



FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST 3B

Texas Land Acquisition Program for Coastal Conservation

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 \$1,579,500 in planning funds as FPL Category 1 for the *Texas Land Acquisition Program for Coastal Conservation*. In addition, the Council is considering an implementation component for potential future funding as an FPL Category 2 activity, and proposes to reserve \$22,720,500 for this component, pending further review and a Council vote. The *Texas Land Acquisition Program for Coastal Conservation* would utilize the Planning Framework techniques and approaches outlined in the figure below to address environmental stressors in Texas. Texas, through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is the sponsor of this proposed program.

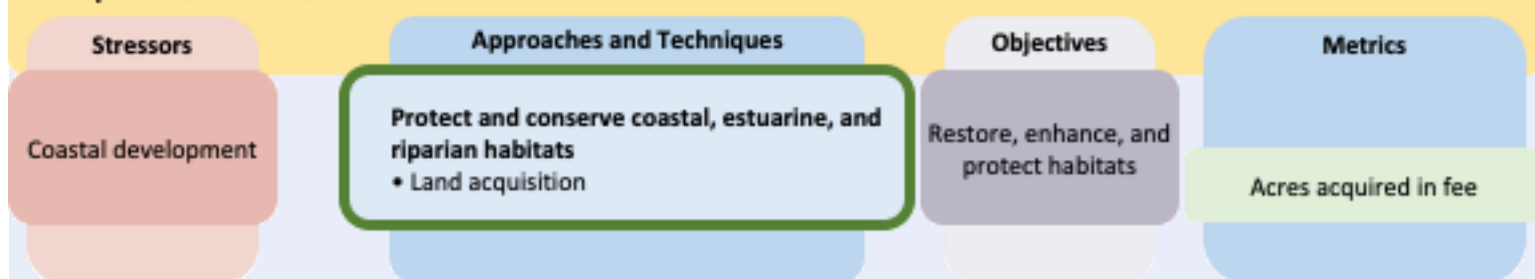
The program will acquire large, high-quality coastal zone properties in Texas. Locations will be selected on the basis of greatest value to the coastal environment now and in the future considering the pressures of environmental change and development. Targeted habitats will include urban green corridors, riparian, prairie and other upland, wooded wetlands, or bay and chenier wetlands.

Potential partners for the program may include The Nature Conservancy, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Galveston Bay Foundation, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, as well as other possible state and local governments. The program will utilize specified criteria for selecting projects that were identified earlier through public meetings and as part of a stakeholder process. This program will conserve valuable land as habitat and provide natural buffers to flooding and erosion, decreasing the need for habitat destroying hard engineering projects while providing valuable ecosystem services.

Program at a Glance

The *Texas Land Acquisition Program for Coastal Conservation* applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. In support of the primary objective to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats*, stressors such as coastal development will be addressed using the *Land acquisition* technique. Success using land acquisition to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats* may be tracked using acres protected under easement and acres acquired in fee as metrics.

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Restore and conserve habitat



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