

Draft Funded Priorities List 3b

Proposal Abstract

Sponsor: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Proposal: Texas Coastal Water Quality Program

Texas, through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is requesting \$25.86M in Council-Selected Restoration Component funding for the proposed Texas Coastal Water Quality Program. This would include \$3,749,700 in planning and project management funds as FPL Category 1, as well as a separate \$22,110,300 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 through activities that aim to restore water quality and freshwater inflows on the Texas coast using a variety of proven methods. Methods include the implementation of best management practices in Texas coastal watersheds to reduce nonpoint source pollution, the repair and enhancement of drainage channels and outfalls to improve stormwater flow and increase freshwater inflow to adjacent marshes, and the construction of living shoreline features to reduce erosion and improve water quality. The program will utilize specified criteria for selecting projects that were identified earlier through public meetings and as part of a stakeholder process.

Water quality on the Texas Coast is adversely impacted by diverted freshwater inflows and increased nutrient input from agriculture. This program will address environmental issues focused on stormwater runoff, freshwater inflows, floodplain management, sediment control and water quality for activities related to coastal communities, wetlands, and agriculture. Program duration is 4 years.