products.

Accepted deliverables include: Final orthoimage products from obtaining satellite imagery and associated metadata, including date and time imagery was captured.

Satellite imagery should be obtained for the same time period as aerial imagery collection to allow for comparison between methodologies.

EXHIBIT B

Statement of Work for

Mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Using High- resolution Aerial and Satellite Imagery

Points of Contact & Key Personnel

Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program

Matt J. Posner mjposner@ppbep.org, 850.595.0820

Whitney A. Scheffel

Haley N. Gancel

USM GCGC

Gregory A. Carter, greg.carter@usm.edu (USM GCGC Primary Point of Contact)

Carlton P. Anderson

Purpose & Background

Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is critical for providing essential ecological services for marine life, as well as contributing to improved water quality, and shoreline protection from erosion. Toward further understanding of the current extent of SAV in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Systems, the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Geospatial Center (USM GCGC) will acquire aerial and satellite multispectral imagery and produce benthic habitat maps to support the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Estuary Program (PPBEP) mission to monitor the health of the bays, estuaries, and watersheds in Northwest Florida. The purpose of this Statement of Work (SOW) is to outline tasks and deliverables for aerial and satellite imagery collection, benthic habitat map production, and final reporting by the USM GCGC.

Objectives

The contribution of the tasks outlined in this SOW will provide a means for monitoring SAV in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay System with high-resolution aerial and satellite multispectral imagery and generated benthic habitat maps. We will develop seagrass maps for the Pensacola and Perdido Bay systems using aerial and satellite image data. Our approach is designed to comply fully with the requirements of RFP #2425-03 (Resolicitation), including National Map Accuracy Standards, FLUCCS coding, and metadata specifications. Final deliverables will include georeferenced imagery, benthic habitat maps, field-validated classification, and a summary report formatted for compatibility with Florida's Seagrass Integrated Mapping and Monitoring (SIMM) program.

Tasks

- a. **Aerial (a1) and Satellite (a2) Imagery Acquisition:** The GCGC will acquire aerial and satellite digital multispectral imagery for the project area, in accordance with the criteria outlined in the announcement. Attention will be given during planning and coordination for environmental parameters that optimize the remote sensing of SAV.
- b. **Benthic Habitat Map Production:** The GCGC will generate benthic habitat SAV maps and QA/QC-verified GIS databases using aerial and satellite imagery collected through Task (a).
- c. **Final Report:** The GCGC will generate final reports and metadata for the project.

Costs

Tasks	Total Cost
Task (a1): Aerial Imagery Acquisition	
VNIR multispectral ($\leq 30\text{cm}$)	\$34,247
Planning of acquisition, QAQC, archive, and delivery	\$1,124
Task (a2): Satellite Imagery Acquisition	
World View 3 ($\leq 4\text{m}$)	\$25,042
Planning of acquisition, QAQC, archive, and delivery	\$1,124
Task (b): Benthic Habitat Map Production	
SAV classification from imagery	\$23,695
(GIS creation) shapefile and geodatabase	\$3,443
Cartographic maps	\$2,869
QAQC of GIS & database schema	\$1,148
Task (c): Final Report	
Final Report & Metadata creation	\$1,148
Total Direct Costs	\$93,841
Total Indirect Costs (F&A) @ 20%	\$18,768
Total Costs	\$112,609

Schedule

1. **Task (a): Aerial and Satellite Imagery Acquisitions** will be initiated upon receipt of project funds and notice to proceed. All efforts will be made to acquire data in the fall of 2025. However, should the procurement process or environmental parameters delay data collection in the fall, all efforts will be made to acquire data in the Spring of 2026 during late April or May.
2. **Task (b): Benthic Habitat Map Production** will be conducted once imagery is procured and QAQC'd. The target date for completion of this task will be June 2026. We will work closely with Dr. Kelly Darnell's team to plan and incorporate ground truth survey data into the final deliverables.
3. **Task (c): Final Report** will be generated once all data are collected, benthic habitat maps are produced, GIS databases and metadata created, and all results and geospatial products are QAQC'd.

Deliverables

1. **Task (a):** Provide copies in GeoTIFF format to the PPBEP of the georeferenced aerial and satellite multispectral image data, including metadata, of nearshore estuarine and marine aquatic habitats that are acquired during the project.
2. **Task (b):** Provide copies to the PPBEP of georeferenced benthic maps derived from aircraft and satellite data showing current extent and distribution of seagrass beds with patchy/continuous classifications, to include:
 - Classification outputs with FLUCCS codes assigned to mapped classes.
 - Spatial summaries of total mapped area and patch distribution.
 - Shapefiles and ESRI geodatabases of mapped SAV features.
3. **Task (c):** Provide to the PPBEP a final report summary of methods, imagery sources, specifications, classification techniques, spatial summary results/extent estimates, comparison of aircraft-based versus satellite-based techniques, and metadata documentation for GIS shapefiles, geodatabases, and imagery.

**Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
RFP #P2425-03 SAV Mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays Final Ranking**

Raw Scores

	Stantec	USM	WRA
Whitney Scheffel	85	92	83
Haley Gancel	74	94	75
Brent Wipf	70	87	71
Jane Caffrey	84	98	93
Total	313	371	322

Rankings

	Stantec	USM	WRA
Whitney Scheffel	2	1	3
Haley Gancel	3	1	2
Brent Wipf	3	1	2
Jane Caffrey	3	1	2
Total	11	4	9
Avg	2.75	1	2.25
Final Ranking	3	1	2



PENSACOLA
& PERDIDO BAYS
ESTUARY PROGRAM

Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc.
Request for Proposals
#P2425-03 – Resolicit
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Mapping of
Pensacola and Perdido Bays

Release Date: September 18, 2025

Response Deadline: 11:59 pm October 3, 2025

PLEASE NOTE: The negotiated contract will be between the selected firm and Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc., subject to the approval of the PPBEP Board of Directors.

Respondent is hereby notified that Section 287.05701, Florida Statutes, requires that the PPBEP may not request documentation of or consider a vendor's social, political, or ideological interests when determining if the vendor is a responsible vendor. PPBEP will abide by the statutory provision and not seek or consider those interests.

Overview

The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program’s (herein after referred to as “PPBEP” or “the Estuary Program”) mission is to restore and protect the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds through restoration, education, and unbiased monitoring of the health of our bays, estuaries, and watersheds.

PPBEP is seeking to retain the services of a qualified vendor to produce benthic habitat maps of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) coverage using aerial and satellite imagery for the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Systems. For more information, please see Exhibit A – Scope of Services.

The PPBEP will competitively select a vendor in accordance with Florida Statutes 287.055. Final award will be contingent upon approval of the PPBEP Board of Directors. The PPBEP reserves the right to reject any and all responses, and to withdraw this Request for Proposals before or after responses are received.

Funding Sources

Up to \$98,000 is available to complete SAV extent mapping, inclusive of imagery acquisition, SAV classification, and map product development for aerial imagery sources. Funding is made available through Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) through their Seagrass Integrated Mapping and Monitoring Program (SIMM).

Contact Information

Matt Posner
Executive Director
Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
mjposner@ppbep.org
850.595.0820

Timeline

Please note the timeline is subject to change at PPBEP’s discretion.

RFP Release Date	September 18, 2025
Questions Due	11:59 pm CT September 25, 2025
RFP Response Deadline	11:59 pm CT October 3, 2025
Decision/Ranking Selection Meeting	October 14, 2025
Board of Directors Meeting Approval	November 12, 2025

Questions

Questions should be submitted by email to info@ppbep.org no later than 11:59 pm central time on September 25, 2025. Please include "RFP #P2425-03 Question" in the subject line. All questions will be collated, presented anonymously, and answered in a document posted on the PPBEP website by September 26, 2025.

Submittal Requirements

All responses must be received no later than 11:59 pm central time October 3, 2025. Responses shall be submitted via email to info@ppbep.org. Please include "RFP #P2425-03 SAV Mapping" in the subject line.

Responses, including all supplemental material, shall not exceed fifteen (15) pages. At a minimum, an 11-pt typeface, 1" margins, and 1.0-line spacing shall be used throughout the body of the text. Response shall be submitted as a single PDF file.

The response shall include the following sections:

1. Cover/Transmittal Letter
 - a. Include the RFP title, the company name, company UEID, address, and primary point of contact, including name, telephone number, and primary email contact.
 - b. State the names and titles of persons who will be authorized to make representations for the Respondent and the name of the person who will be authorized to bind the Respondent.
 - c. Summarize the Respondent's understanding of the services requested under this announcement, and why the Respondent is the best suited to carry out the scope of this project.
 - d. Describe quality control procedures and state whether the Respondent has been involved in a government contract that ended in termination or litigation.
 - e. State whether the Respondent has or anticipates a conflict of interest if the project is awarded.
2. Qualifications and Experience
 - a. Include a chart of the Project Team.
 - b. Identify project team members, their proposed roles on this project, their proposed time associated with this project, and their previous experience, education, and certifications.
 - c. Describe firm and project team's experience completing similar type mapping projects.
3. Project Approach
 - a. Provide a detailed scope of work that describes the approach that will be used to accomplish the tasks in the RFP.
 - b. Provide a schedule of initiation and completion of each proposed task and subtask, project milestones, and deliverables.
4. Budget
 - a. Provide a detailed budget for each task and subtask.
 - b. Provide a detailed budget narrative for each task and subtask.
5. References

- a. Provide names and contact information of client references for three (3) completed or ongoing projects. Provide a summary description of work conducted, key objectives, and outcomes for the three projects submitted.
6. Certificate to do Business
- a. Respondent shall provide their Certificate to do Business/Certificate of Status in the State of Florida. Respondents must be in good standing in the State of Florida and not be suspended nor debarred from Federal contracting or receiving Federal funds. Any respondent listed on the Excluded Party List System will be eliminated from further consideration.
7. Minority and Women Owned Enterprises
- a. PPBEP encourages minority and women owned business enterprises to respond to all applicable procurement opportunities in accordance with 2CFR 200.321 and Florida Statutes 287.09451. If the project team includes a minority and/or women owned business enterprise, please include the certification in the response package.

Evaluation Criteria

The following evaluation criteria will be used to assess proposal responsiveness.

No.	Evaluation Criteria	Scoring Method
1.	<p>Qualifications and Experience of the Respondent</p> <p>The Respondent shall demonstrate ability and experience with similar type and size projects. The Respondent should submit qualifications of the prime and subcontractors, including qualifications and experience of individual team members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the firm demonstrate the project team has the technical knowledge to implement the project? (10 points) 2. Does the firm demonstrate individual team members have successfully implemented similar scale and type projects? (10 points) 	0-20 Points
2.	<p>Project Approach</p> <p>Provide an organized and clear proposal describing the respondent’s project approach and workflow to complete the scope of services, and address PPBEP’s needs, local conditions, and Plan goals and objectives. Please specifically identify what makes the firm uniquely qualified to carry out the proposed scope of services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the firm demonstrate a well-defined scope of services with key milestones, deliverables, and responsibilities? (10 points) 2. Does the firm demonstrate how the project objectives will be achieved? (10 points) 3. Is the proposed approach for sourcing and selecting aerial imagery appropriate for SAV detection (e.g., spatial/spectral resolution, timing, water clarity)? (10 points) 4. Does the firm demonstrate a clear understanding of working in nearshore coastal environments dominated by seagrass beds? (10 points) 5. Does the proposal introduce new or improved techniques that enhance project outcomes and advance the state of SAV mapping? (10 points) 6. Are the image processing and classification methods clearly described and scientifically valid (e.g., supervised classification, machine learning, spectral analysis)? (10 points) 	0-60 Points

3.	<p>Cost</p> <p>Provide a detailed budget and budget narrative for all tasks and sub-tasks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the budget aligned with the tasks and deliverables outlined in the proposal? (10 points) 2. Does the budget reflect a cost-effective strategy for achieving project goals? (10 points) 	0-20 Points
	Maximum Possible Score	100 Points

Evaluation Process

An Evaluation Committee shall meet for the purpose of discussing, scoring, and ranking proposals. All meetings of the Evaluation Committee are subject to, and must comply with, Florida’s Sunshine Law. Members of the Evaluation Committee will have demonstrated that they have no existing or anticipated conflict of interest in the project which they are evaluating.

Prior to the Evaluation Committee review meeting, PPBEP staff may contact references listed in proposals for information concerning performance history. To ensure that respondents are not suspended or debarred from Federal contracting or receiving Federal funds, PPBEP staff will check the Excluded Party List System (<https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM>). Any respondent listed on the Excluded Party List System will be eliminated from further consideration. This information will be provided at the Evaluation Committee meeting.

The Evaluation Committee will review and evaluate all proposals and select a firm based on the evaluation criteria. The Committee will rank firms according to the firm’s response and vote to enter contract negotiations with the top ranked firm.

Following the decision ranking and selection meeting, the final contract, scope, fee, and budget will be recommended to the PPBEP Board of Directors for approval.

EXHIBIT A
STATEMENT OF WORK
SAV MAPPING OF PERDIDO AND PENSACOLA BAY SYSTEMS

Program Overview

The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program’s (herein after referred to as “PPBEP” or “the Estuary Program”) mission is to restore and protect the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds through restoration, education, and unbiased monitoring of the health of our bays, estuaries, and watersheds.

The Estuary Program serves as a trusted source for residents, businesses, industry, and the community on issues relating to preserving, restoring, improving, and maintaining the natural habitat and ecosystem of the bays, estuaries, and watersheds of Pensacola and Perdido Bays. PPBEP strives to achieve a healthy and collaborative environment by:

1. Elevating and increasing the importance, awareness, and understanding of environmental quality.
2. Employing rigorous, unbiased, and scientifically sound science to inform and guide decisions, policies, and initiatives.
3. Funding programs and projects that protect the environment and increasing ecological resilience.
4. Building a network of inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships that takes into account factors affecting the environment, the economy, and the community-at-large for the benefit of improving the quality of life for all.

PPBEP is guided by a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), a ten-year roadmap for the restoration and protection of the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds. The CCMP can be viewed at <https://www.ppbep.org/the-plan/ccmp>.

Project Background

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s (FWC) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) developed the Seagrass Integrated and Mapping and Monitoring (SIMM) Program to protect and manage seagrasses in Florida by providing a collaborative resource for seagrass mapping, monitoring, and data sharing. FWC received funding through the state to support SIMM program objectives, including leading proposal efforts to map and monitor seagrasses in data-poor locations. The objective of this project is to obtain 2025 SAV benthic habitat maps that can be used for PPBEP and FWC research and management needs. Previous mapping efforts in the PPBEP system have used fixed wing aerial imagery (30 cm resolution) to document the extent and distribution of SAV habitats in shallow coastal waters. More recently (2022), PPBEP partnered with the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and Old Dominion University to conduct a comparison study for aerial and satellite mapping techniques. Results from this study indicated satellite-derived imagery coupled with machine learning analysis captured comparable estimates of seagrass acreage. At minimum, this project will provide PPBEP and FWC with habitat maps of the project area to compare to previous mapping efforts. Satellite imagery acquisition and map product development are included as optional services as part of this RFP. This system has been

identified as a data gap for the SIMM Program and will aid the FWC in decisions related to endangered and threatened species, fisheries management, conservation priorities, restoration projects, and research and monitoring needs. By using the companion 2025 SAV ground truthing survey (presence/absence) and percent cover data collected by the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Lab, PPBEP can evaluate seagrass status and trends across the bay systems.

This project aligns with CCMP Goal 5: Conserve and Restore Critical Habitat; Objective 5.2: Assess seagrass health and distribution and develop a restoration strategy for long-term protection and recovery; Action 5.2.1: Conduct seagrass mapping and surveys (aerial and ground truth surveys) to assess the current extent, distribution, and condition of seagrass species in the Pensacola and Perdido systems.

Project Objectives

The project objectives referenced below are preliminary and intended to help firms orient their project approach. PPBEP intends to work with the selected firm to further refine and specify project objectives and metrics following project kickoff.

Acquire Aerial Imagery: The project should include details on how the firm plans to acquire, compile, and interpret high-resolution (≥ 30 cm) aerial imagery of the project boundary, which includes nearshore estuarine and marine aquatic ecosystems in Perdido Bay, Big Lagoon, Pensacola Bay, East Bay, Blackwater Bay, Escambia Bay, and Santa Rosa Sound (Figure 1).

Generate Benthic Habitat Maps: The project should result in the development of benthic habitat maps for aerial imagery. The proposal should include the firm's approach for utilizing seagrass percent cover and presence/absence survey data to generate SAV classification habitat maps for imagery including at minimum, continuous and patchy seagrass classifications.

Summary of Findings: The project should provide a summary of findings, including SAV acreage estimates.

Resources

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan: <https://www.ppbep.org/the-plan/ccmp>

2023 SAV Mapping of Perdido and Pensacola Bays Final Report

State of the Bays Report: www.stateofthebays.org

Scope of Services

PPBEP is seeking to retain the services of a firm or local entity to provide the following services: planning, data acquisition, field surveys, and image/map generation, including GIS shapefiles, to support the SAV mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays. Final award will be contingent upon approval of the PPBEP Board of Directors. The PPBEP reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to withdraw this Request for Proposals before or after proposals are received.

Timeline: PPBEP intends to enter into a contract with a single successful respondent on or before October 31, 2025. The project shall be completed within 8 months of contract execution.

Budget: Approximately \$98,000 has been budgeted to carry out the project scope of services.

Tasks include, but are not limited to, the following. In the firm's submittal, the firm should identify subtasks and additional tasks that may be required based on the firm's expertise. The firm has discretion to reorder the tasks as presented and/or present alternative tasks to achieve the goals and objectives of the project.

- 1. Aerial Imagery Acquisition:** The selected firm will acquire high quality aerial images (≥ 30 cm) of the project boundary, which includes nearshore estuarine and marine aquatic ecosystems in Perdido Bay, Big Lagoon, Pensacola Bay, East Bay, Blackwater Bay, Escambia Bay, and Santa Rosa Sound (Figure 1). The aerial surveys will be conducted based on the best environmental factors such as cloudiness, turbidity, atmospheric clarity, and local seagrass seasonality (October – November). The imagery will be compiled, processed, and interpreted using approved methods to produce final orthoimage products.

Accepted deliverables include final aerial imagery files in accepted GeoTIFF format.

In the event aerial imagery cannot be acquired in fall 2025 due to schedule constraints, April-May 2026 can be proposed as an alternative option.

- 2. Benthic Habitat Map Production:** The selected firm will generate benthic habitat maps of SAV coverage and distribution of the project boundary based on aerial imagery interpretation and ground-truthed SAV survey data (presence/absence and percent cover) collected by PPBEP partners to validate coverage estimates. These benthic habitat maps shall conform to protocols established by the Florida Land Use and Cover Classification System (FLUCCS) for continuous and patchy seagrass, and open water classifications.

Accepted deliverables include final SAV classification map with associated ESRI ArcGIS shapefiles (.shp) containing at minimum all attributes with proper identification labels, metadata, completed polygon shapefiles displaying project boundaries, cover classifications (including patchy versus continuous seagrass), and acreage calculations with units of measurement specified relevant to the project. The firm shall provide a final photointerpretation key containing at minimum: the standardized methods used and FLUCCS codes assigned to cover classes. The ESRI ArcGIS Shapefile and File Geo-database shall conform to the following characteristics:

These shapefiles and Geo-databases shall meet the minimum National Map Accuracy Standards for maps at 1:12,000 map scale. The minimum acceptable error in positional accuracy is that no more than ten percent of the line work shall be in error by more 33.3 feet from their correct geographical location. The ESRI ArcGIS Pro Shapefile and File Geo-database shall conform to the following characteristics:

1. Double precision
2. Full arc and polygon topology
3. Polygons must not overlap
4. Polygons must not have gaps/voids

5. Projected to North American Datum (NAD) 1983, HARN, UTM, Zone 17, units meters
6. Polygon Attribute Tables
7. One attribute per polygon
8. Unique cover name – IDs



Figure 1. Project area (blue dashed line) including Perdido Bay, Wolf Bay, Big Lagoon, Pensacola Bay, Escambia Bay, Blackwater Bay, East Bay, and Santa Rosa Sound.

3. **Final Report:** The firm will submit a draft and final report containing at minimum: the image acquisition and selection, image pre- and post-processing, image classification, accuracy assessment, summary of findings, map products, SAV coverage estimates and classification for the entire project area, lessons learned, and recommendations.

Optional Services

The firm should include as an optional service the acquisition of satellite imagery. The firm's budget proposal should include this optional service as a separate line item.

Satellite Imagery Acquisition: The selected firm will acquire high quality ($\leq 4\text{m}$) satellite images of the focus area. The imagery will be obtained over the study area for the same time frame as the aerial surveys using the same environmental criteria. The imagery will be compiled, processed, and interpreted using approved methods to produce final orthoimage products.

Accepted deliverables include: Final orthoimage products from obtaining satellite imagery and associated metadata, including date and time imagery was captured.

Satellite imagery should be obtained for the same time period as aerial imagery collection to allow for comparison between methodologies.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Gulf Coast Geospatial Center

118 College Drive #5157 | Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Phone: 228.276.1733 | greg.carter@usm.edu | usm.edu/gcgc

October 3, 2025

Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc.
Request for Proposals #P2425-03
226 S. Palafox Pl.
Pensacola, FL 32502

Re: Proposal Submission for RFP #P2425-03 – Mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays SAV

Dear Evaluation Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program's (PPBEP) RFP #P2425-03 (Resolicitation). Our university-based team brings deep expertise in remote sensing, seagrass mapping, and reproducible geospatial workflows tailored to coastal systems. We confirm that our project approach and deliverables fully comply with the revised requirements, including:

- Acquisition of aerial multispectral data (30 cm resolution), optionally supplemented by satellite imagery
- Mapping products that meet National Map Accuracy Standards
- Classification outputs with FLUCCS codes and an accompanying photointerpretation key
- Delivery of ESRI shapefiles and geodatabases with unique cover names and IDs
- Metadata documenting positional accuracy, projection, and processing lineage
- A final report and digital data package formatted for compatibility with Florida's Seagrass Integrated Mapping and Monitoring (SIMM) program

We understand that the PPBEP Board will meet in early November to make a final decision on the award. While our proposal is structured to meet the required completion date of June 30, 2026, we respectfully note that the optimal window for acquiring high-resolution imagery of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) typically occurs in fall (October–

November), when water clarity and sun angle are most favorable. Should the award be finalized after this window, imagery acquisition may need to occur in spring 2026 (April–May), a period when turbidity and seasonal growth dynamics can reduce SAV visibility. Our team remains fully prepared to complete the project within the required timeframe, and we welcome the opportunity to work with PPBEP staff to develop any alternative procedures necessitated by environmental conditions.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Carter, PhD.
Professor, School of Biological, Environmental, and Earth Sciences
Director and Chief Scientist, Gulf Coast Geospatial Center

- a. **Project title:** Mapping of Pensacola and Perdido Bays Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Using High-resolution Aerial and Satellite Imagery

The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Geospatial Center
UEID: M1K8LJAET5R1

Primary point of contact: Gregory A. Carter, (228) 214-3305, greg.carter@usm.edu

Administrative point of contact: Justin Miller, (601) 266-4119, ora-pam@usm.edu

Address: 118 College Dr., #5157
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

- b. **Authorized Representative:** Erica Kennedy, Associate Vice President for Research (601)-266-4119, Ora-Pam@usm.edu
- c. The University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Gulf Coast Geospatial Center (GCGC) is well poised to carry out the scope of this announcement. The center brings many years of experience in coastal remote sensing and geospatial applications, with numerous successful projects and research articles in respected peer-reviewed journals.
- d. To ensure the accuracy and reliability of all geospatial products, the GCGC will implement a rigorous quality control process throughout the lifecycle of the project. A certified contractor will be selected to collect high-resolution aerial multispectral imagery via crewed aircraft, meeting the RFP's required 30 cm resolution threshold. Satellite imagery may be optionally acquired to supplement coverage and support comparative analysis.

Final image products will be reviewed for properly documented metadata, including positional accuracy metrics, projection and georeferencing. All mapping products will undergo internal QA/QC review by at least two team members, ensuring consistency and reliability. Classification outputs will include FLUCCS codes and be accompanied by a photointerpretation key, as required. Maps will be produced to meet National Map Accuracy Standards and follow the data schema outlined in the announcement. Procedures will be documented, and final products will be archived using version control to ensure transparency and reproducibility.

- e. We have no history of contract termination or litigation. No conflicts of interest are anticipated.

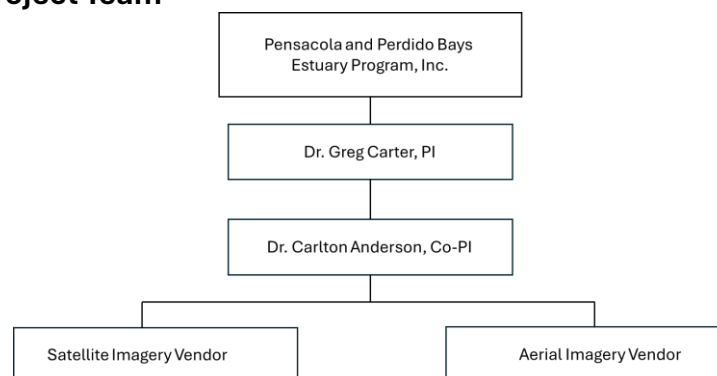
2. Qualifications and Experience

Our team has extensive experience in seagrass mapping and landscape analysis across the Mississippi Gulf Coast barrier islands and coastal estuaries. We specialize in integrating aerial and satellite imagery with advanced classification techniques and landscape metrics to produce high-quality, reproducible habitat maps.

Relevant experience includes:

- Carter et al., 2011, Aerial hyperspectral mapping of Horn Island seagrass beds
- Pham et al., 2014; Pham et al., 2020, Decadal-scale change detection in Mississippi Sound
- Enwright et al., 2022; Bogaert et al., 2000, Landscape configuration analysis using lacunarity and fragmentation metrics
- Orth et al., 2017, Propeller scar mapping and recovery tracking

a. Chart of the Project Team



- b. **Lead Principal Investigator (PI)** - Gregory A. Carter, PhD
Role: Lead and manage the project, mapping of SAV
Duration: 0.5 month salary, project duration involvement

Experience: Numerous remote sensing of SAV projects along the Mississippi Barrier Island chain including hyperspectral mapping of SAV at Horn Island.

Education: Doctor of Philosophy (University of Wyoming), Botany

Co-Investigator – Carlton P. Anderson, PhD

Role: Manage the project and mapping of SAV

Duration: 1 month salary, project duration involvement

Experience: Numerous remote sensing and topographic / vegetation surveying projects in the nearshore environment including the use of Topo-bathy LIDAR, hyper and multispectral data, high precision GNSS, and geospatial analysis and mapping.

Education and certificates: Doctor of Philosophy (University of Southern Mississippi), Geography; FAA part 107 certified

- c. The GCGC is a leading hub for coastal geospatial research and innovation. The center specializes in remote sensing, spatial analysis, and mapping technologies that support environmental monitoring and coastal resilience. The GCGC plays a vital role in developing high-resolution datasets for elevation, coastal vegetation, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), shoreline change, and wetland sustainability, often using advanced tools like unmanned aerial systems (UAS), LiDAR, and satellite imagery. The GCGC maintains and operates Mississippi's Real-Time Network of Global Navigation Satellite System Continually Operating Reference Stations providing survey grade network solutions to end users across the State of Mississippi. Through collaborations with federal and state agencies, academic institutions, and private partners, GCGC contributes to data-driven decision-making for coastal management and provides valuable resources for researchers, policymakers, and educators across the Gulf region.

The project team brings extensive experience in coastal remote sensing and the mapping of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). Dr. Greg Carter has authored several peer-reviewed publications documenting historical changes in SAV across Mississippi's barrier islands. His work incorporates a wide range of imagery sources, including hyperspectral, multispectral, panchromatic, and historical aerial photography. Notable projects include seagrass mapping in the northern Gulf of Mexico using airborne hyperspectral imagery, as well as long-term documentation of seagrass coverage changes on the Mississippi barrier islands. Additionally, Dr. Carter instructs remote sensing courses at USM focusing on coastal applications.

Similarly, Dr. Carlton Anderson has many years of expertise in coastal remote sensing, geodetic surveying, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), including database development and cartographic mapping. His successful projects include elevation mapping for estuarine plant species along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and assessing hurricane impacts on barrier islands using multispectral and LiDAR data. Dr. Anderson also has experience in instructing courses in Marine GIS.

3. Project Approach

We will develop seagrass maps for the Pensacola and Perdido Bay systems using aerial and, optionally, satellite image data. Our approach is designed to comply fully with the requirements of RFP #2425-03 (Resolicitation), including National Map Accuracy Standards, FLUCCS coding, and metadata specifications. Final deliverables will include georeferenced imagery, benthic habitat maps, field-validated classification, and a summary report formatted for compatibility with Florida's Seagrass Integrated Mapping and Monitoring (SIMM) program.

Image Data Acquisition

Imagery will be collected in fall 2025, during dry and clear weather when water visibility is typically best (Carter et al., 2011). The study area includes Wolf Bay (AL), Perdido Bay (AL and FL), and Big Lagoon, Santa Rosa Sound, Pensacola Bay, Escambia Bay, Blackwater Bay, and East Bay (FL).

One primary and one optional source of image data will be used:

- Primary - Aircraft multispectral imagery, with 0.3-meter (30 cm) spatial resolution, meeting the RFP's resolution threshold for nearshore habitat mapping.
- Optional - Satellite multispectral imagery from WorldView-3 (via L3Harris), with 1.2-meter spatial resolution. WorldView provides true multispectral imagery as opposed to pansharpened data as provided by some satellite systems. Additionally, this will provide broad coverage and consistent data across the study area.

This combination ensures compliance with the resolicitation's aerial image requirement while providing an understanding of the level of additional resources that would be needed to enable comparison of mapping accuracy provided by aircraft versus satellite data.

Image Processing and Map Creation

Image data will be processed using established methods tested in prior projects. We will focus on visible-spectrum bands that are most effective in identifying seagrass, particularly those in the green-yellow range (Peneva et al., 2008). Classification outputs will include FLUCCS codes for all mapped classes, as required. Standard classification techniques will be applied, and newer approaches such as deep learning (Liu et al., 2023) will be tested to evaluate potential accuracy gains. A photointerpretation key will accompany the final maps, documenting classification logic and spectral signatures.

Ground-Truthing and Validation

We will collaborate with Drs. Kelly and Zack Darnell (University of Southern Mississippi), who will acquire field data in the study area in a concurrent project. Their observations —

including presence/absence and percent cover estimates — will be integrated to validate classification outputs and improve reliability. Areas of propeller scarring will also be documented following established protocols (Orth et al., 2017).

Spatial Summary

This effort will produce high-quality maps of seagrass distribution across the study area, subject to water and atmospheric clarity. While temporal change cannot be assessed from a single acquisition, the resulting products will support future comparisons and long-term monitoring. Basic spatial summaries (e.g., total seagrass patch area, patch distribution) will be included. Fragmentation or connectivity metrics are not included, consistent with the solicitation scope. All outputs will be formatted to align with SIMM program standards (FDEP, 2021).

Data Management

All imagery, classification outputs, and supporting metadata will be organized using standardized folder structures and naming conventions. Final products—including georeferenced maps, shapefiles, and ESRI geodatabases — will be formatted for compatibility with SIMM. Attribute tables will include unique cover names and IDs. Metadata will document positional accuracy, projection, and processing lineage. Intermediate files and logs will be retained to support reproducibility and future audits. Data will be stored on secure university servers with version control and delivered to PPBEP via its preferred method (cloud folder, external drive, or direct upload).

Deliverables

The following products will be provided to PPBEP upon completion of the project:

High-resolution imagery

- Aircraft-based multispectral imagery (30 cm resolution) of nearshore estuarine and marine aquatic habitats
- (Optional) Satellite multispectral imagery (WorldView-3, 1.2 m resolution) covering the full study area
- Documentation of acquisition dates, sensor specifications, and environmental conditions

Benthic habitat maps of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)

- Georeferenced maps showing current extent and distribution of seagrass beds
- Classification outputs with FLUCCS codes assigned to mapped classes
- Photointerpretation key documenting classification logic
- Spatial summaries of total mapped area and patch distribution

Ground-truthing integration

- Incorporation of field data from USM's Gulf Coast Research Lab (Drs. Kelly and Zack Darnell), including presence/absence and percent cover observations
- Documentation of validation methods and field-data alignment

Final report

- Summary of methods, imagery sources, classification techniques, and validation results
- Overview of mapped SAV distribution and spatial summaries
- Supporting figures, tables, and metadata documentation
- Photointerpretation key and classification rationale
- Accuracy assessment summary and lessons learned

Digital data package

- Georeferenced imagery (e.g., GeoTIFF)
- Shapefiles and ESRI geodatabases of mapped SAV features
- Metadata files and summary tables (CSV or Excel)
- All files formatted for SIMM compatibility and delivered via PPBEP's preferred method
- Structured to align with SIMM schema and naming conventions for seamless integration

This proposal addresses the resolicitation scope of mapping only and does not include fragmentation, connectivity, or temporal change analyses. All deliverables will be formatted for compatibility with Florida's SIMM program and organized for ease of use by PPBEP staff and partners.

Timeline

Months 1–2: Collect and prepare imagery

Months 3–4: Analyze images and confirm results with field data

Months 5–7: Measure habitat patterns and create maps

Month 8: Final report and delivery of all products, including maps, metadata, and summary tables

4. Budget

Costs provided for aerial and satellite remote sensing data acquisition estimates reflect the most recently received estimates from potential vendors during the resolicitation proposal preparation period.

Scenario 1 – Aerial imagery, benthic habitat maps, and final report

Tasks	Total Cost
Task 1: Aerial Imagery Acquisition	
VNIR multispectral ($\leq 30\text{cm}$)	\$34,247

Planning of acquisition, QAQC, archive, and delivery	\$1,124
Task 2: Benthic Habitat Map Production	
SAV classification from imagery	\$23,695
(GIS creation) shapefile and geodatabase	\$3,443
Cartographic maps	\$2,869
QAQC of GIS & database schema	\$1,148
Task 3: Final Report	
Final Report & Metadata creation	\$1,148
Total Direct Costs	\$67,674
Total Indirect Costs (F&A) @ 20%	\$13,535
Total Costs	\$81,209

Scenario 2 (Optional) – Aerial imagery, benthic habitat maps, final report, and satellite imagery

Tasks	Total Cost
Task 1: Aerial Imagery Acquisition	
VNIR multispectral ($\leq 30\text{cm}$)	\$34,247
Planning of acquisition, QAQC, archive, and delivery	\$1,124
Task 2: Benthic Habitat Map Production	
SAV classification from imagery	\$23,695
(GIS creation) shapefile and geodatabase	\$3,443
Cartographic maps	\$2,869
QAQC of GIS & database schema	\$1,148
Task 3: Final Report	
Final Report & Metadata creation	\$1,148
Optional Task 4: Satellite Imagery Acquisition	
World View 3 ($\leq 4\text{m}$)	\$25,042

Planning of acquisition, QAQC, archive, and delivery	\$1,124
Total Direct Costs	\$93,841
Total Indirect Costs (F&A) @ 20%	\$18,768
Total Costs	\$112,609

Budget Narrative

Task 1 (Aerial Imagery Acquisition): We will acquire aerial multispectral imagery via UltraCam digital camera system from crewed aircraft for the project area, in accordance with the criteria outlined in the announcement. A cost of \$1,124 is anticipated for planning, coordination, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), and archival of the acquired data. These efforts will ensure that all specifications are met and that the data are stored with integrity. Additionally, the proposed imagery acquisition is estimated at \$ 34,247. The total cost for Task 1 is \$ 67,674.

Task 2 (Benthic Habitat Map Production): We will generate benthic habitat SAV maps and QA/QC-verified GIS databases using satellite and aerial imagery collected through Tasks 1 and optional task 4, if chosen. We request \$23,695 for the production of SAV classification maps derived from this imagery. An additional \$3,443 is requested for the creation of shapefiles and geodatabases. Cartographic thematic map production will cost \$2,869. Quality control is budgeted at \$1,148 each. All resulting GIS data and mapping products will undergo review prior to delivery. The total cost for Task 2 is \$31,155.

Task 3 (Final Report): We will generate a final report and metadata for the project. Total cost for task 3 is \$1,148.

Task 4 (Optional Satellite Imagery Acquisition): We will acquire satellite imagery via the WorldView-3 satellite system for the project area, in accordance with the criteria outlined in the announcement. A cost of \$1,124 is anticipated for planning, coordination, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), and archival of the acquired data. These efforts will ensure that all specifications are met and that the data is stored with integrity. Additionally, the proposed imagery acquisition is estimated at \$25,042. The total cost for Task 4 is \$26,166.

5. References

- (1) Chad Ainsworth
Mississippi Department of Transportation
State Surveyor
cainsworth@mdot.state.ms.us

(601) 359-7062

The Gulf Coast Geospatial Center (GCGC) has collaborated with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for over 15 years to support the development and maintenance of the state's GNSS infrastructure. The primary objectives of this partnership are to operate Mississippi's real-time GNSS network and to provide end users with access to both real-time and historical survey-grade GNSS data. The outcomes of this ongoing project continue to enhance geospatial capabilities across the state.

(2) Jonathan Pitchford

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Department of Marine Resources
Stewardship Coordinator

Jonathan.pitchford@dmr.ms.gov

(228) 523-4009

The Gulf Coast Geospatial Center (GCGC) has collaborated with the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve for many years on a range of geospatial and ecological monitoring projects. These efforts include elevation monitoring using the reserve's Surface Elevation Tables (SETs) and landcover classification derived from aerial and satellite imagery. The primary objectives are to better understand elevation dynamics within the reserve and the influence of elevation on coastal vegetation patterns. Outcomes of this collaboration include a publication in the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* and improvements to the reserve's elevation control infrastructure.

- (3) The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) is an R01 designated research institution. USM receives funding from a variety of federal sponsors who are unable to serve as references on grant applications. The USM Gulf Coast Geospatial Center primarily receives federal grants and is unable to provide a third reference.

6. Certificate to do business

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) is a public institution of higher education. USM is not suspended nor debarred from Federal contracting or receiving Federal funds.

Literature Cited

- Bogaert, J., Van Hecke, P., Eysenrode, D. S.-V., & Impens, I. (2000). Landscape fragmentation assessment using a single measure. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, 28, 875–881.
- Carter, G. A., Lucas, K. L., Biber, P. D., Criss, G. A., & Blossom, G. A. (2011). Historical changes in seagrass coverage on the Mississippi barrier islands, northern Gulf of Mexico,

- determined from vertical aerial imagery (1940–2007). *Geocarto International*, 26, 663–673.
- Enwright, N. M., Darnell, K. M., & Carter, G. A. (2022). Lacunarity as a tool for assessing landscape configuration over time and informing long-term monitoring: An example using seagrass. *Landscape Ecology*, 37, 2689–2705.
- Liu, B., Sevick, T., Jung, H., Kiskaddon, E., & Carruthers, T. (2023). Quantifying the potential contribution of submerged aquatic vegetation to coastal carbon capture in a delta system from field and Landsat 8/9-OLI data with deep convolutional neural network. *Remote Sensing*, 15, 3765.
- Orth, R. J., Lefcheck, J. S., & Wilcox, D. J. (2017). Boat propeller scarring of seagrass beds in lower Chesapeake Bay, USA: Patterns, causes, recovery, and management. *Estuaries and Coasts*, 40, 1666–1676.
- Peneva, E., Griffith, J. A., & Carter, G. A. (2008). Seagrass mapping in the northern Gulf of Mexico using airborne hyperspectral imagery: A comparison of classification methods. *Journal of Coastal Research*, 24(4), 850–857.
- Pham, L. T., Biber, P. D., & Carter, G. A. (2014). Seagrass in the Mississippi and Chandeleur Sounds and problems associated with decadal-scale change detection. *Gulf of Mexico Science*, 31, 24–43.
- Pham, L. T., Biber, P. D., Wu, W., Carter, G., & Cho, H. (2020). Historical change of seagrasses in the Mississippi and Chandeleur Sounds. *Advances in Environmental Research*, 70, 201–231.
- Shakeri, L. M., Darnell, K. M., Carruthers, T. J. B., & Darnell, M. Z. (2020). Blue crab abundance and survival in a fragmenting coastal marsh system. *Estuaries and Coasts*, 43, 1545–1555.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). (2021). *Seagrass Integrated Mapping and Monitoring (SIMM) Program Summary*. Referenced in FDEP aquatic preserve reports. Available via [Nature Coast Seagrass Monitoring Program](#).



Agenda Item 8.c.

Acceptance of EPA Notice of Award Number 05D42125, in the amount of \$750,000, for the Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative

Background: In November 2024, PPBEP submitted a proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Water Quality Monitoring Request for Funding Announcement to establish a Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative for Pensacola and Perdido Bays.


The Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative is a partnership-based program that will establish a comprehensive network of sentinel sites to assess water quality status and trends for the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds, located in Northwest Florida and south Alabama. This network will build upon Florida and Alabama partnerships, including the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, City of Orange Beach, Escambia County, Santa Rosa County, Okaloosa County, and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and existing water quality monitoring programs to standardize monitoring parameters and methods to ensure data comparability across state lines to inform future water quality improvements.

The Collaborative will complete monthly water quality monitoring for bacteria, nutrients, and standard physical parameters at 33 monitoring sites located across the greater Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds in Florida and Alabama. Over the three-year period, 1,188 samples will be collected. The results will be incorporated into the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program's biennial State of the Bays Report updates, data dashboards, and will inform development of water quality improvement target setting for both watersheds.

Recommendation: Recommend the Board accept the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Award Number 05D42125, in the amount of \$750,000, for the Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative.

Financial Impact: Acceptance of the Notice of Award will increase revenue in the Grant Account by \$750,000.

Legal Review: N/A

	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Grant Agreement	GRANT NUMBER (FAIN): 05D42125 MODIFICATION NUMBER: 0 PROGRAM CODE: MX	DATE OF AWARD 07/25/2025
		TYPE OF ACTION New	MAILING DATE 07/30/2025
		PAYMENT METHOD: ASAP	ACH# Pend
		RECIPIENT TYPE: County	
RECIPIENT: Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc. 226 PALAFOX PL PENSACOLA, FL 32502-5846 EIN: 93-1499384		PAYEE: Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc. 226 PALAFOX PL 5th Floor Pensacola, FL 32502-5846	
PROJECT MANAGER Whitney Scheffel 226 Palafox Place 5th floor Pensacola, FL 32502-5846 Email: wascheffel@ppbep.org Phone: 850-595-0892		EPA PROJECT OFFICER Alison Van Wyk 2510 14th Street, Suite 1212, EPA/GMD Gulfport, MS 39501 Email: VanWyk.Alison@epa.gov Phone: 404-562-9157	
EPA GRANT SPECIALIST Holley Taylor Grants Management Section 61 Forsyth Street SW Atlanta, GA 30303-8960 Email: Taylor.Holley@epa.gov Phone: 404-562-8612			
PROJECT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION Geographic Programs – Gulf of Mexico Program This action approves an award in the amount of \$750,000 to the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program to support their efforts with improving the water quality of the Gulf of America. The purpose of this award is to form the Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative that will establish a comprehensive network of sentinel sites to assess water quality status and trends for the Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds. The activities to be performed include establishing the Collaborative (agreement); monthly water quality monitoring for bacteria, nutrients, and standard physical parameters at 33 monitoring sites located across the Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds in Florida and Alabama; finalizing the Water Quality Monitoring Plan; updating the 2027 and 2029 State of the Bays report; and creating a public dashboard for data. The anticipated deliverables (outputs) include establishment of the Collaborative, water quality monitoring data, updated State of the Bays reports, and publicly available water quality monitoring data via the dashboard. Expected outcomes are sustained monitoring, enhanced understanding of water quality trends, and adoption of water quality improvement plan. The residents and communities in Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds will benefit from improved water quality. Subrecipient activities include laboratory analyses for water quality monitoring and sample collection assistance from local governments and a tribe.			
BUDGET PERIOD 10/01/2025 - 09/30/2028	PROJECT PERIOD 10/01/2025 - 09/30/2028	TOTAL BUDGET PERIOD COST \$ 750,000.00	TOTAL PROJECT PERIOD COST \$ 750,000.00
NOTICE OF AWARD			
Based on your Application dated 11/22/2024 including all modifications and amendments, the United States acting by and through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby awards \$ 750,000.00. EPA agrees to cost-share <u>100.00%</u> of all approved budget period costs incurred, up to and not exceeding total federal funding of \$ 750,000.00. Recipient's signature is not required on this agreement. The recipient demonstrates its commitment to carry out this award by either: 1) drawing down funds within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date; or 2) not filing a notice of disagreement with the award terms and conditions within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. If the recipient disagrees with the terms and conditions specified in this award, the authorized representative of the recipient must furnish a notice of disagreement to the EPA Award Official within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. In case of disagreement, and until the disagreement is resolved, the recipient should not draw down on the funds provided by this award/amendment, and any costs incurred by the recipient are at its own risk. This agreement is subject to applicable EPA regulatory and statutory provisions, all terms and conditions of this agreement and any attachments.			
ISSUING OFFICE (GRANTS MANAGEMENT OFFICE)		AWARD APPROVAL OFFICE	
ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS U.S. EPA, Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, GA 30303-8960		ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS U.S. EPA, Region 4, Gulf of America Division R4 - Region 4 2510 14th Street, Suite 1212 Gulfport, MS 39501	
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY			
Digital signature applied by EPA Award Official Shantel Shelmon - Grants Management Officer			DATE 07/25/2025

EPA Funding Information

FUNDS	FORMER AWARD	THIS ACTION	AMENDED TOTAL
EPA Amount This Action	\$ 0	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000
EPA In-Kind Amount	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Unexpended Prior Year Balance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Other Federal Funds	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Recipient Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Local Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Other Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Allowable Project Cost	\$ 0	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000

Assistance Program	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority
66.475 - Geographic Programs - Gulf of America Program	Clean Water Act: Sec. 104(b)(3)	2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 1500 and 40 CFR 33

Fiscal									
Site Name	Req No	FY	Approp. Code	Budget Organization	PRC	Object Class	Site/Project	Cost Organization	Obligation / Deobligation
-	2504M5G016	242 5	B	04M	000B65	4183	-	-	\$ 750,000
									\$ 750,000

Budget Summary Page

Table A - Object Class Category (Non-Construction)	Total Approved Allowable Budget Period Cost
1. Personnel	\$ 153,121
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 27,216
3. Travel	\$ 10,380
4. Equipment	\$ 0
5. Supplies	\$ 14,479
6. Contractual	\$ 20,000
7. Construction	\$ 0
8. Other	\$ 463,500
9. Total Direct Charges	\$ 688,696
10. Indirect Costs: 15.00 % Base mtdc	\$ 61,304
11. Total (Share: Recipient <u>0.00</u> % Federal <u>100.00</u> %)	\$ 750,000
12. Total Approved Assistance Amount	\$ 750,000
13. Program Income	\$ 0
14. Total EPA Amount Awarded This Action	\$ 750,000
15. Total EPA Amount Awarded To Date	\$ 750,000

Administrative Conditions

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The General Terms and Conditions of this agreement are updated in accordance with the link below. However, these updated conditions apply solely to the funds added with this amendment and any previously awarded funds not yet disbursed by the recipient as of the award date of this amendment. The General Terms and Conditions cited in the original award or prior funded amendments remain in effect for funds disbursed by the recipient prior to the award date of this amendment.

The recipient agrees to comply with the current EPA general terms and conditions available at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-general-terms-and-conditions-effective-october-1-2024-or-later>

These terms and conditions are binding for disbursements and are in addition to or modify the assurances and certifications made as a part of the award and the terms, conditions, or restrictions cited throughout the award.

The EPA repository for the general terms and conditions by year can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grant-terms-and-conditions#general>.

A. Correspondence Condition

The terms and conditions of this agreement require the submittal of reports, specific requests for approval, or notifications to EPA. Unless otherwise noted, all such correspondence should be sent to the following email addresses:

- Federal Financial Reports (SF-425): rtpfc-grants@epa.gov and Holley Taylor, Taylor.Holley@epa.gov
- All other forms/certifications/assurances, Indirect Cost Rate Agreements, Requests for Extensions of the Budget and Project Period, Amendment Requests, Requests for other Prior Approvals, updates to recipient information (including email addresses, changes in contact information or changes in authorized representatives) and other notifications: Holley Taylor, Taylor.Holley@epa.gov and Allison VanWyk, VanWyk.Alison@epa.gov, 404-562-9157
- Payment requests (if applicable): Holley Taylor, Taylor.Holley@epa.gov and Allison VanWyk, VanWyk.Alison@epa.gov, 404-562-9157
- Quality Assurance documents, workplan revisions, equipment lists, programmatic reports and deliverables: Allison VanWyk, VanWyk.Alison@epa.gov, 404-562-9157

B. New Recipient Training Requirement

The recipient agrees to complete the [EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients](#) and the [How to Develop a Budget](#) training within 90 calendar days of the date of award of this agreement. The recipient must notify the Grant Specialist via email when the required training is complete. For additional information on this training requirement, the recipient should refer to [RAIN-2024-G01](#).

Programmatic Conditions

Gulf of America Programmatic Terms and Conditions (Effective 10/01/2024)

A. Performance Reporting and Final Performance Report

Performance Reports – Content

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.329, the recipient agrees to submit performance reports that include information on each of the following areas: 1) A comparison of accomplishments to the outputs/outcomes established in the assistance agreement work plan for the reporting period; 2) explanations on why established outputs/outcomes were not met; and 3) Additional information, analysis, and explanation of cost overruns or higher-than-expected-unit costs.

Additionally, the recipient agrees to notify the Environmental Protection Agency when a significant development occurs that could impact the award. Significant developments include events that enable meeting milestones and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or that produce different beneficial results than originally planned. Significant developments also include problems, delays, or adverse conditions which will impact the ability to meet the milestones or objectives of the award, including outputs/outcomes specified in the assistance agreement work plan. If the significant developments negatively impact the award, the recipient must include information on their plan for corrective action and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.

Performance Reports - Frequency

The recipient agrees to submit **quarterly** performance reports to the EPA Project Officer. Quarterly reports are due within 30 days after the reporting period (every 3-month period).

The recipient must submit the final performance report no later than 120 calendar days after the period of performance.

Subaward Performance Reporting

The recipient must report on its subaward monitoring activities under 2 CFR 200.332(e). Examples of items that must be reported if the pass-through entity has the information available are:

1. Summaries of results of reviews of financial and programmatic reports.
2. Summaries of findings from site visits and/or desk reviews to ensure effective subrecipient performance.
3. Environmental results the subrecipient achieved.
4. Summaries of audit findings and related pass-through entity management decisions.
5. Actions the pass-through entity has taken to correct deficiencies such as those specified

at 2 CFR 200.332(f), 2 CFR 200.208, and 2 CFR 200.339 Remedies for Noncompliance.

Note: EPA Project Officers may customize this reporting requirement based on programmatic information needs.

B. Cybersecurity Condition

Cybersecurity Grant Condition for Other Recipients, Including Intertribal Consortia

(a) The recipient agrees that when collecting and managing environmental data under this assistance agreement, it will protect the data by following all applicable State or Tribal law cybersecurity requirements.

(b) (1) EPA must ensure that any connections between the recipient's network or information system and EPA networks used by the recipient to transfer data under this agreement, are secure. For purposes of this Section, a connection is defined as a dedicated persistent interface between an Agency IT system and an external IT system for the purpose of transferring information. Transitory, user-controlled connections such as website browsing are excluded from this definition.

If the recipient's connections as defined above do not go through the Environmental Information Exchange Network or EPA's Central Data Exchange, the recipient agrees to contact the EPA Project Officer (PO) no later than 90 days after the date of this award and work with the designated Regional/Headquarters Information Security Officer to ensure that the connections meet EPA security requirements, including entering into Interconnection Service Agreements as appropriate. This condition does not apply to manual entry of data by the recipient into systems operated and used by EPA's regulatory programs for the submission of reporting and/or compliance data.

(2) The recipient agrees that any subawards it makes under this agreement will require the subrecipient to comply with the requirements in (b)(1) if the subrecipient's network or information system is connected to EPA networks to transfer data to the Agency using systems other than the Environmental Information Exchange Network or EPA's Central Data Exchange. The recipient will be in compliance with this condition: by including this requirement in subaward agreements; and during subrecipient monitoring deemed necessary by the recipient or subrecipient under 2 CFR 200.332(e), by inquiring whether the subrecipient has contacted the EPA Project Officer. Nothing in this condition requires the recipient to contact the EPA Project Officer on behalf of a subrecipient or to be involved in the negotiation of an Interconnection Service Agreement between the subrecipient and EPA.

C. Competency Policy

Competency of Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data

In accordance with Agency Policy Directive Number FEM-2012-02, Policy to Assure the Competency of Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data under Agency-Funded Assistance Agreements.

Recipient agrees, by entering into this agreement, that it has demonstrated competency prior to award, or alternatively, where a pre-award demonstration of competency is not practicable, Recipient agrees to demonstrate competency prior to carrying out any activities under the award involving the generation or use of environmental data. Recipient shall maintain competency for the duration of the project period of this agreement and this will be documented during the annual reporting process. A copy of the Policy is available online at <https://www.epa.gov/measurements-modeling/documents-about-measurement-competency-under-assistance-agreements> or a copy may also be requested by contacting the EPA Project Officer for this award.

D. QUALITY ASSURANCE

Authority: Quality Assurance applies to all assistance agreements involving environmental information as defined in [2 C.F.R. § 1500.12](#) Quality Assurance.

The recipient shall ensure that subawards involving environmental information issued under this agreement include appropriate quality requirements for the work. The recipient shall ensure sub-award recipients develop and implement Quality Assurance (QA) planning documents in accordance with this term and condition; and/or ensure sub-award recipients implement all applicable approved QA planning documents.

2. Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)

a. Prior to beginning environmental information operations, the recipient must:

i. Develop a QAPP,

ii. Prepare QAPP in accordance with the current version of EPA's [Quality Assurance Project Plan \(QAPP\) Standard](#),

iii. Submit the document for EPA review, and

iv. Obtain EPA Quality Assurance Manager or designee (hereafter referred to as QAM) approval.

b. The recipient must submit the QAPP 90 days before initiation of environmental information generating operations.

c. The recipient shall notify the PO and QAM when substantive changes are needed to the QAPP. EPA may require the QAPP be updated and re-submitted for approval.

d. The recipient must review their approved QAPP at least annually. The results of the QAPP review and any revisions must be submitted to the PO and the QAM at least annually and may also be submitted when changes occur.

e. The recipient must submit a QAPP crosswalk/checklist with the QAPP.

For Reference:

- [Quality Management Plan \(QMP\) Standard and EPA's Quality Assurance Project Plan \(QAPP\) Standard](#); contain quality specifications for EPA and non-EPA organizations and definitions applicable to these terms and conditions.
- [EPA QA/G-5: Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans](#).
- [EPA's Quality Program](#) website has a [list of QA managers](#), and [Specifications for EPA and Non-EPA Organizations](#).
- The Office of Grants and Debarment [Implementation of Quality Assurance Requirements for Organizations Receiving EPA Financial Assistance](#).

E. Use of Logos

If the EPA logo is appearing along with logos from other participating entities on websites, outreach materials, or reports, it must **not** be prominently displayed to imply that any of the recipient or subrecipient's activities are being conducted by the EPA. Instead, the EPA logo should be accompanied with a statement indicating that the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program received financial support from the EPA under an Assistance Agreement. More information is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/stylebook/using-epa-seal-and-logo#policy>

F. National Programmatic Term and Condition for Fellowship, Internship Programs and Similar Programs Supported by EPA Financial Assistance

1. EPA funds for this program may only be used for participant support cost payments, scholarships, tuition remission and other forms of student aid for citizens of the United States, its territories, or possessions, or for individuals lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.
2. The recipient and program participants are responsible for taxes, if any, on payments made to or on behalf of individuals participating in this program that are allowable as participant support costs under 2 CFR 200.1 or [2 CFR 200.456](#) and scholarships and other forms of student aid such as tuition remission under [2 CFR 200.466](#). EPA encourages recipients and program participants to consult their tax advisers, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or state and local tax authorities regarding the taxability of stipends, tuition remission and other payments. However, EPA does not provide advice on tax issues relating to these payments.
3. Participant support cost payments, scholarships, and other forms of student aid such as tuition remission are lower tiered covered Nonprocurement transactions for the purposes of [2 CFR 180.300](#) and EPA's Suspension and Debarment Term and Condition. Recipients, therefore, may not make participant support cost payments to individuals who are excluded from participation in Federal Nonprocurement programs under [2 CFR Part 180](#). Recipients are responsible for checking the eligibility of program participants in the System for Award Management (SAM) or obtaining eligibility certifications from the program participants.

See [EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs](#) and [RAIN-2019-G09](#).

G. WQX Data Reporting

The recipient agrees to enter water quality monitoring data, for data collected in a waterbody pursuant to the implementation of a Gulf of America Division project, into EPA's "Water Quality Exchange" (WQX) data system. All water quality data generated with Gulf of America Division funding, either directly or by sub-award, are required to be transmitted into the Water Quality Portal using either the Water Quality Exchange (WQX) or WQXweb. More information on WQX can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data-wqx>.

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): <input type="text"/> * Other (Specify): <input type="text"/>
--	--	--

* 3. Date Received: <input type="text" value="Completed by Grants.gov upon submission."/>	4. Applicant Identifier: <input type="text"/>
--	--

5a. Federal Entity Identifier: <input type="text"/>	5b. Federal Award Identifier: <input type="text"/>
--	---

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State: <input type="text"/>	7. State Application Identifier: <input type="text"/>
---	---

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: <input type="text" value="Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc."/>	
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): <input type="text" value="93-1499384"/>	* c. UEI: <input type="text" value="W4XTAT4CFNP4"/>

d. Address:

* Street1: <input type="text" value="226 Palafox Place, 5th floor"/>
Street2: <input type="text"/>
* City: <input type="text" value="Pensacola"/>
County/Parish: <input type="text"/>
* State: <input type="text" value="FL: Florida"/>
Province: <input type="text"/>
* Country: <input type="text" value="USA: UNITED STATES"/>
* Zip / Postal Code: <input type="text" value="32502-5846"/>

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name: <input type="text"/>	Division Name: <input type="text"/>
---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix: <input type="text"/>	* First Name: <input type="text" value="Matt"/>
Middle Name: <input type="text"/>	
* Last Name: <input type="text" value="Posner"/>	
Suffix: <input type="text"/>	
Title: <input type="text" value="Executive Director"/>	
Organizational Affiliation: <input type="text" value="Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program"/>	
* Telephone Number: <input type="text" value="8505950820"/>	Fax Number: <input type="text"/>
* Email: <input type="text" value="mjposner@ppbep.org"/>	

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

B: County Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

N: Nonprofit without 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.475

CFDA Title:

Geographic Programs ??? Gulf of Mexico Program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

EPA-R4-GM-2024-WQM

* Title:

Understanding Water Quality through Monitoring Activities

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Establishing a Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative for Pensacola and Perdido Bays

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant

* b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

* b. End Date:

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="750,000.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="750,000.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

Yes No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:
Middle Name:
* Last Name:
Suffix:

* Title:

* Telephone Number: Fax Number:

* Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

* Date Signed:



Preaward Compliance Review Report for All Applicants and Recipients Requesting EPA Financial Assistance

Note: Read Instructions before completing form.

I. A. Applicant/Recipient (Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code)

Name:

Address:

City:

State: Zip Code:

B. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

C. Applicant/Recipient Point of Contact

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Title:

II. Is the applicant currently receiving EPA Assistance? Yes No

III. List all pending civil rights lawsuits and administrative complaints filed under federal law against the applicant/recipient that allege discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Do not include employment complaints not covered by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7.)

IV. List all civil rights lawsuits and administrative complaints decided against the applicant/recipient within the last year that alleged discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and enclose a copy of all decisions. Please describe all corrective actions taken. (Do not include employment complaints not covered by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7.)

V. List all civil rights compliance reviews of the applicant/recipient conducted under federal nondiscrimination laws by any federal agency within the last two years and enclose a copy of the review and any decisions, orders, or agreements based on the review. Please describe any corrective action taken. (40 C.F.R. § 7.80(c)(3))

VI. Is the applicant requesting EPA assistance for new construction? If no, proceed to VII; if yes, answer (a) and/or (b) below.

Yes No

a. If the grant is for new construction, will all new facilities or alterations to existing facilities be designed and constructed to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities? If yes, proceed to VII; if no, proceed to VI(b).

Yes No

b. If the grant is for new construction and the new facilities or alterations to existing facilities will not be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, explain how a regulatory exception (40 C.F.R. 7.70) applies.

- VII. Does the applicant/recipient provide initial and continuing notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in its program or activities? (40 C.F.R 5.140 and 7.95) Yes No
- a. Do the methods of notice accommodate those with impaired vision or hearing? Yes No
- b. Is the notice posted in a prominent place in the applicant's/recipient's website, in the offices or facilities or, for education programs and activities, in appropriate periodicals and other written communications? Yes No
- c. Does the notice identify a designated civil rights coordinator? Yes No
- VIII. Does the applicant/recipient maintain demographic data on the race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability status of the population it serves? (40 C.F.R. 7.85(a)) Yes No
- IX. Does the applicant/recipient have a policy/procedure for providing meaningful access to services for persons with limited English proficiency? (Title VI, 40 C.F.R. Part 7, *Lau v Nichols* 414 U.S. (1974)) Yes No
- X. If the applicant is an education program or activity, or has 15 or more employees, has it designated an employee to coordinate its compliance with 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7? Provide the name, title, position, mailing address, e-mail address, fax number, and telephone number of the designated coordinator.

N/A

- XI. If the applicant is an education program or activity, or has 15 or more employees, has it adopted grievance procedures that assure the prompt and fair resolution of complaints that allege a violation of 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7? Provide a legal citation or applicant's/recipient's website address for, or a copy of, the procedures.

N/A

For the Applicant/Recipient

I certify that the statements I have made on this form and all attachments thereto are true, accurate and complete. I acknowledge that any knowingly false or misleading statement may be punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under applicable law. I assure that I will fully comply with all applicable civil rights statutes and EPA regulations.

A. Signature of Authorized Official

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

B. Title of Authorized Official

Executive Director

C. Date

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

For the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

I have reviewed the information provided by the applicant/recipient and hereby certify that the applicant/recipient has submitted all preaward compliance information required by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7; that based on the information submitted, this application satisfies the preaward provisions of 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7; and that the applicant has given assurance that it will fully comply with all applicable civil rights statutes and EPA regulations.

A. *Signature of Authorized EPA Official

B. Title of Authorized Official

C. Date

General. Recipients of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must comply with the following statutes and regulations. Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The Act goes on to explain that the statute shall not be construed to authorize action with respect to any employment practice of any employer, employment agency, or labor organization (except where the primary objective of the Federal financial assistance is to provide employment). Section 13 of the 1972 Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act provides that no person in the United States shall on the ground of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended. Employment discrimination on the basis of sex is prohibited in all such programs or activities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall solely by reason of disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination on the basis of disability is prohibited in all such programs or activities. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 provides that no person on the basis of age shall be excluded from participation under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination is not covered. Age discrimination in employment is prohibited by the Age Discrimination in Employment Act administered by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 provides that no person in the United States on the basis of sex shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination on the basis of sex is prohibited in all such education programs or activities. Note: an education program or activity is not limited to only those conducted by a formal institution. 40 C.F.R. Part 5 implements Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. 40 C.F.R. Part 7 implements Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 13 of the 1972 Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Items "Applicant" means any entity that files an application or unsolicited proposal or otherwise requests EPA assistance. 40 C.F.R. §§ 5.105, 7.25. "Recipient" means any State or its political subdivision, any instrumentality of a State or its political subdivision, any public or private agency, institution, organizations, or other entity, or any person to which Federal financial assistance is extended directly or through another recipient, including any successor, assignee, or transferee of a recipient, but excluding the ultimate beneficiary of the assistance. 40 C.F.R. §§ 5.105, 7.25. "Civil rights lawsuits and administrative complaints" means any lawsuit or administrative complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability pending or decided against the applicant and/or entity which actually benefits from the grant, but excluding employment complaints not covered by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7. For example, if a city is the named applicant but the grant will actually benefit the Department of Sewage, civil rights lawsuits involving both the city and the Department of Sewage should be listed. "Civil rights compliance review" means: any federal agency-initiated investigation of a particular aspect of the applicant's and/or recipient's programs or activities to determine compliance with the federal non-discrimination laws. Submit this form with the original and required copies of applications, requests for extensions, requests for increase of funds, etc. Updates of information are all that are required after the initial application submission. If any item is not relevant to the project for which assistance is requested, write "NA" for "Not Applicable." In the event applicant is uncertain about how to answer any questions, EPA program officials should be contacted for clarification.

Project Narrative File(s)

* Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename:

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To add more Project Narrative File attachments, please use the attachment buttons below.

Add Optional Project Narrative File

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Funding Opportunity and FON: EPA-R4-GM-2024-WQM Understanding Water Quality through Monitoring Activities

Project Title: Establishing a Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative for Pensacola and Perdido Bays

Applicant: Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program

Contact: Matt Posner, Executive Director
226 Palafox Place, 5th floor, Pensacola, FL 32502
mjposner@ppbep.org; 850.595.0820

UEI: W4XTAT4CFNP4

Type of Organization: Local Government

Proposed Funding Request: \$750,000

Project Period: October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2028

Brief Project Description: The Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative is a partnership-based program that will establish a comprehensive network of sentinel sites to assess water quality status and trends for the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds, located in Northwest Florida and south Alabama. This network will build upon Florida and Alabama partnerships, including the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, City of Orange Beach, Escambia County, Santa Rosa County, Okaloosa County, and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and existing water quality monitoring programs to standardize monitoring parameters and methods to ensure data comparability across state lines to inform future water quality improvements.

Environmental Results: The Collaborative will complete monthly water quality monitoring for bacteria, nutrients, and standard physical parameters at 33 monitoring sites located across the greater Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds in Florida and Alabama. Over the three-year period, 1,188 samples will be collected. The results will be incorporated into the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program's biennial State of the Bays Report updates, data dashboards, and will inform development of water quality improvement target setting for both watersheds.

Place of Performance: Pensacola and Perdido Bay Watersheds, Florida and Alabama

Principle Place of Business: 226 Palafox Place, Pensacola, FL 32502, 5th Floor

8-digit HUCs: 03140305; 03140304; 03140106; 03140107; 03140105; 03140104; 03140103; 03140303; 03140301

Congressional Districts: FL-01; AL-01

PROJECT WORKPLAN

Section 1. Project Design

- A. What and Why:** The Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds span over 8,000 mi². Like much of the Gulf Coast, Pensacola and Perdido Bays experienced a decline in environmental quality beginning in the 1950s attributed to cumulative impacts of industrialization. Widespread declines in water quality, fish kills, habitat degradation, and lost productivity of fisheries were observed. As a result of the environmental movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, many point sources of pollution were addressed. While acute shocks and stressors remain (i.e. hurricanes and oil spills), resource managers in Northwest Florida and coastal Alabama over the last two decades have primarily focused on addressing chronic nonpoint source pollution (i.e. stormwater runoff) and legacy impairments (i.e. sediment quality). Today, resource managers continue to address those issues but are now integrating a systems-based approach to resource management, inclusive of whole-ecosystem resilience to use long-term trend datasets to inform management strategies and regulatory policies and decisions.

As a result, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Gulf of Mexico Division set aside RESTORE Act Component 2 funds to establish a new Estuary Program in the northern Gulf Coast in 2017. Following a competitive grant process among three programs, the proposal to establish the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) was awarded and PPBEP was established in late 2018. PPBEP adheres to the highly successful EPA National Estuary Program framework, which include 28 non-regulatory, place-based, and community-driven programs across the country that use a watershed approach to develop Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMP).

As part of the development of the CCMP, an actionable roadmap for improving the health and resilience of the watersheds and communities, PPBEP utilized a participatory framework to gain an understanding of community values and codevelop actions that align with the best available science. PPBEP hosted several stakeholder workshops to help guide CCMP development and identify existing data gaps and priority actions. During this process, partners identified critical data gaps for environmental indicators, stressors, root causes, and potential priority actions to address these issues. Workshop outputs and partner feedback were synthesized into a CCMP action plan, which include relevant goals, objectives, actions, key partners, implementation strategies, and performance metrics for tracking success over time. The recommended actions in the CCMPs will guide PPBEP and its partners in identifying achievable targets for the restoration and long-term protection of the watersheds while maintaining a critical balance between human use and the health and resilience of ecosystems. The [CCMP](#) was adopted in October 2022, resulting in six goals, 26 objectives, and 51 actions.

In April 2023, PPBEP released the first [State of the Bays Report](#) for the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds. The State of the Bays Report is a compilation of data sources representing four indicator groups and thirteen indicators. The resulting Report revealed widespread water quality data gaps, and incompatible data sources due to differing standards and methods between Florida and Alabama, in both the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds. Status and trends were indeterminate for several parameters due to these data gaps.

In February 2024, PPBEP hosted a Comprehensive Monitoring Workshop with the goal of establishing a Comprehensive Monitoring Program framework. Over 50 partners participated,

representing over 30 diverse organizations across Alabama and Florida including local governments, state and federal agencies, academic institutions, community groups, and non-profit organizations. The workshop engaged participants to collaboratively determine priority monitoring parameters, review current and identify future monitoring locations, address data comparability to ensure equitable use of data, build capacity in under-resourced groups, and develop a strategy for long-term funding support. Workshop outputs included a comprehensive map of existing monitoring programs and prioritized locations for expansion or reestablishment of legacy monitoring sites to inform watershed status and trends. The workshop resulted in a Monitoring Network Collaborative whereby PPBEP will work with other partners to aide in securing funding, sharing resources, disseminating information, and engaging the community and incorporating data into resource management actions.

This project funds the Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative (Collaborative), a partnership-based program that will establish a comprehensive network of sentinel sites to assess water quality status and trends for the watersheds. This network will build upon Florida and Alabama partnerships and existing water quality monitoring programs to standardize monitoring parameters and methods to ensure data comparability across state lines. Having standardized data for both Florida and Alabama data will make data dissemination easier to the public and local decision makers. Local communities have continually expressed an interest in the health of their local waterways for fishing, swimming, and recreating. These data will improve the spatial and temporal resolution of water quality data which will enhance existing dashboards and tools (e.g., EPA's "How's My Waterway", Gulf of Mexico Open Data Platform) and create an opportunity for building a new Estuary Program focused dashboard to help visualize information from the collaborative to educate, inform, and connect our communities.

Long-term monitoring of the Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds is critical for PPBEP and its partners to assess environmental status and trends, track implementation of actions and programmatic success towards achieving measurable goals and informing local decision making. This project specifically implements PPBEP CCMP Goal 3: Improve Water Quality; Objective 3.1: Develop a comprehensive water quality monitoring program throughout the Pensacola and Perdido Bays watersheds; Action 3.1.1: Implement the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy by establishing a comprehensive watershed monitoring program that encompasses both watersheds across state lines; and Action 3.1.2: Develop water quality targets for Pensacola and Perdido Bays to meet surface water classification designations.

Specific goals of the project are to:

- Establish the Collaborative to leverage existing resources and monitoring programs to enhance understanding of water quality status and trends in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds.
- Establish 33 sites across the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds to conduct monthly water quality monitoring for the following priority parameters:
 - Secchi and total depth
 - In situ parameters (DO, turbidity, temperature, pH, salinity - surface and bottom)
 - Nutrients (TN, TP, Nitrate, Nitrite, TKN, Ammonium)
 - Chlorophyll-a
 - *E. Coli*, Enterococcus
- Upload data to the Water Quality Portal and through the following data platforms:
 - Gulf of Mexico Open Data Platform (GOMOD)

- Uploaded quarterly to PPBEP's new data dashboard for trend analysis
- PPBEP State of the Bays Report Updates (2027, 2029)
- Utilize data generated to inform natural resources management decisions, including future development of a water quality improvement action plan to be incorporated to a future update of PPBEP's CCMP.

How: PPBEP has selected the monitoring sites and parameters based on input received from partners at the February 2024 Comprehensive Monitoring Workshop. Sites are randomized and ensures statistical relevance to determine status and trends for each watershed. All sampling will be conducted by trained personnel and adhere to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Standard Operating Procedures. All samples will be processed in National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) certified laboratories.

The Collaborative will undertake the following activities to accomplish the goal:

1. Finalize site selection and sampling schedule with partners (Escambia County, Santa Rosa County, Okaloosa County, Poarch Creek Indians, City of Orange Beach)
2. Develop Quality Assurance Project Plan and ensure all personnel are appropriately trained
3. Hire intern and develop volunteer training program
4. Conduct monthly sampling, process samples, analyze data
5. Develop dashboard; incorporate data into the State of the Bays Report Updates

Where: The Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative will take place across the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds in Northwest Florida and coastal Alabama. Sites are distributed across coastal and upland counties in Alabama and Florida including Baldwin (AL), Conecuh (AL), Covington (AL), Escambia (AL), Escambia (FL), Santa Rosa (FL), and Okaloosa (FL). The locations selected for this Collaborative had been previously identified by partners at PPBEP's Comprehensive Monitoring Workshop in February 2024 as priority areas that filled both spatial and temporal data gaps and provided a comprehensive assessment of the watersheds, both coastal and uplands. Some of these sites were previously established monitoring locations (e.g., BFA, NCCA), but fifteen new sites will be added based on Program partner input. Please refer to Section 9 for the project map.

- B. EPA Strategic Plan Alignment:** The Collaborative meets the Gulf of Mexico Division's statutory authority as the Collaborative is a new partnership-based program developed to enhance water quality monitoring coordination across the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds. The Collaborative supports EPA's Strategic Plan Goal 5, Objective 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and watersheds by conducting water quality monitoring to enhance the understanding of water quality status and trends to inform natural resource management decisions and actions. The project will lead to improved understanding and management of two estuarine systems in Northwest Florida and coastal Alabama encompassing approximately 8,000 square miles.

Section 2. Environmental Results – Outputs and Outcomes

Project environmental results are detailed in the tables below.

OUTPUTS	
Establish Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative	Following award of the Grant Agreement, the Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative will be formally established through the adoption of an Interlocal Agreement by all participating organizations. PPBEP will serve as the conveyor and administrator of the Collaborative under the umbrella of PPBEP’s Management Conference.
Finalize Water Quality Monitoring Plan	Following award of the Grant Agreement and execution of the Interlocal Agreement, the Collaborative will finalize and adopt the Water Quality Monitoring Plan, which will include finalize of sampling locations, parameters, sampling schedules, and roles.
Monitor 33 Sites Monthly	The Collaborative will monitor 33 sites monthly for three years.
Collect and Analyze 1,188 Samples	Secchi and total depth: 33 samples x 12 months X 3 years = 1,188
	Environmental YSI parameters (DO, turbidity, temperature, pH, salinity): 51 samples (14 surface only; 18 surface and bottom) x 12 months x 3 years = 1,836
	Nutrients, chlorophyll-a: 51 (14 surface only; 18 surface and bottom) x 12 months x 3 years = 1,836
	Bacteria: <i>E.coli</i> = 14 stream sites x 12 months x 3 years = 504 ; <i>Enterococcus</i> = 18 estuarine sites (surface and bottom) x 12 months x 3 years = 648 for surface only
Update State of the Bays Report	Water quality data collected will be incorporated into PPBEP’s 2027 and 2029 State of the Bays Report biennial updates for natural resource management decision making and for community awareness and engagement.
Publish Data Dashboard	PPBEP will publish a new data dashboard to assess and analyze water quality status and trends.

The table below summarizes site locations, parameters, and frequency. The locations are identified in the project map in Section 9. Nutrients, *E. coli*, and enterococcus samples will adhere to NELAP certified lab standards and Florida Department of Environmental Protection Standard Operating Procedures.

Site No.	Location Type	Parameters	Frequency
<i>Sites numbers are located on the project map in Section 9.</i>			
1-4; 7-15	Streams	Secchi, total depth, DO, turbidity, temperature, pH, salinity, nutrients*, chlorophyll-a, E. coli	Monthly
5-6	Streams	Nutrients*	Monthly
16-33	Estuarine	Secchi, total depth, DO, turbidity, temperature, pH, salinity, nutrients*, chlorophyll-a, enterococcus	Monthly

*Total nitrogen, total phosphorous, total kjeldahl nitrogen, nitrate + nitrite, ammonium

OUTCOMES	
Enhanced Understanding of Water Quality Status and Trends in Two Estuaries	<p><i>Short-term: 1-5 Years</i></p> <p>Through the establishment of the Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative, understanding of water quality status and trends in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds will be improved. This will be measured through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Creation and Quarterly Updates to the Water Quality Dashboard ➤ Biennial Updates to the State of the Bays Report ➤ Annual Monitoring Report Summary
Adoption and Implementation of Water Quality Improvement Action Plan	<p><i>Medium-term: 5-10 Years</i></p> <p>Project outputs will lead to the development of a water quality improvement action plan and will be incorporated into the 2027 PPBEP CCMP update and the 2032 PPBEP CCMP full revision. The action plan will be developed in cooperation with local partners to prioritize future projects and funding decisions.</p>
Sustainment of the Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative	<p><i>Short-term: 1-5 Years</i></p> <p>The Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative will be sustained following the grant period through partner contributions to ensure the Collaborative continues to inform natural resource management decisions.</p>
Improved Water Quality in Two Estuaries	<p><i>Long-term: 10-15 Years</i></p> <p>Water quality trends for Pensacola and Perdido Bays will continue to improve and/or remain attaining standards.</p>

Section 3. Milestone Schedule

Project Tasks	Year 1 10/1/25-9/30/26				Year 2 10/1/26-9/30/27				Year 3 10/1/27-9/1/28			
	Q1 Oct-Dec	Q2 Jan-Mar	Q3 April-June	Q4 July-Sept	Q1 Oct-Dec	Q2 Jan-Mar	Q3 Apr-June	Q4 July-Sept	Q1 Oct-Dec	Q2 Jan-Mar	Q3 Apr-Mar	Q4 July-Sept
Finalize Site Design & Partner Sampling Schedule												
QAPP Development												
Student Training												
Monitoring & Sample Processing												
Data Analysis												
Dashboard Development												
Dashboard Published												
Quarterly Reports												
Final Report												

Section 4. Outreach and Communication

PPBEP will utilize a multi-pronged outreach strategy. First, PPBEP will engage its Management Conference throughout the duration of the project. PPBEP staff will provide quarterly updates to the PPBEP Technical Committee, comprised of over one hundred practitioners and interested parties. Staff will provide a brief to the PPBEP Board of Directors on water quality status and trends on an annual basis. The Board of Directors is comprised of local elected officials responsible for natural resource management decisions in Northwest Florida and coastal Alabama.

PPBEP will also utilize the results of the Collaborative to update its biennial State of the Bays Report. The State of the Bays Report is an interactive, public-facing web platform designed to serve as a resource for the general public, practitioners, and elected officials to understand status and trends of key ecosystem health indicators for the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds. The State of the Bays Report is the first of its kind resource in the Pensacola area and has become a widely known and utilized platform. The water quality results from this project will be incorporated into the 2027 and 2029 State of the Bays Report updates.

PPBEP will create a new data dashboard for water quality trend analysis. The dashboard is intended to serve resource managers by providing data updates at a greater frequency than the biennial State of the Bays Report. PPBEP envisions developing a similar platform to Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Water Quality Dashboard (<https://tbep.org/our-work/data-visualization/>). The dashboard will also serve as a companion resource to the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Gulf of Mexico Open Data Platform (GOMOD). As further detailed in Section 5, GOMOD serves as a data visualization tool for data exploration. While uploading the water quality data to the WQ Exchange and visualizing data on GOMOD will make the data accessible to anyone interested in the Gulf, it is not set up to perform data analyses. The new open science data dashboard PPBEP envisions will create a data analysis tool PPBEP and its partners will be able to use to inform development of water quality restoration targets and water quality improvement actions.

The data and associated analysis will be utilized to inform development and adoption of a water quality improvement action plan and will be incorporated into the 2027 PPBEP CCMP update and the 2032 PPBEP CCMP full revision. The action plan will be developed in cooperation with local partners to prioritize future projects and funding decisions.

In addition to the partners referenced in Section 5, PPBEP will create a paid intern position and provide stipends to volunteers for their assistance in the Collaborative. Participatory science is a great method to engage residents and visitors in better understanding and connecting with natural resources and the inherent challenges that result from managing natural resources. Volunteers will work with PPBEP and partners to assist with monitoring over the summer sampling seasons in 2026 and 2027. Volunteers will receive training and under the supervision of PPBEP staff. It is anticipated three interns and six volunteers will be engaged throughout the project.

Section 5. Partnerships

As mentioned in Section 1, the Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative is an outcome of PPBEP's Comprehensive Monitoring Workshop held in February 2024. The goal of the Collaborative is to leverage resources to grow a status and trends water quality monitoring network in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds to inform natural resource management decisions. This will inform future updates to PPBEP's State of the Bays Report, future CCMP updates, watershed assessments, and inform specific water quality improvement actions of each of the partners.

Currently, Escambia County, Santa Rosa County, and Okaloosa County in Florida, Orange Beach, AL, and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians are joining in the Collaborative and will perform water quality monitoring data collection at their respective proposed sites referenced in Section 2. The local governments and the Poarch Creek Indians all have existing monitoring programs. The Collaborative creates the first opportunity to leverage and integrate individual programs under one umbrella organizing team to result in an expanded sampling program with statistical relevance to evaluate status and trends of multiple water quality parameters.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) are also identified as partners in the Collaborative and support the work being proposed and will serve a technical advisory role in the Collaborative. Though FDEP and ADEM are not requesting funding through the Collaborative, the results will be uploaded to the Water Quality Exchange and each state's water quality database for use in future watershed assessment determinations. PPBEP will also engage the Northwest Florida Water Management District to ensure monitoring results are reflected in future status updates to their respective Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plans for Pensacola and Perdido Bays.

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) will also be engaged throughout this project. GOMA is currently working with PPBEP, and other Estuary Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR) along the Gulf Coast, to create estuary specific data dashboards on GOMA's Open Data Platform (GOMOD). The dashboard project is being led by GOMA's Data and Monitoring Team through NOAA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to support implementation of GOMA's Governor's Action Plan IV goals. In early 2025, representatives from each EP and NERR are invited to attend a GOMA led workshop to co-develop these dashboard frameworks to ensure alignment and comparability across programs. PPBEP will work with GOMA to ensure all data collected is uploaded to the Water Quality Exchange and visualized on GOMOD. PPBEP and Collaborative partners will follow guidance provided by GOMA and its regional partners regarding data comparability/compatibility. PPBEP staff serve on several GOMA teams including Data and Monitoring, Habitat Resources, Coastal Community Resilience, and Education and Engagement. Currently, the Data and Monitoring team are working with partners to conduct an in-depth analysis of water quality programs and parameters from across the GoM to provide guidance on data gaps, analytical methods, accessibility, and collaborative opportunities. PPBEP will stay apprised to the outcomes of this project and be sure to incorporate these guiding principles into our future Collaborative planning and training modules.

Finally, PPBEP works extensively with the Mississippi Sound Estuary Program and the St. Andrews and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program. All three Estuary Programs initially explored submitting one joint proposal, however each program elected to submit individually due to the funding ceiling placed on this grant opportunity. If all three proposals are funded, the Estuary Programs will work collaboratively and in good faith to leverage a knowledge transfer across the central Gulf Coast from Mississippi to Northwest Florida.

Section 6. Past Performance and Programmatic Capability

PPBEP was established in 2018 through Interlocal Agreement among nine local governments in Florida and Alabama after securing a \$2 million RESTORE Act grant from the U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Division to coordinate watershed-scale restoration, monitoring, and education across the Pensacola and Perdido Bay systems. The CCMP – A Prescription for Healthy Bays – serves as PPBEP's 10-year guiding blueprint.

While initially hosted by Escambia County, FL, PPBEP became an independent agency in October 2023 and is established as a not-for-profit corporation serving as an instrumentality of government. By IRS definition, PPBEP remains classified as a local government. PPBEP is overseen by a Board of Directors with an appointed Executive Director executing day-to-day operations. PPBEP has a staff of eight including, environmental scientists, project managers, outreach specialists, and grant administrative staff.

PPBEP is currently managing multiple federal and state grants valued at over \$15 million. The largest, nearly an \$11 million investment from NOAA for the Transformational Habitat and Coastal Resilience Grant, is funding planning, design, and permitting, and partial construction funding of the Pensacola Bay

System Oyster Restoration Initiative. For more information on PPBEP, please visit www.ppbep.org.

1. NOAA Cooperative Agreement No. NA23NMF4630079
PPBEP is currently implementing the Pensacola Bay Oyster Restoration Initiative through NOAA Cooperative Agreement No. NA23NMF4630079. This is the first federal award since PPBEP reorganized as an independent agency in October 2023. Implementation of the scope of work is ongoing. While minor delays were encountered onboarding new staff to implement certain scope tasks, no other significant delays have been encountered that will impact successful delivery of the project. All reporting has been completed on schedule.
2. EPA Cooperative Agreement No. 00D81118
Please note: EPA Cooperative Agreement No. 00D81118 was awarded to the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners on behalf of PPBEP. Escambia County served as PPBEP's host agency until October 2023 when PPBEP reorganized as an independent agency. Escambia County was responsible for administration of this Agreement.

All deliverables and reporting requirements were achieved, though delays were experienced completing the scope of work. This was the result of three primary impacts. The first was related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, which delayed onboarding new staff and necessitating a change to move all planned engagements from in-person to a virtual setting. Additionally, Hurricane Sally in September 2020 and changes in personnel delayed the start of CCMP development and associated tasks. Ultimately, all tasks were successfully completed.

This Agreement funded the establishment of PPBEP and production of its first CCMP. All deliverables were successfully accomplished and are detailed in the EPA approved Final Report. This includes an approved CCMP, Monitoring Strategy, Education and Outreach Strategy, and Finance Strategy. As a result, PPBEP has established itself as integral regional non-regulatory, science-based, partnership-driven organization that has secured over \$25 million since establishment to implement priority CCMP actions.

3. EPA Grant Agreement No. 01D08220
Please note: EPA Grant Agreement No. 01D08220 was awarded to the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners on behalf of PPBEP. Escambia County served as PPBEP's host agency until October 2023 when PPBEP reorganized as an independent agency. Escambia County is responsible for administration of this Agreement.

While there have been minor delays submitting progress reports, all deliverables and reporting requirements have either been accomplished or are in the process of being accomplished. Like the EPA Cooperative Agreement referenced above, delays were experienced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and personnel changes. An additional primary delay resulted from backordered materials needed to implement trash prevention measures. PPBEP, on behalf of the County, is nearing final completion of all tasks and deliverables.

Matt Posner, Executive Director, PPBEP

- Role: Authorized Official and Project Director. Will oversee overall compliance and approvals.
- Expertise: Project Management, Grant Management, Administration, Funding
- Prior Experience: Matt has served as Executive Director of PPBEP since November 2021 and prior to that served as the Escambia County RESTORE Program Manager from August 2018 to

November 2021. Matt has managed over \$50 million in federal and state grants.

Whitney Scheffel, Senior Scientist, PPBEP

- Role: Monitoring Co-Lead. Will oversee quality assurance, monitoring coordination, and State of the Bays Report and data dashboard development.
- Expertise: Coastal Monitoring and Research, Project Management
- Prior Experience: Prior to joining PPBEP, Whitney was a Lab Manager at the University of Florida Nature Coast Biological Station and previously with Dauphin Island Sea Lab as a Project Manager.

Haley Gancel, Ph.D., Environmental Scientist, PPBEP

- Role: Monitoring Co-Lead. Will oversee day-to-day monitoring coordination, assist with quality assurance, and lead State of the Bays Report updates and data dashboard development.
- Expertise: Coastal Monitoring and Research, Project Management
- Prior Experience: Prior to joining PPBEP, Haley was a post-doctoral associate with the University of Florida, and previously with Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

Chloe Ray, Environmental Technician, PPBEP

- Role: Monitoring Field Lead. Will oversee data collection and support data analysis.
- Expertise: Water Quality Monitoring
- Prior Experience: Prior to joining PPBEP, Chloe coordinated monitoring with Mobile Baykeeper and previously was an Environmental Specialist with the Florida DEP.

Section 7. Timely Expenditure of Award

Upon execution of a Grant Agreement with EPA, PPBEP will execute subaward agreements with each subrecipient and execute a contract for laboratory analytical services. A revised project schedule will be adopted upon award. PPBEP will monitor subrecipient compliance and performance through quarterly progress reporting and bi-monthly team meetings. Following completion of quarterly reporting, PPBEP anticipates submitting reimbursement requests on a quarterly basis (or no more frequently than monthly) for services rendered for the preceding quarter.

PPBEP's Environmental Scientist will oversee project coordination. PPBEP's Environmental Technician will lead field monitoring. The field monitoring schedule, lab analysis, and progress reporting schedule will be documented in PPBEP's annual workplan.

PPBEP segregates grant funding by fund and cost center in its accounting system to ensure clear and distinguished accounting to minimize potential co-mingling of funds. In accordance with PPBEP's Operations Manual, PPBEP's Finance Manager and Executive Director will review and approve expenditures and resource allocation at minimum on a quarterly basis (or no more frequently than monthly). Upon submittal of invoices from subrecipients and/or contractors, PPBEP's Finance Manager will review invoices for completeness including substantiating expenditures with appropriate backup documentation. The Finance Manager will also ensure internal expenditures, including personnel time, supplies, and travel related expenses are appropriately tracked in the associated cost center. The Executive Director will review for completeness and signoff prior to distribution of funds or requesting a reimbursement request. PPBEP's external accounting services provider produces quarterly financial statements that are reviewed by PPBEP's Finance Subcommittee and approved by PPBEP's Board of Directors.

In the event project work is off schedule or funding needs to be reallocated due to unforeseen circumstances, PPBEP will coordinate with EPA as soon as practical to evaluate options to allow the scope of work to be executed.

Section 8. Detailed Budget Narrative

Total Budget Request: \$750,000

Personnel: \$127,498

Environmental Scientist: PPBEP's Environmental Scientist will oversee data management, data analysis, data dashboard development, development of the State of the Bays Reports, and field support as needed. Salary was calculated using a base rate of \$31.86/hour with a 3% COLA each year.

Environmental Technician: PPBEP Environmental Technician will oversee field data collection for PPBEP, assist with oversight of subrecipient compliance, and assist the Environmental Scientist with data analysis support. Salary is based on \$20.60/hour with a 3% COLA each year.

Intern: PPBEP will offer one paid internship for each year of the project. The Intern will assist the Environmental Technician with field data collection and multiparameter instrument maintenance and calibration. Salary is based on \$15.00/hour. A COLA is not included.

Fringe: \$24,209

PPBEP utilizes a fringe rate of 30%. Fringe includes employee retirement, health and dental insurance, and AD&D coverage. Fringe is provided for only full-time employees and does not include the paid internship.

Travel: \$10,380

\$5,760 for travel within the watershed to enable use of PPBEP's vehicle and vessel to complete monitoring activities for monthly sampling and transit to the lab for analysis.

\$4,620 to enable three PPBEP staff to attend the National Water Quality Monitoring Conference to present findings of the Collaborative.

Supplies: \$14,217

\$6,000 for water quality data sonde calibration standards to enable use of PPBEP's multi-parameter water quality sensors for data collection.

\$3,000 for purchase of bottles for water quality samples.

\$3,000 for field consumables, including but not limited to wipes, batteries, gloves, ice, for field sample collection.

\$1,500 for replacement of one laptop computer for data processing, analysis, and publication.

\$717 for general office supplies for implementation of the project.

Contractual: \$20,000

\$20,000 is budgeted for contractual services to assist PPBEP with development of a data dashboard that will enable PPBEP and its partners to visualize and analyze water quality trends. PPBEP anticipates establishing an open science platform, similar to the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Water Quality

Dashboard. Services will help PPBEP with dashboard layout and coding services. PPBEP will procure services in accordance with its procurement policies and in compliance with 2 CFR 200.

Other: \$463,500

\$315,000 is budgeted for laboratory analysis. Pricing is detailed below and is based on costs provided by Escambia County’s laboratory. Total cost has been rounded up from \$312,768 to \$315,000 to account for fluctuations in pricing.

Parameter	Sites/Month	Total Samples	Unit Costs	Total
Total coliform w/E. coli Confirmation	24	864	\$26.00	\$22,464.00
Enterococcus	24	864	\$26.00	\$22,464.00
Ammonium	48	1728	\$23.00	\$39,744.00
Nitrate	48	1728	\$23.00	\$39,744.00
TKN	48	1728	\$23.00	\$39,744.00
Total Nitrogen	48	1728	\$23.00	\$39,744.00
Total Phosphorus	48	1728	\$23.00	\$39,744.00
Chlorophyll-a	48	1728	\$40.00	\$69,120.00
Total:				\$312,768.00

The City of Orange Beach will receive a subaward in the amount of \$33,000 to assist with monthly water quality sampling in Perdido Bay. Costs cover Orange Beach personnel time, travel for vehicle and vessel use, field supplies, and indirect costs.

Escambia County will receive a subaward in the amount of \$33,000 to assist with monthly water quality sampling in Perdido Bay and Escambia Bay. Costs cover County travel for vehicle and vessel use, field supplies, and indirect costs. Escambia County is providing personnel time in-kind.

Santa Rosa County will receive a subaward in the amount of \$37,500 to assist with monthly water quality sampling in Blackwater Bay, East Bay, Santa Rosa Sound, and upstream sites in Santa Rosa County. Costs cover County travel for vehicle and vessel use, field supplies, and indirect costs. Santa Rosa County is providing personnel time in-kind.

Okaloosa County will receive a subaward in the amount of \$15,000 to assist with monthly water quality sampling in upstream sites located in Okaloosa County. Costs cover County travel for vehicle use, field supplies, and indirect costs. Okaloosa County is providing personnel time in-kind.

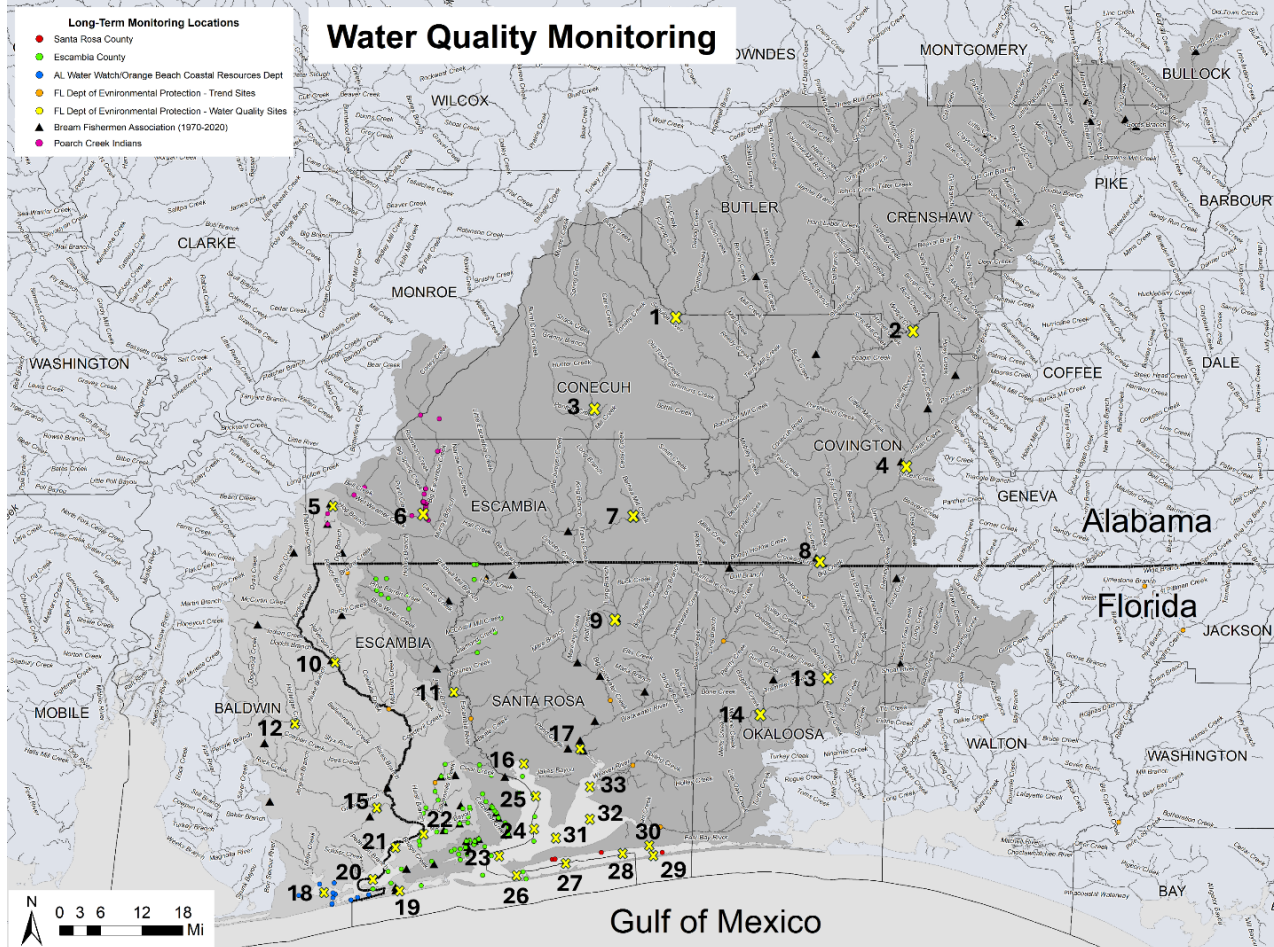
The Poarch Band of Creek Indians will receive a subaward in the amount of \$15,000 to assist with monthly water quality sampling in upstream sites in Alabama. Costs cover Poarch Creek Indians travel for vehicle use, field supplies, and indirect costs. Poarch Band of Creek Indians is providing personnel time in-kind.

\$15,000 is budgeted for student volunteer stipends to assist with summer monitoring in summer 2026 and summer 2027. Costs cover transportation, training, and PPE.

Indirect: \$90,196

Indirect is based on Modified Total Direct Costs utilizing the new federal de minimis rate of 15%.

Section 9. Map(s)



Map showing proposed site locations for the Water Quality Monitoring Collaborative (yellow x's). Circles indicate partner programs with multi-year datasets that were sampled in 2023. Triangles indicate a previous long-term monitoring program that has extensive coverage across the watersheds.

Section 10. Quality Assurance

PPBEP is committed to ensuring the highest degree of quality assurance is provided throughout the duration of the project. As mentioned above, it is PPBEP's intent through the Collaborative to standardize nutrient and bacteria sampling standard operating procedures to allow for comparability across Florida and Alabama. PPBEP has an existing Quality Management Plan (QMP) that has been approved by EPA Region 4. The QMP will be resubmitted to EPA for review and approval. PPBEP's Senior Scientist and Environmental Scientist will oversee quality assurance compliance. PPBEP will work with EPA and Collaborative partners to execute a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and ensure all sub-awardees collecting environmental data adhere to the QAPP. PPBEP will ensure all individuals responsible for data collection are appropriately trained in standard operating and QA/QC procedures. PPBEP may conduct field audits to ensure staff are adhering to QAPP protocols. All water quality samples will be processed in National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) certified labs. All water quality data that has adhered to the quality assurance and quality control protocols in the QAPP will be uploaded to the Water Quality Exchange at minimum on an annual basis.



EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM

OMB Number: 2030-0020
Expiration Date: 06/30/2024

Authorized Representative: *Original awards and amendments will be sent to this individual for review and acceptance, unless otherwise indicated.*

Name: Prefix: **First Name:** **Middle Name:**
Last Name: **Suffix:**
Title:

Complete Address:
Street1:
Street2:
City: **State:**
Zip / Postal Code: **Country:**
Phone Number: **Fax Number:**
E-mail Address:

Payee: *Individual authorized to accept payments.*

Name: Prefix: **First Name:** **Middle Name:**
Last Name: **Suffix:**
Title:

Complete Address:
Street1:
Street2:
City: **State:**
Zip / Postal Code: **Country:**
Phone Number: **Fax Number:**
E-mail Address:

Administrative Contact: *Individual from Sponsored Programs Office to contact concerning administrative matters (i.e., indirect cost rate computation, rebudgeting requests etc).*

Name: Prefix: **First Name:** **Middle Name:**
Last Name: **Suffix:**
Title:

Complete Address:
Street1:
Street2:
City: **State:**
Zip / Postal Code: **Country:**
Phone Number: **Fax Number:**
E-mail Address:

EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM

Project Manager: *Individual responsible for the technical completion of the proposed work.*

Name: Prefix: **First Name:** **Middle Name:**
Last Name: **Suffix:**
Title:

Complete Address:

Street1:
Street2:
City: **State:**
Zip / Postal Code: **Country:**
Phone Number: **Fax Number:**
E-mail Address:

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. EPA-R4-GM-2024-WQM	66.475	\$	\$	\$ 750,000.00	\$	\$ 750,000.00
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$	\$	\$ 750,000.00	\$	\$ 750,000.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	EPA-R4-GM-2024-WQM				
a. Personnel	\$ 127,498.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 127,498.00
b. Fringe Benefits	24,209.00				24,209.00
c. Travel	10,380.00				10,380.00
d. Equipment					
e. Supplies	14,217.00				14,217.00
f. Contractual	20,000.00				20,000.00
g. Construction					
h. Other	463,500.00				463,500.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	659,804.00				\$ 659,804.00
j. Indirect Charges	90,196.00				\$ 90,196.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 750,000.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 750,000.00
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

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SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES

(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS
8. EPA-R4-GM-2024-WQM	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
9. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
10. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
11. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS

	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ <input type="text" value="250,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="62,500.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="62,500.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="62,500.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="62,500.00"/>
14. Non-Federal	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ <input type="text" value="250,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="62,500.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="62,500.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="62,500.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="62,500.00"/>

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT

(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)			
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16. EPA-R4-GM-2024-WQM	\$ <input type="text" value="250,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="250,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
17. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
18. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
19. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)	\$ <input type="text" value="250,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="250,000.00"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION

21. Direct Charges: <input type="text"/>	22. Indirect Charges: <input type="text"/>
23. Remarks: <input type="text"/>	

Other Attachment File(s)

* Mandatory Other Attachment Filename:

[Add Mandatory Other Attachment](#)

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To add more "Other Attachment" attachments, please use the attachment buttons below.

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The following attachment is not included in the view since it is not a read-only PDF file.

Upon submission, this file will be transmitted to the Grantor without any data loss.

Budget Table--Final.xlsx

Matthew J. Posner

Executive Director

Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
226 Palafox Place, 5th floor, Pensacola, FL 32502
mjposner@ppbep.org | 850.595.0820

Professional Qualifications

B.S., Environmental Science, University of West Florida, 2016

M.A., Global Sustainability, University of South Florida, 2022

Appointments

11/2021 – Present	Executive Director, Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
8/2017 – 12/2021	RESTORE Program Manager, Escambia County Board of County Commissioners
11/2019 – 11/2020	Interim Director, Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
6/2016 – 8/2017	RESTORE Coordinator, Escambia County Board of County Commissioners
6/2015 – 6/2016	Environmental Technician, Escambia County Board of County Commissioners
5/2014 – 8/2014	Water Quality Technician, Escambia County Board of County Commissioners

Synergistic Activities

08/2022 – 04/2023	Fellow, Natural Resources Leadership Institute, University of Florida
11/2020 – Present	Co-Chair, Water Resources Committee, Florida Local Government Resource Agencies (FLERA)
3/2019 – Present	Co-Chair, Panhandle Estuarine Restoration Team (PERT) Steering Committee
10/2017 – Present	Member, Florida Association of Environmental Professionals
11/2019 – 4/2021	Member, Pensacola Bay Ecosystem-Based Oyster Fisheries Management Plan Work Group
6/2019 – 1/2021	Member, Gulf-Frontal Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee
1/2019 – 12/2021	Member, Gulf Consortium Finance Committee
1/2020 -12/2021	Chair, Gulf Consortium Policies and Procedures Review Committee

Grants

- Secured and managed over \$40 million in grant awards since 2018. Recent awards are included below:
- 2024: RESTORE Component 2, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, \$2.2 million
 - Carpenter Creek Restoration Design
- 2023: NOAA Transformational Habitat and Coastal Resilience Grant Program, ~\$10.9 million
 - Pensacola Bay Oyster Restoration Initiative
- 2023: NOAA Transformational Habitat and Coastal Resilience Grant Program, ~\$1.6 million
 - Perdido Watershed Initiative, subawardee to The Nature Conservancy in Alabama
- 2023: NOAA Transformational Habitat and Coastal Resilience Grant Program, ~\$350,000
 - Gulf of Mexico Oyster Shell Recycling Network, subawardee to Restore America's Estuaries
- 2022: Resilient Florida Grant Program, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, ~\$675,000
 - Compound Flood Modeling and Adaptation Plan for Pensacola and Perdido Watersheds
- 2020-2024: Florida Legislative Appropriation, ~\$2.5 million
 - PPBEP Community Grant Program; Oyster Mapping; Coastal and Wetlands Condition Assessments
- 2020: Trash Free Waters, EPA, ~\$297,000
 - Trash prevention in three tributaries to Pensacola Bay
- 2018: RESTORE Component 2, EPA/RESTORE Council, \$2 million
 - Establishment of the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program

Publications

Deitch, M.J., Gancel, H.N., Croteau, A.C., Caffrey, J.M., Scheffel, W., Underwood, B., Muller, J.W., Boudreau, D., Cantrell, C.G., **Posner, M.J.**, Bibza, J., McDowell, A., & Albrecht, B. (2021). Adaptive management as a foundational framework for developing collaborative estuary management programs. *Journal of environmental management*, 295, 113107.

Whitney A. Scheffel

Senior Scientist, Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
226 S. Palafox Pl., Pensacola, FL 32502
wascheffel@ppbep.org | (850) 595 – 0892

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

2015 University of South Alabama, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, AL
Master of Science, Marine Science
2010 Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC
Bachelor of Science, Marine Science, Biology Minor

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

2016 Outstanding Master’s Student Award from the Department of Marine Sciences, University of South Alabama

APPOINTMENTS

3/2020 – Present Senior Scientist, Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Pensacola, FL
5/2017 – 3/2020 Biological Scientist III/Laboratory Manager, University of Florida/IFAS, Nature Coast Biological Station, Gainesville, FL
7/2015 – 3/2017 Project Manager, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island, AL
6/2011 – 7/2015 Research Technician, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island, AL

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

zu Ermgassen, P. S., Gair, J. R., Jarvis, B., Geselbracht, L., Birch, A., **Scheffel, W. A.**, Smith, K., and DeAngelis, B. 2024. Using an ecosystem service model to inform restoration planning: A spatially explicit oyster filtration model for Pensacola Bay, Florida. *Conservation Science and Practice*, 6(2), e13061.

Bardou, R., Osland, M. J., Scyphers, S., Shepard, C., Aerni, K. E., Alemu I, J. B., ...**Scheffel, W.A.**, and Hughes, A. R. 2023. Rapidly changing range limits in a warming world: critical data limitations and knowledge gaps for advancing understanding of mangrove range dynamics in the southeastern USA. *Estuaries and Coasts*, 46(5), 1123-1140.

Radabaugh, K.R., Konchar, K.M., Davis, M., Davis, K., Wilson, E., Birch, A., Geselbracht, L., Graves, A., **Scheffel, W.**, and Brucker, J. 2022. Oyster Integrated Mapping and Monitoring Program Report for the State of Florida No. 22, Version 2.

Deitch, M.J., Gancel, H.N., Croteau, A.C., Caffrey, J.M., **Scheffel, W.A.**, Underwood, B., Muller, J.W., Boudreau, D., Cantrell, C.G., Posner, M.J., Bibza, J., McDowell, A., and Albrecht, B. 2021. Adaptive Management as a foundational framework for developing collaborative estuary management programs. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 295, 113107.

Martin, C.W., L.K. Reynolds, **W.A. Scheffel**, S. Tiffany, S. Kopetman. 2020. Diel variability and influence of artificial light on fish and macroinvertebrate communities in Gulf of Mexico seagrass beds. *Estuaries and Coasts* <<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-020-00865-3>>.

Scheffel, W.A., K.L. Heck, Jr., and M. Johnson. 2018. Tropicalization of the northern Gulf of Mexico: Impacts of salt marsh transition to black mangrove dominance on faunal communities. *Estuaries and Coasts* 41: 1193-1205.

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

05/21 - Present Member, Plastic-Free Restoration of Oyster Shorelines (PROS) Community of Practice

09/20 – Present Partner/Collaborator, Pensacola Bay Spatially Explicit Oyster Filtration Potential Model (TNC, EPA)

03/20 – Present Member, Florida Oyster Recovery Science (FORS) Working Group and Steering Committee

03/20 – Present Member, Gulf of Mexico Alliance Teams: Data & Monitoring; Habitat Resources

03/20 - Present Member, Seagrass Community of Practice

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2020 - present Lead and facilitate workshops, committee meetings, and public events to educate, garner support, and collect feedback on a range of projects and PPBEP priorities including the Pensacola Bay Oyster Restoration Initiative (NOAA Funded)

2020 – 2022 Lead development of PPBEP’s Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy, and State of the Bays report for the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Watersheds

2020 - 2021 Project lead for U.S. EPA National Aquatic Resource Survey Intensification Projects for the National Coastal and Wetland Condition Assessments

2015 – Present Manage a variety of projects focusing on oyster and seagrass ecosystems and restoration, estuarine wetlands, watershed monitoring, water quality, juvenile fish communities

ARCHIVED DATASETS

2022-2023 Pensacola and Perdido Bays Seagrass Fish Trawling Survey
<https://data.disl.edu/>

2021 Environmental Protection Agency’s National Aquatic Resource Surveys PPBEP intensification for NCCA (2020)
<https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys/data-national-aquatic-resource-surveys>

2021 Oyster Beds in Florida: Escambia Bay and Pensacola Bay subtidal and intertidal oyster reef mapping and assessment.
<https://geodata.myfwc.com/datasets/myfwc::oyster-beds-in-florida/about>

Haley N. Gancel

Environmental Scientist, Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
226 S. Palafox Pl., Pensacola, FL 32502
hngancel@ppbep.org | (850) 595-0896

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

2020 Ph.D., Marine Sciences, University of South Alabama/Dauphin Island Sea Lab
2013 B.S., Marine Biology, University of Miami

APPOINTMENTS

2021-present *Environmental Scientist*, Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program,
Pensacola, FL
2020-present *Adjunct Instructor*, University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL
2020-2021 *Postdoctoral Associate*, University of Florida, West Florida Research and
Education Center, Milton, FL
2020 *Postdoctoral Researcher*, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island, AL
2014-2020 *Graduate Research Assistant*, Dauphin Island Sea Lab and U.S. Food and Drug
Administration (FDA) Gulf Coast Seafood Laboratory, Dauphin Island, AL

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2023 **Gancel, H.N.** Moving towards an oyster modeling framework for the Gulf of Mexico: information Gulf-wide oyster restoration. For The Pew Charitable Trusts. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7671186>

2021 **Gancel, H.N.**, Carmichael, R.H., Du, J., Park, K. Use of geochemical tagging to test population connectivity of eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in a freshwater-influenced estuary. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 673: 85-105. <https://doi.org/10.3354/meps13796>

2021 Deitch, M.J., **Gancel, H.N.**, Croteau, A.C., Caffrey, J.M., Scheffel, W., Underwood, B., Muller, J.W., Boudreau, D., Cantrell, C.G., Posner, M.J., Bibza, B., McDowell, A., Albrecht, B. Adaptive management as a foundational framework for developing Estuary Programs in Northwest Florida. *Journal of Environmental Management* 295: 113107. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2021.113107>

2020 **Gancel, H.N.** Larval oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) settlement and distribution in a freshwater-dominated and human-influenced estuary. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of South Alabama.

2019 **Gancel, H.N.**, Carmichael, R.H., Park, K., Krause, J.W., Rikard, S. Field mark-recapture of calcein-stained larval oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in a freshwater-dominated estuary. *Estuaries and Coasts* 42(6): 1558-1569. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-019-00582-6>

2015 Darnell, M.Z., **Nicholson, H.S.**, Munguia, P. Thermal ecology of the fiddler crab *Uca panacea*: thermal constraints and organismal responses. *Journal of Thermal Biology* 52: 157-165. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtherbio.2015.06.004>

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

2023-present Member, Plastic-Free Restoration of Oyster Shorelines (PROS) Community of Practice
2021-present Oyster modeling to inform Gulf of Mexico oyster restoration, The Pew Charitable Trusts, *Estuary Program Partner*

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2021-present Co-led and co-facilitate workshops, committee meetings, and public events to educate and collect feedback on a broad range of priority topics for PPBEP
2021-present Co-led the development of PPBEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and the State of the Bays report for the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Watersheds
2014-present Manage a variety of projects on water quality monitoring, oyster restoration, and estuarine ecology

Chloe N. Ray

Environmental Technician, Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
226 S. Palafox Pl., Pensacola, FL 32502 cnray@ppbep.org

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

2021 University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL
Bachelor of Science, Biology, Communications Minor

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

2024 Watershed Award from Mobile Bay Magazine

APPOINTMENTS:

09/2024-Present Environmental Technician, Pensacola and Perdido Bay Estuary Program, Pensacola, FL
01/2023-09/2024 Field Investigator, Mobile Baykeeper, Mobile, AL
01/2022-01/2023 Environmental Specialist II, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Pensacola, FL
09/2021-01/2022 Crew Member, Student Conservation Association, Mobile, AL
06/2021-09/2021 Laboratory Intern, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island, AL

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

2024 Developed and implemented bacteriological and water quality monitoring plans across multiple sites in Mobile and Baldwin County to establish baseline conditions to support water quality improvement initiatives.

2023-2024 Led the *Swim Where It's Monitored* program, overseeing weekly fecal bacteria sampling and public reporting from April to September, and monthly monitoring from October to March at 11 sites across Mobile and Baldwin County. Created comprehensive annual reports summarizing bacteriological findings and trends for each site.

2022-2023 Managed a portfolio of up to 45 environmental resource permits, ensuring regulatory compliance, meeting deadlines, and maintaining stakeholder communication. Conducted site visits for wetland permitting, including soil characterization, hydrologic indicator assessment, and plant identification

2021-2022 Executed trail maintenance and invasive species management across coastal Alabama, enhancing ecosystem health and improving public access to natural areas.

The following attachment is not included in the view since it is not a read-only PDF file.

Upon submission, this file will be transmitted to the Grantor without any data loss.

Letters of Support.pdf



Agenda Item 8.d.

Approval of a Contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, in the amount of \$24,982, for Compound Flood Model Technical Review Support

Background: The Estuary Program, working through the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners will conduct the Compound Rain and Tidal Flooding in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Area Under Future Climate Scenarios (Project). The Project will include a comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment (VA) pursuant to Section 380.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.) as well as develop a unified regional Adaptation Plan (AP). The Project will develop updated precipitation frequency estimates and compound flooding scenarios for the Pensacola and Perdido watersheds to aid local governments in identifying priority resilience projects, policy initiatives, and community outreach opportunities necessary to enhance community resilience.

The Estuary Program has executed a subaward with Florida State University (FSU) to complete the development of the compound flood model and VA. PPBEP is responsible for project administration, informing, reviewing, and approving the compound flood model and VA, drafting the AP, and coordinating community engagement.

The intent of this agreement is to provide a third-party technical review of FSU's results to ensure compliance with DEP requirements and Florida Statutes governing Resilient Florida funds. Jacobs will provide inputs on: (1) Tasks 1, 4, and 5: Data, methods, models, reports and other products related to future rainfall time series, temporal disaggregation, spatiotemporal patterns of rainfall events, reviewing updated rainfall intensity-duration-frequency (IDF) curves, future storm surge time series and storm surge and compound flood events, tidal flooding, flood model implementation and validation, simulations of the design events, sea-level rise (SLR) scenarios and asset vulnerability assessments; and (2) Tasks 1, 4, and 5, Review the products for compliance with the applicable Florida Statute and Resilient Florida program requirements, including the vulnerability assessment (VA) checklist, reporting, required file formats and acceptable data, models and analyses.

PPBEP obtained three quotes, with Jacobs offering the lowest and best price.

Recommendation: Recommend the Board approve, and authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group, in the amount of \$24,982, for Compound Flood Model Technical Review Support.

Financial Impact: Approval of the agreement will obligate and encumber \$24,982 in the Grant Account funded through DEP Agreement 22PLN35.

Legal Review: General Counsel has reviewed and approved the standard agreement.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, Inc., a nonprofit serving as an instrumentality of government, with administrative offices located at 226 Palafox Place, 5th floor, Pensacola, Florida 32502, (hereinafter referred to as "PPBEP" or "Estuary Program,") and Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., a foreign for-profit corporation authorized to transact business in the State of Florida, FEI/EIN 95-4081636, whose principal address is 6312 S. Fiddler's Green Circle, Suite 300N, Greenwood Village, CO 80111, and whose local address is 25 West Cedar Street, Suite 350, Pensacola, FL 32502 (hereinafter referred to as "Consultant").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, PPBEP has requested quotes from qualified firms to provide QA/QC services for PPBEP's Vulnerability Assessment and Compound Flood Model (hereinafter referred to as "the Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Consultant is a firm with the requisite expertise to perform the Project; and

WHEREAS, PPBEP desires to enter into an Agreement with the Consultant for the performance of the Project as further set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual terms and conditions, promises, covenants and payments hereinafter set forth, PPBEP and the Consultant agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 **PREAMBLE**

1.1 The recitals contained in the preamble of this Agreement are declared to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated into this Agreement.

1.2 In order to establish the background, context, and frame of reference for this Agreement and to generally express the objectives and intentions of the respective parties herein, the following statements, representations, and explanations shall be accepted as predicates for the undertakings and commitments included within the provisions which follow and that may be relied upon by the parties as essential elements of the mutual considerations upon which this Agreement is based.

1.3 For sake of clarity Consultant's services hereunder exclude construction related services.

ARTICLE 2 **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

2.1 The Consultant will perform the tasks represented in the Consultant's Scope of Work, attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**. Such services shall include those services performed by the Consultant, its employees, and subcontractors, as further described

in the Scope of Work and any other services specifically included therein.

2.2 This Project shall be funded in whole or in part by grant funding provided through the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The Consultant shall complete the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions of Florida DEP Agreement No. 22PLN35. By executing this Agreement, the Consultant acknowledges that it has received a copy of the Grant Agreements and shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Agreements.

ARTICLE 3 **TIME FOR PERFORMANCE**

3.1 The schedule for completion of the Consultant's services shall be in accordance with **Exhibit A**, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. Consultant shall complete the Project on or before May 2026. Such schedule may be modified from time to time upon the mutual consent of PPBEP and the Consultant.

3.2 These services shall be performed as expeditiously as is consistent with professional skill and care and the orderly progress of the Project. The Consultant's schedule for the performance of its services shall include allowances for periods of time required for PPBEP's review and for its approval of submissions by the Consultant. Time limits established by this schedule, which are hereby approved by PPBEP, shall not be exceeded by the Consultant, except for reasonable cause.

3.3 Prior to beginning the performance of any basic services under this Agreement, the Consultant must receive in writing a Notice to Proceed from the Executive Director or his designee.

ARTICLE 4 **COMPENSATION AND METHOD OF BILLING AND PAYMENT**

4.1 PPBEP agrees to pay the Consultant, as compensation for its services under Section 3.1 of this Agreement, an aggregate fee for certain project tasks pursuant to the fee schedule set forth in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto and made a part hereof. At the completion of each task, the Consultant will be compensated by a lump sum amount, which has been negotiated for that task, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the parties hereto. The total fee for all such services, to be performed by the Consultant, including costs, direct expenses, and any other charges be paid as follows: A lump sum amount of \$24,898.00. Final payment may be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

4.2 The Fee Schedule, as used herein, shall mean the charges shown in **Exhibit A** for certain tasks to be performed by the Consultant. Such fees shall include, all inclusively, the Consultant's salaries of professional and administrative staff, sick leave, vacation, unemployment, excise and payroll taxes, contributions for social security, unemployment compensation insurance, retirement benefits, medical and insurance benefits, travel, lodging, per diem, telephone, facsimile, reproduction costs, other routine overhead expenses, profit, and all other expenses of every type.

4.3 The Consultant may submit an invoice to PPBEP upon the completion and approval of Project tasks in accordance with the Fee Schedule. Invoices shall reflect the amount due and

owing for services rendered with appropriate supporting documentation as required by PPBEP. Requests for payment shall not be made more frequently than once a month.

4.4 Invoices shall be submitted via email to info@ppbep.org and addressed to the following:

Attn: Operations Manager
Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
226 Palafox Place, 5th floor
Pensacola, FL 32502

4.5 Payments under this Agreement and interest on any late payments shall be governed by the Local Government Prompt Payment Act, §§ 218.70, et seq., Florida Statutes, as amended.

ARTICLE 5 **CONSULTANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

5.1 The Consultant shall be responsible for the professional quality, technical accuracy, and the coordination of all reports, drawings, specifications, and other services furnished pursuant to this Agreement. The Consultant shall correct or revise, without additional compensation, any errors or omissions in its reports, drawings, specifications, and other services furnished pursuant to the Agreement.

5.2 PPBEP's review/approval/acceptance of or payment for the services required by this Agreement shall NOT be construed to operate as a waiver of any rights or of any cause of action arising out of the performance of this Agreement. Additionally, the Consultant shall be and remain liable to PPBEP in accordance with applicable law for all damages to PPBEP caused by the Consultant's negligent performance of any of the services furnished under this Agreement.

5.3 The rights and remedies of PPBEP provided for under this Agreement are in addition to any other rights and remedies otherwise provided by law.

ARTICLE 6 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

6.1 Ownership of Documents.

Drawings, specifications, models, photographs, reports, surveys, and other data, including intellectual property of any type or description, produced by the Consultant in connection with this Agreement are and shall remain the property of PPBEP whether the Project for which they were made is completed or not. Such ownership also shall include any electronic files developed or created of such documents. When such documents are provided to other parties, the Consultant shall ensure return of PPBEP's property by collecting, if appropriate, a deposit equal to the cost of reproduction. Such deposit shall be returned if the documents are timely returned in a useable condition. Otherwise, such deposit shall be retained by the Consultant.

6.2 Termination.

(a) This Agreement may be terminated by either party for cause, or by PPBEP for convenience, upon fourteen (14) days written notice by the terminating party to the other party of such termination in which event the Consultant shall be paid for services performed through the termination date, including all reimbursable expenses then due or incurred to the date of

termination. Termination for cause shall include, but not be limited to, misuse of funds, fraud, lack of compliance with applicable rules, laws, regulations, and ordinances, and failure to perform in a timely manner any provision of this Agreement.

(b) In no event shall a termination for convenience by PPBEP be deemed a default, and any such termination shall not subject PPBEP to any penalty or other claim for damages. If the Consultant abandons this Agreement Consultant shall indemnify PPBEP against any loss pertaining to this termination up to a maximum of 1.3 times the full contracted fee amount of the Project. Subject to Section 6.1 herein, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies surveys, drawings, maps, models, photographs, and reports prepared by the Consultant shall become the property of PPBEP and shall be immediately delivered by the Consultant to the PPBEP.

(c) Vendor suspension or debarment proceedings brought by PPBEP shall be grounds for immediate termination of this Agreement.

6.3 Public Records. The Consultant acknowledges that this Agreement and any related financial records, audits, reports, plans, correspondence, and other documents may be subject to disclosure to members of the public pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, as amended. Consultant shall maintain all such public records and, upon request, provide a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected within a reasonable time and upon prior written notice. Consultant shall also ensure that any public records that are exempt or exempt and confidential from disclosure are not disclosed except as authorized by law. Upon the expiration or termination of the Agreement, Consultant agrees to maintain all public records for a minimum period of five (5) fiscal years in accordance with the applicable records retention schedules established by the Florida Department of State. In the event the Consultant fails to abide by the provisions of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, PPBEP may, without prejudice to any right or remedy and after giving the Consultant seven (7) days written notice, during which period the Consultant still fails to allow access to such documents, terminate the employment of the Consultant. In such case, the Consultant shall not be entitled to receive any further payment. Reasonable terminal expenses incurred by PPBEP may be deducted from any payments left owing the Consultant.

IF THE CONSULTANT HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE CONSULTANT'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT:

**Executive Director
Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program
226 Palafox Place, 5th floor
Pensacola, Florida 32502
(850) 595-0820**

6.4 Conflict of Interest. Consultant agrees it shall not contract for or accept employment for the performance of any work or service with any individual, business corporation, or government unit that would create a conflict of interest in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. Consultant further agrees it will neither take any action nor engage in any conduct that would cause any PPBEP employee or official to violate the provisions of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, relating to ethics in government. Consultant also agrees to comply with PPBEP's Ethics Policy prohibiting conflicts of interest among retained consultants.

6.5 No Contingent Fees. The Consultant warrants that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Consultant, to solicit or secure this Agreement and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Consultant, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement. For the breach or violation of this provision, PPBEP shall have the right to terminate the Agreement without liability and at its discretion, to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, gift, or consideration.

6.6 Truth-in-Negotiation. The signing of this Agreement by the Consultant shall act as the execution of a truth-in-negotiation certificate stating that wage rates and other factual unit costs supporting the compensation of this Agreement are accurate, complete, and current at the time of contracting. The original contract price and any additions thereto shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which PPBEP determines the contract price was increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or non-current wage rates and other factual unit costs. All such contract adjustments shall be made within one (1) year following the end of this Agreement.

6.7 Gratuities. Neither the Consultant nor any of its employees, agents, and representatives shall offer or give to an officer, official, or employee of PPBEP gifts, entertainment, payments, loans, or other gratuities. The Consultant acknowledges knowledge of the State of Florida's ethics statutes, and to the extent applicable to the Consultant, the Consultant agrees to abide with such statutes.

6.8 Independent Contractor Status. In the performance of this Agreement hereunder, Consultant is an independent contractor. Consultant shall not hold itself out as an employee, agent or servant of PPBEP; and Consultant shall not have the power or authority to bind PPBEP in any promise, agreement or representation, other than as specifically provided in this Agreement or as may be expressly provided hereafter in writing by an authorized official of PPBEP.

6.9 Assignment. This Agreement, or any interest herein, shall not be assigned, transferred, or otherwise encumbered, under any circumstances, by the Consultant, without the prior written consent of the Estuary Program. The Agreement shall, however, run with the Estuary Program and its successors.

6.10 Indemnification. The Consultant agrees to hold harmless and indemnify PPBEP and its officers and employees from any and all third party claims, suits, actions, damages, liabilities, expenditures or causes of action of any kind, losses, penalties, interest, demands, judgments, and cost of suit, including attorneys' fees and paralegals' fees, for any expense, damage or liability incurred by any of them, whether for personal injury, death, property damage, to the extent caused by Consultant's negligent, reckless, or wrongful misconduct in the performance of this Agreement or by any person, firm, or corporation to whom any portion of the performance of this Agreement is subcontracted to or used by the Consultant or by anyone for whom the Consultant is legally liable. The parties understand and agree that such indemnification by the Consultant relating to any matter, which is the subject of this Agreement, shall extend throughout the term of this Agreement and any statutes of limitation thereafter. The Consultant's obligation shall not be limited by, or in any way to, any insurance coverage or by any provision in or exclusion or omission from any policy of insurance.

6.11 Insurance. The Consultant is required to carry the following insurance:

- (a) Commercial General Liability, Form CG1, with \$1,000,000 minimum per occurrence/\$2,000,000 annual aggregate limit;
- (b) Business Automobile Liability with \$1,000,000 per occurrence minimum combined single limits for all hired, owned, and non-owned vehicles;
- (c) Florida statutory workers' compensation and employer's liability with employer's liability limits of at least \$1,000,000 each accident and \$1,000,000 each employee/\$1,000,000 policy limit for disease;
- (d) Professional Liability with \$1,000,000 per claim/\$2,000,000 annual aggregate. Said coverage shall be continuously maintained and in effect for a period of not less than five (5) years from the effective date of this Agreement. The policy limit of liability shall not include legal fees and other defense costs. If a claims made form of coverage is provided, the retroactive date of coverage shall be no later than the effective date of this Agreement and shall not be advanced. If at any time during the aforementioned policy period there should be a cancellation, non-renewal, or lapse in coverage, professional liability coverage shall be extended for the remainder of the five-year period with a supplemental extended reporting period (SERP) endorsement to take effect upon expiration of the policy period referenced above. The limits of liability applicable to the SERP coverage shall be equal to the limits of liability applicable to the policy referenced above and to which the endorsement attaches.

It is understood and agreed by the parties that in the event the Consultant consists of a joint venture, partnership, or other association of professional or business firms, each such firm shall be required to individually carry the above cited coverages.

Contractor agrees all liability coverage shall be through carriers admitted to do business in the State of Florida. Carriers shall be "A" or other Secure Best Rating with a minimum financial size of "VII", according to the A.M. Best Key Rating Guide Latest Edition. The insurance policies shall be endorsed to provide at least 30 days advance notice of cancellation, nonrenewal or adverse change. Such notices shall be emailed to info@ppbep.org.

The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program shall be included as "additional insureds" on all liability policies (except Workers' Compensation and Professional Liability). Certificates of Insurance shall be provided to PPBEP prior to commencement of work hereunder. Certificates shall reflect the additional insured status of the Estuary Program. The Estuary Program shall also be the certificate holders.

6.12 Compliance with Laws. Consultant agrees to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, policies, or guidelines related to the performance of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, those dealing with taxation, worker's compensation, equal employment and safety.

6.13 Employment Eligibility Verification. In accordance with §448.095, Florida Statutes, Consultant shall register with and utilize the E-Verify System operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired during the term of the Agreement and shall expressly require any subcontractors performing work or providing services pursuant to this Agreement to likewise utilize the E-Verify System to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the subcontractor during the term of this Agreement. If Consultant enters into a contract with a subcontractor performing work or providing services on its behalf, Consultant shall also require the subcontractor to provide an affidavit stating that the subcontractor does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with an unauthorized

alien. Failure to comply with these requirements shall be cause for immediate termination of the Agreement. Information on registration for and use of the E-Verify Program can be obtained via the internet at the Department of Homeland Security Web site: <http://www.dhs.gov/E-Verify>.

6.14 Prohibition against Contracting with Scrutinized Companies. In accordance with §287.135, Florida Statutes, by executing this Agreement, Contractor hereby certifies that the Contractor is not on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List created pursuant to §215.4725, Florida Statutes, and is not engaged in a boycott of Israel as defined in §215.4725, Florida Statutes. Further, Contractor acknowledges that if the Contractor is found to have submitted a false certification, has been placed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List; or has been engaged in a boycott of Israel then PPBEP reserves the right to immediately terminate this Agreement.

6.15 Foreign Gifts/Contracts. In accordance with §286.101, Florida Statutes, by executing this Agreement, Contractor certifies it has timely disclosed any current or prior interest of, contract with, or grant or gift received from a “foreign country of concern” as defined in §286.101(1)(b), Florida Statutes, if such interest, contract, grant or gift has a value of \$50,000 or more and such interest existed at any time or such contract, grant or gift was received or in effect during the previous five (5) years. Reporting information can be obtained via the internet at the Department of Financial Services website: <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/Transparency>.

6.16 Notice. Any notice or payment under this Agreement required hereunder or desired by the party giving such notice shall be given in writing and delivered by hand or through the instrumentality of certified mail of the United States Postal Service or private courier service, such as Federal Express. A courtesy copy should also be emailed to info@ppbep.org. Unless otherwise notified in writing of a new address, notice or payment shall be made as follows:

To: Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.
Attention: President
6312 S. Fiddler’s Green Circle, Suite 300N
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

To: Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary
Program
Attention: Executive Director
226 Palafox Place, 5th floor
Pensacola, Florida 32502

With copy to:
25 West Cedar Street, Suite 350
Pensacola, FL 32502

Rejection, or other refusal by the addressee to accept, or the inability of the courier service or the United States Postal Service to deliver because of a changed address of which no notice was given, shall be deemed to be receipt of the notice sent. Either party shall have the right, from time to time, to change the address to which notices shall be sent by giving the other party at least ten (10) days prior notice of the address change.

6.17 Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, and the parties stipulate that venue shall be in the County of Escambia.

6.18 Entire Agreement. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior oral or written agreements. Consultant acknowledges that it has not relied upon any statement, representation, prior or contemporaneous written or oral promises, agreements, or warranties, except such as are expressed herein. The terms and conditions of this Agreement can only be amended in writing upon mutual agreement of the parties.

6.19 Headings. Headings and subtitles used throughout this Agreement are for the purpose of convenience only, and no heading or subtitle shall modify or be used to interpret the text of any section.

6.20 Interpretation. For the purpose of this Agreement, the singular includes the plural and the plural shall include the singular. References to statutes or regulations shall include all statutory or regulatory provisions consolidating, amending, or replacing the statute or regulation referred to. Words not otherwise defined that have well-known technical or industry meanings, are used in accordance with such recognized meanings. References to persons include their respective permitted successors and assigns and, in the case of governmental persons, persons succeeding to their respective functions and capacities.

(a) If the Consultant discovers any material discrepancy, deficiency, ambiguity, error, or omission in this Agreement, or is otherwise in doubt as to the meaning of any provision of the Agreement, the Consultant shall immediately notify PPBEP and request clarification of PPBEP's interpretation of this Agreement.

(b) This Agreement shall not be more strictly construed against either party hereto by reason of the fact that one party may have drafted or prepared any or all of the terms and provisions hereof.

6.21 Severability. The invalidity or non-enforceability of any portion or provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other portion or provision. Any invalid or unenforceable portion or provision shall be deemed severed from this Agreement and the balance hereof shall be construed and enforced as if this Agreement did not contain such invalid or unenforceable portion or provision.

6.22 Survival. All provisions that, by their inherent character, sense, and context, are intended to survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement will survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

6.23 Further Documents. The parties shall execute and deliver all documents and perform further actions that may be reasonably necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Agreement.

6.24 No Waiver. The failure of the Consultant or PPBEP to insist upon the strict performance of the terms and conditions hereof shall not constitute or be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of any other provision or of either party's right to thereafter enforce the same in accordance with this Agreement.

6.25 Third Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement does not and is not intended to confer any rights or remedies upon any person other than the parties hereto.

6.26 Authority. Any individual executing this Agreement on behalf of a corporate or governmental party represents and warrants that he is duly authorized to execute and deliver this Agreement on behalf of said party, in accordance with any duly adopted action of the governing board of said party, as may be applicable and in accordance with applicable law, and that this Agreement is binding upon said party in accordance with its terms.


6.27. Annual Appropriation. Pursuant to the requirements of Florida law, the Estuary Program's performance and obligation to fund this Agreement shall be contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Board of Directors.

6.28 Contract Documents. The Contract Documents include this Agreement and any Amendments and Exhibit A as referenced herein. In the event of a conflict between the terms of the Exhibits referenced herein and this Agreement, the terms of this Agreement shall prevail.

6.29 Force Majeure. Any delays in or failure of performance by Consultant shall not constitute breach hereunder if and to the extent such delays or failures of performance are caused by occurrences beyond the reasonable control of Consultant. In the event that any event of force majeure as herein defined occurs, Consultant shall be entitled to a reasonable extension of time for performance of its Services under this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have made and executed this Agreement on the respective dates under each signature:

Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program

By: 
Matthew J. Posner, Executive Director

Date 11/14/2025

**CONSULTANT:
JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP INC.**

By: 

Scott Jernigan, Project Manager

Date 11/13/2026

Exhibit A. Scope of Work

Project Overview

The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program's (herein after referred to as "PPBEP" or "the Estuary Program") mission is to restore and protect the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds through restoration, education, and unbiased monitoring of the health of our bays, estuaries, and watersheds. The Estuary Program, working through the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners will conduct the Compound Rain and Tidal Flooding in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Area Under Future Climate Scenarios (Project). The Project will include a comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment (VA) pursuant to Section 380.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.) as well as develop a unified regional Adaptation Plan (AP). The Project will develop updated precipitation frequency estimates and compound flooding scenarios for the Pensacola and Perdido watersheds to aid local governments in identifying priority resilience projects, policy initiatives, and community outreach opportunities necessary to enhance community resilience.

The Estuary Program has executed a subaward with Florida State University (FSU) to complete the development of the compound flood model and VA. PPBEP is responsible for project administration, informing, reviewing, and approving the compound flood model and VA, drafting the AP, and coordinating community engagement.

Funding Source

Funding has been provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Resilient Florida Grant Program through Grant Agreement No. 22PLN35. All applicable state terms and conditions will carry forward in the contract between the PPBEP and the selected firm. The Grant Agreement is attached for reference.

Scope of Work Overview: The consultant will provide inputs on: (1) Tasks 1, 4, and 5: Data, methods, models, reports and other products related to future rainfall time series, temporal disaggregation, spatiotemporal patterns of rainfall events, reviewing updated rainfall intensity-duration-frequency (IDF) curves, future storm surge time series and storm surge and compound flood events, tidal flooding, flood model implementation and validation, simulations of the design events, sea-level rise (SLR) scenarios and asset vulnerability assessments; and (2) Tasks 1, 4, and 5, Review the products for compliance with the applicable Florida Statute and Resilient Florida program requirements, including the vulnerability assessment (VA) checklist, reporting, required file formats and acceptable data, models and analyses. FSU will present the tasks and deliverables to the consultant in virtual meetings and receive feedback on relevant aspects of the project. To support the review, FSU will share applicable data and model files with the consultant. FSU will discuss the feedback with the consultant and, as appropriate, revise the data and model configuration, assumptions and outputs accordingly in line with the prime agreement's scope and timeline. This contract can be amended to supply additional support services as needed.

Scope of Services

The consultant will be responsible for the following activities and deliverables within each task. The consultant will fulfill the tasks under this statement of work (SOW) in collaboration with PPBEP and FSU. The task numbers are consistent with the prime agreement—FDEP Grant # 22PLN35. Details of the tasks are discussed below.

Task 1 -- Review of Vulnerability Assessment and Data Standards Methodology

Description: The consultant will review and provide inputs on: (1) Data related to assets and flood-related variables—topography, rainfall, tide, storm surge and SLR under both future and historical conditions; and (2) Compliance with applicable Florida Statute and Resilient Florida program requirements, including data source and quality as well as required file formats.

Deliverables: A memorandum 1) identifying if task methods and deliverables are in compliance with Resilient Florida Grant Program and as laid out in the prime agreement; and 2) identify any corrective actions needed.

Assumptions:

- PPBEP will submit deliverables per the timeline in the section below in order to give consulting team ample time to provide adequate feedback and response.
- The consulting team will make every effort to review deliverables in a timely manner. However, the consulting team is not responsible for missed deadlines if deliverables are not provided to the consulting team with sufficient lead time to allow for a thorough review. The consulting team is not responsible for determining the means and methods required to complete the corrective actions. Responsibility for execution lies solely with FSU.

Task 4 – Review of Exposure Analysis Methods and Results

Description: The consultant will review and provide input on: (1) Data, methods, models and other products related to future rainfall time series, temporal disaggregation of rainfall, spatiotemporal patterns of rainfall, updating rainfall IDFs, development of future storm surge time series and design storm surge and compound flood events, tidal flooding, flood model implementation (boundary/initial conditions, mesh, bathymetry, rain excess computations etc.) and validation, simulations of the design events and SLR scenarios; and (2) Compliance with applicable Florida Statute and Resilient Florida program requirements, including the VA checklist, required file formats and acceptable data, models and analyses.

Task 4.1 – Hydrodynamic model configuration and validation

The consultant will review the model configuration, including initial and boundary conditions, elevation data, forcing data (rainfall, tide and storm surge), mesh resolution, rain excess computation, surface roughness and numerical stability. Comparisons of the model simulations against historical events will be reviewed too.

Task 4.2 – Climate change assessments and updating intensity-duration-frequency (IDF) curves

The consultant will review the historical and future rainfall time series, selected data (gauge location, data source and quality, period of coverage and time step), temporal disaggregation method for future rainfall events, bias correction method and results, spatial patterns of rainfall across the basin, temporal distribution of rainfall events, rainfall IDF development approach (goodness-of-fit test and event separation) and the IDFs for various return periods and durations as required by Florida Statute and outlined in the prime agreement.

Task 4.3 – SLR assessments

The consultant will review the future sea level time series, spatial patterns of sea levels across the coastline and future SLR scenarios as required by Florida Statute and outlined in the prime agreement.

Task 4.4 – Design flood development

The consultant will review the method and results of the compound rainfall-storm surge and future storm surge design events as outlined in the prime agreement.

Task 4.5 – Flood inundation modeling

The consultant will review the flood inundation maps for different scenarios as required by Florida Statute and outlined in the prime agreement.

Assumption:

- FSU will lead development of the exposure analysis with review by the consultant.
- The consulting team will make every effort to review deliverables in a timely manner. However, the consulting team is not responsible for missed deadlines if deliverables are not provided to the consulting team with sufficient lead time to allow for a thorough review. FSU will submit deliverables per the timeline in the section below in order to give consulting team ample time to provide adequate feedback and response. The consulting team is not responsible for determining the means and methods required to complete the corrective actions. Responsibility for execution lies solely with FSU.

Deliverables: A memorandum 1) identifying if task methods and deliverables are in compliance with Resilient Florida Grant Program and as laid out in the prime agreement; 2) QA/QC model inputs and outputs and 3) identify any corrective actions needed.

Task 4.1 – Hydrodynamic model configuration and validation

Task 4.2 – Climate change assessments and intensity-duration-frequency (IDF) curves

Task 4.3 – SLR assessments

Task 4.4 –flood development

Task 4.5 – Flood inundation modeling

Task 5 – Review of Sensitivity Analysis Methods and Results

Description: The consultant will review and provide input on the vulnerability assessment approach and results for different assets and flood scenarios as required by Florida Statute and outlined in the prime agreement.

Assumption:

- FSU will lead development of the sensitivity analysis with review by the consultant.
- The consulting team is not responsible for determining the means and methods required to complete the corrective actions. Responsibility for execution lies solely with FSU.
- FSU will submit deliverables per the timeline in the section below in order to give consulting team ample time to provide adequate feedback and response.
- The consulting team will make every effort to review deliverables in a timely manner. However, the consulting team is not responsible for missed deadlines if deliverables are not provided to the consulting team with sufficient lead time to allow for a thorough review.

Deliverables: A memorandum 1) identifying if task methods and deliverables are in compliance with Resilient Florida Grant Program and as laid out in the prime agreement; 2) QA/QC outputs and 3) identify any corrective actions needed.

Exhibit B. Schedule

Task	NTP	NTP+1	NTP+2	NTP+3	NTP+4	NTP+5
PM						
Review VA Data Standards	Review data standards					
Exposure Analysis	Model submitted to Jacobs for review	Jacobs review results and draft TM				
Sensitivity Analysis					Sensitivity Results submitted for Review	Sensitivity Results TM

Exhibit C. Cost Breakdown

Task	Cost
PM	\$2,089
Review VA Data Standards	\$3,245
Exposure Analysis	\$14,576
Sensitivity Analysis	\$4,112
Total	\$24,982



Agenda Item 8.e.

Approval of the 2026 Holiday Schedule

Background: The Board is required to approval the annual holiday schedule. The proposed 2026 holiday schedule is consistent with other local government agencies.

Recommendation: Recommend the Board approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule.

Financial Impact: N/A

Legal Review: N/A



2026 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Holidays	Thursday, January 1, 2026
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 19, 2026
President's Day	Monday, February 16, 2026
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25, 2026
Juneteenth	Friday, June 19, 2026
Independence Day	Friday, July 3, 2026 (Observed)
Labor Day	Monday, September 7, 2026
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 26, 2026 Friday, November 27, 2026
Christmas Holidays	Thursday, December 24, 2026 Friday, December 25, 2026
New Year's Holidays	Thursday, December 31, 2026 Friday, January 1, 2027



Agenda Item 8.e.

Approval of the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

Background: The Board is required to approve the annual Board of Directors meeting schedule.

Recommendation: Recommend the Board approve the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule.

Financial Impact: N/A

Legal Review: N/A



2026 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Wednesday, July 29, 2026
Wednesday, September 23, 2026
Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Please note all Board of Directors meetings begin promptly at 1:30 pm unless otherwise noted. Meeting locations are to be determined.



Agenda Item 8.f.

Approval of the 2026 Travel Schedule

Background: The provided conference/annual travel schedule lists all of the conferences, workshops, and meetings that the Executive Director may attend during the calendar year.

March 2026	FPL Economic Symposium	Sandestin, FL
May 2026	Gulf Conference	Mobile, AL
May 2026	Association of Defense Communities	Washington, D.C.
July 2026	Florida Environmental Permitting Summer School	Marco Island, FL
Fall 2026	Restore America's Estuaries Coastal & Estuarine Summit	San Francisco, CA
September 2026	Resilient Florida Conference	Charlotte Harbor, FL
TBD/Various	Meetings related to National Estuary Program	TBD
TBD/Various	Meetings related to Florida Legislature/Alabama Legislature	TBD
TBD/Various	Partnership/project meetings	TBD
TBD/Various	Deepwater Horizon funding/other funding opportunity meetings	TBD

Recommendation: Recommend the Board approve the 2026 Travel Schedule for the Executive Director.

Financial Impact: N/A

Legal Review: N/A



Agenda Item 9.a.

Executive Director Annual Evaluation & Evaluation Process

Background: Per Section 6 of the Executive Director's contract, the Board shall review and evaluate, or authorize the Board Chairman to review and evaluate on the Board's behalf, the performance of the Executive Director annually.

The Chairman has completed the 2025 Annual Evaluation of the Executive Director. The evaluation will be provided to Board members under separate cover. The Chairman requests the Board discuss the annual evaluation process to ensure fairness and transparency in future evaluation cycles.

Recommendation: Recommend the Board discuss the Executive Director Annual Evaluation and the evaluation process.

Financial Impact: N/A

Legal Review: N/A



Agenda Item 9.b.

Organizational Policy on Taking Legislative Policy Positions

Background: At the September 2025 Board Meeting, the Board discussed annual legislative priorities and held a broad discussion on PPBEP's involvement in environmental policy legislation.

The Executive Director has prepared the following policy for Board discussion.

Legislative Advocacy and Position Policy

Issue Statement: The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program's (PPBEP) mission is to restore and protect the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds through restoration, education, and unbiased monitoring of the health of our bays, estuaries, and watersheds. PPBEP is a nonregulatory, science-based, and community-driven nonprofit operating as an instrumentality of government. PPBEP serves as an implementer, connector, and force multiplier, focused on advancing actions and initiatives that support the mission and deliver on the implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Restoration and infrastructure improvements, monitoring and research, outreach and education, and policy must all be considered to achieve the goals established in the CCMP.

As a nonregulatory and nonpartisan organization, it is imperative PPBEP establish a clear policy on legislative advocacy and the process for the organization to take a position on legislation. Therefore, the following policy statements are established:

1. Funding: The Board of Directors authorizes and empowers the Executive Director to advocate on behalf of PPBEP and partnering agencies to federal, state, and local executive and legislative branches on funding needs and priorities that support PPBEP's mission and implementation of the CCMP.
2. Technical Assistance & Advisory Support: The Board of Directors authorizes and empowers the Executive Director to provide technical assistance, advisory support, and data to federal, state, and local executive and legislative branches to inform policies and policy decisions that support PPBEP's mission and implementation of the CCMP. This includes the ability to serve on working groups, task forces, and ad hoc groups as PPBEP may be requested to participate in from time to time.
3. Positions on Legislation: In the event PPBEP is requested to take a position (i.e. for or against) on legislation proposed by federal or state legislative branches that have a material impact on delivering PPBEP's mission and CCMP, the Executive Director shall brief the Board of Directors and the Board shall make a determination if a formal position will be taken. If a motion is brought forward to take a formal position, position adoption will be determined by a majority vote of the Board.



Recommendation: Recommend the Board discuss an organizational policy on taking legislative policy positions.

Financial Impact: N/A

Legal Review: Based on Board discussion, the Executive Director will work with General Counsel to review and revise the policy language, as needed.