



# FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST 3B

## Water Quality Improvement Program for Coastal Mississippi Waters

Funded Priorities List (FPL) 3b is part of a two-phase approach used by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) to respond to ecosystem needs and take advantage of important partnership opportunities to advance large-scale ecosystem restoration.

The Council is considering approval of \$6.85M in planning funds as FPL Category 1 for the *Water Quality Improvement Program for Coastal Mississippi Waters*. In addition, the Council is considering an implementation component for potential future funding as an FPL Category 2 activity, and proposes to reserve \$27.4M for this component, pending further review and a Council vote. The *Water Quality Improvement Program for Coastal Mississippi Waters* would utilize the Planning Framework techniques and approaches outlined in the figure below to address environmental stressors in the Mississippi Sound. Mississippi, through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is the sponsor of this proposed program.

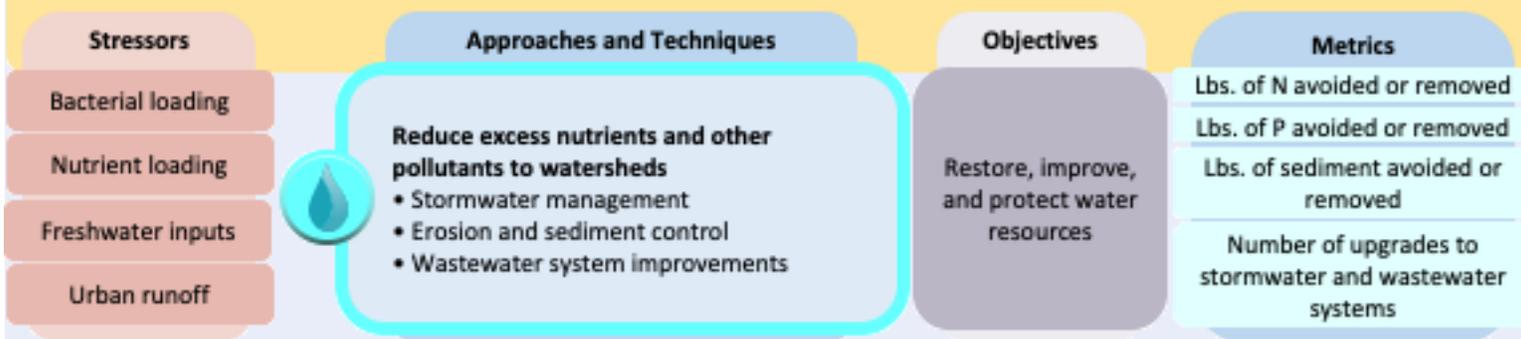
The program will support the restoration of water quality in the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region through the identification and implementation of water quality improvement projects. Program activities may run concurrently and include planning, engineering and design, septic-to-sewer conversion, implementation of new stormwater and wastewater systems, and repairing/upgrading existing stormwater and wastewater systems. The program will be coordinated with water quality improvement efforts under other funding streams to maximize outcomes. The RESTORE Council and coastal stakeholders of Mississippi have both prioritized the improvement of water quality for promoting ecosystem health in addition to restoring and revitalizing Mississippi's economy. Water quality degradation is often attributed to urban runoff, discharge, and overflow issues associated with aging or insufficient wastewater management.

The conversion of septic-to-sewer and the implementation of stormwater and wastewater improvement practices is anticipated to reduce nonpoint source pollution to downstream coastal water bodies, resulting in improved water quality of coastal waters and thus, benefits to living coastal marine resources. Projects may be identified through existing data and analysis that demonstrate connectivity to water quality impairments, as well as, through the source tracking process where data gaps exist.

## Program at a Glance

The *Water Quality Improvement Program for Coastal Mississippi Waters* applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. In support of the primary objective to *Restore, improve, and protect water resources*, stressors such as bacterial loading, nutrient loading, freshwater inputs, and urban runoff will be addressed using the *Stormwater management, Erosion and sediment control, and Wastewater system improvement* techniques. Success using these techniques to *Restore, improve, and protect water resources* may be tracked using lbs. of nitrogen avoided or removed, lbs. of phosphorus avoided or removed, lbs. of sediment avoided or removed, and number of upgrades to stormwater and wastewater systems as metrics.

### Comprehensive Plan Goal: Restore water quality and quantity



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