Priority & Commitment To Plan Evaluation

Bucket 2 – Council Selected Restoration Component

PROPOSAL TITLE

Egmont Key Restoration and Storm Damage Reduction

PROPORAL NUMBER

ACOE-T-1

LOCATION

Hillsborough/Tampa Regional Area

SPONSOR(S)

Department of the Army

TYPE OF FUNDING REQUESTED (Planning, Technical Assistance, Implementation)

Implementation

REVIEWED BY:

Ebonye T. Allen

DATE:

15 February 2015

A. Comprehensive Plan Goals

Of the goals addressed by the proposal, which is the single primary goal?
Proposals should discuss how the proposed activity is designed to address the primary goal.
Check one:

- (●) Restore and Conserve Habitat – Restore and conserve the health, diversity and resilience of key coastal, estuarine and marine habitats.
- ( ) Restore Water Quality – Restore and protect water quality of the Gulf Coast region's fresh, estuarine and marine waters.
- ( ) Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources – Restore and protect healthy, diverse and sustainable living coastal and marine resources.
- ( ) Enhance Community Resilience – Build upon and sustain communities with capacity to adapt to short- and long-term changes.
- ( ) Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy – Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of the Gulf economy.

Notes:

As stated in the proposal, this proposed habitat restoration project will nourish the beaches with approximately 676,000 cubic yards of material along the length of the western shoreline of the island and will construct a support structure on the north tip of the island. This work will beneficially use dredged material when possible to repair shoreline recession. The project will provide approximately 39 acres of coastal habitat restoration (through fill placement). After the initial nourishment and construction event, the beach will need to be renourished approximately every seven years. The Egmont Key Restoration and Storm Damage Reduction project will prevent the loss of irreplaceable nationally significant cultural resources vital to the Seminole Tribe of Florida; national historic properties; and other resources important to the regional community.

B. Comprehensive Plan Objectives

Proposals must clearly identify which objectives the proposal will address

1. Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats

- [x] YES
- [ ] NO
- [ ] Not articulated
- [ ] N/A

2. Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Resources

- [ ] YES
- [ ] NO
- [ ] Not articulated
- [x] N/A

3. Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources

- [x] YES
- [ ] NO
- [ ] Not articulated
- [ ] N/A

4. Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines

- [x] YES
- [ ] NO
- [ ] Not articulated
- [ ] N/A

Notes:

8. Of these objectives which is the single primary objective the proposal addresses?

Check one:

- (●) Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats
- ( ) Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Resources
- ( ) Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- ( ) Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines
- ( ) Promote Community Resilience
- ( ) Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education
- ( ) Improve Science-Based Decision-Making Processes

C. RESTORE Act and Comprehensive Plan Priority Criteria

All proposals must explain if the proposal addresses one or more of the priority criteria as established by the RESTORE Act and Initial Comprehensive Plan and, if so, how.

1. This project is projected to make the greatest contribution to restoring and protecting the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region, without regard to geographic location within the Gulf Coast region.

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

2. This is a large-scale project/program that is projected to substantially contribute to restoring and protecting the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast ecosystem.

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

3. This project is contained in existing Gulf Coast State comprehensive plans for the restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.

( ) YES (●) NO

4. This project will restore long-term resiliency of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands most impacted by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

(●) YES ( ) NO

5. Promote Community Resilience

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

6. Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated ( ) N/A

Notes:

As stated in the proposal, Egmont Key is critically eroding. Implementing this project would immediately restore and protect the natural resources, coastal ecosystems, beach, and backbay habitats associated with this unique island. The Egmont Key Shore Protection Project is a large-scale project that would protect an entire island at the mouth of Tampa Bay.

D. Comprehensive Plan Commitments

All proposals must demonstrate how the proposal will achieve any or all of the commitments in the Comprehensive Plan. The commitments in the Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

Does the proposal articulate how it will achieve the following commitments in the comprehensive plan?

1. Science-based Decision-Making

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As stated in the proposal, USACE, Jacksonville District, has extensive experience placing sand on beaches through both shore protection projects and beneficial use of dredged material from navigation projects. The Egmont Key Shore Protection Project would be no different; the proposal indicates that best science would be used to build a resilient coastal system that will provide habitat to at-risk Gulf Coast species.

2. Regional Ecosystem-based Approach to Restoration

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As indicated in the proposal, coastal systems are inherently regional ecosystems, as sediment is transported through the littoral system to adjacent beaches. USACE routinely places sand on Pinellas County beaches to the north of Egmont Key, and that sand becomes trapped in the Egmont Shoal north of the Tampa Harbor entrance channel cuts. Placing sand from Egmont Shoal onto Egmont Key is an extension of the natural sediment transport mechanisms in this region.

3. Engagement, Inclusion, and Transparency

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As stated in the proposal, the Egmont Key Shore Protection Project enjoys broad support from numerous State and Federal agencies, and tribes. The Seminole Tribe of Florida submitted a letter in support of USACE's efforts to preserve Egmont Key to Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), on October 6, 2014. More than 100 Seminole Indians were detained at Egmont Key during the Third Seminole War (1855-1858), and several Tribal members died and were buried on the island. The history of the island is a matter of cultural memory for their people, and they asked that it be preserved for future generations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages a portion of the island as a National Wildlife Refuge, and the island is critical habitat for the federally threatened piping plover. The Egmont Key Alliance and the Friends of the Tampa Bay

4. Leveraging Resources and Partnerships

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As stated in the proposal, Egmont Key consists primarily of federally owned property (see Figure 8 of the proposal). The USFWS owns the southern two thirds of the island and established the Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge as a sanctuary for nesting birds in 1974. There is limited public access to the National Wildlife Refuge. A portion of the USFWS land is managed by the State of Florida as a State park. The northern end of the island belongs to the United States Coast Guard and contains a lighthouse and associated buildings. The remaining five acres in the east-central portion of the island are owned by Hillsborough County, Florida, and are utilized by the Tampa Bay Pilots Association (see Figure 8 of the proposal).
Several groups and agencies have been involved during the feasibility study phase and will continue to be engaged for support and partnership in order to implement the plan to restore and preserve Egmont Key. These groups include the

5. Delivering Results and Measuring Impacts

(●) YES ( ) NO

Notes:

As stated in the proposal, USACE conducts monitoring during and following sand placement activities to measure their success. Reports summarizing the results of these surveys would be provided to the Council.
Also see Section E of this form.

E. Meeting Commitments and Tracking and Measuring Progress

1. Does the proposal articulate how it will meet and achieve its commitments?

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

2. Does the proposal have a plan for tracking and measuring progress?

(●) YES ( ) NO

Notes:

The physical and endangered species monitoring stated in the plan:
Physical monitoring will assess project performance and ensure that project functionality is maintained. Profile surveys provide accurate assessments of beach fill volumes and basis for assessing post-construction beach fill adjustments, as well as variation in the profile shape due to seasonal changes and storms. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection issues water quality permits for beach fill projects, which generally require beach profile surveys to be conducted prior to construction, immediately post-construction, and annually thereafter. Other necessary monitoring efforts include bathymetric mapping of the borrow site and aerial photography of the beach fill project. The aerial photography is flown post-construction

F. Proposal Emphasis Areas

Does the submission describe how the proposed project or program addresses the following four considerations:

1. Is the proposed activity **foundational** in the sense that the project or program forms an initial core step (or steps) in addressing a significant ecosystem issue, and can future activities be tiered to substantially increase the benefits?

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As stated in the proposal, by beneficially utilizing dredge material to create coastal wetlands, the project will restore habitat. A large volume of material is placed on the beach initially.

2. Will the proposed activity be **sustainable** over time?

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As indicated in the proposal, adding sediment to the coastal system helps to maintain beach habitat for species in the short-term (decades). When sediment erodes from the placement area, it moves alongshore to beaches south of the placement area.

3. Is the proposed activity **likely to succeed**?

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As stated in the proposal, USACE, Jacksonville District, has successfully placed sand on hundreds of beaches.

4. Does the proposed activity **benefit** the human **community**?
(examples of benefits may include, but are not limited to: how a project will utilize local workers, how a project will benefit geographically or socially vulnerable communities, how a project will benefit the natural resources critical to natural-resource dependent industries such as fisheries, tourism, etc.)

- (●) YES
- ( ) NO
- ( ) Not articulated

Notes:

As stated in the proposal, the Egmont Key Restoration and Storm Damage Reduction project will prevent the loss of irreplaceable nationally significant cultural resources vital to the Seminole Tribe of Florida; national historic properties; and other resources important to the regional community. Egmont Key is a unique and valuable historic, environmental, educational, and recreational treasure. The island has experienced beach erosion resulting in damage to historic structures on the island, the beach and sand dune system, the island's nesting wildlife, and the shoreline vegetation.