

Draft Funded Priorities List 3b

Proposal Abstract

Sponsor: Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Proposal: Coastal Alabama Regional Water Quality Program

Alabama, through the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), is requesting \$40M in Council-Selected Restoration Component funding for the proposed Coastal Alabama Regional Water Quality Program. This would include \$21M in planning funds as FPL Category 1, as well as a separate \$19M implementation component as an FPL Category 2 priority for potential funding. The program will support the primary RESTORE Comprehensive Plan goal to restore water quality and quantity. The program and projects included for implementation may include, but are not limited to: planning related work (e.g., project prioritization and selection, engineering and design (E&D), and permitting and compliance activities), construction of or upgrades to stormwater and wastewater management systems, low impact development/green infrastructure activities, and septic to sewer conversions. Prior to conducting E&D and/or construction activities, ADCNR will develop a process for project identification and project selection. E&D, permitting and implementation would be conducted according to State and Federal engineering and design guidelines and construction standards.

Multiple stakeholder forums in coastal Alabama have prioritized the improvement of water quality for promoting ecosystem health as an important driver of restoring the environment and economy of coastal Alabama. Bacterial and nutrient loading from pollutant sources results in harmful algal blooms, oyster reef closures, hypoxia development, and thus has indirect consequences on coastal workforce and economies. Program duration is 10 years.