

Draft Funded Priorities List 3b

Proposal Abstract

Sponsor: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Proposal: Texas Land Acquisition Program for Coastal Conservation

Texas, through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, is requesting \$31.8M in Council-Selected Restoration Component funding for the proposed Texas Land Acquisition Program for Coastal Conservation. This would include \$2,067,000 in planning and project management funds as FPL Category 1, as well as a separate \$29,733,000 implementation component as an FPL Category 2 priority for potential funding. The program will support the primary RESTORE Comprehensive Plan goal to restore and conserve habitat through activities to 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 duration is expected to be 4 years.