

Draft Funded Priorities List 3b

Proposal Abstract

Sponsor: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Proposal: Shoreline Protection Through Living Shorelines

Texas, through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), is requesting \$15M in Council-Selected Restoration Component funding for the Shoreline Protection Through Living Shorelines program. This would include \$1,575,000 in planning and project management funds as FPL Category 1, as well as a separate \$13,425,000 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 the construction of large-scale living shorelines that will stabilize estuarine shorelines and protect large tracts of land and coastal resources along the Texas coast. The program will target highly eroding shorelines along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, vulnerable bay shorelines, and locations that have been identified as suitable areas for a living shoreline installation. This program will also address degrading coastal structures that need repair, such as critical seawalls, and add living shoreline elements to enhance their protective capabilities. The program will utilize specified criteria for selecting projects that were identified earlier through public meetings and as part of a stakeholder process.

Living shorelines can reduce damage to shorelines by dampening wave action and trapping sediments, elevating shore profiles to a level that will support marsh vegetation. This program will also provide ecosystem services by creating hard structure habitats for fish and oysters, nutrient and sediment removal, seagrass protection, and water quality improvement. Program duration is 4 years.