



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Gulf Consortium Directors and County RESTORE Act Coordinators

**From:** Doug Robison – SEP Project Manager

**Subject:** Finalization of the SEP Preliminary Project List and Conceptual Design Cost Estimates

**Date:** February 27, 2017

---

### Background

At the December 2, 2016 Gulf Consortium meeting the ESA consultant team presented a summary of the State Expenditure Plan (SEP) Preliminary Project List, which was the synthesis of project concepts proposed by each of the 23 counties. On January 26, 2017 the consultant team met with DEP and Restoration Council representatives to review the preliminary project list, and the feedback was generally very positive. However, there are a number of counties that are still considering changes to their respective project lists at this time. **In order to stay on schedule, we are urging each county to fully commit to a particular project or suite of projects by March 31, 2017.** This will allow us to present an updated Preliminary Project List to Gulf Consortium at its April 6, 2017 meeting, as well as with Restoration Council staff shortly thereafter. Accordingly, the ESA consultant team will again be reaching out to each of the counties during March 2017 to provide additional assistance in finalizing their respective project lists.

In June of 2016 at the beginning of this planning process, the ESA team secured the planning grant on behalf of the Gulf Consortium for \$4.6 million to fund the preparation of the SEP, as well as Consortium legal and administrative services. Of that \$4.6 million, \$1.5 million was reserved for as-needed “conceptual design and feasibility studies” for the 23 Counties. In addition, through a possible planning grant amendment, another \$5.2 million is potentially available to Florida for conceptual design and feasibility studies. After meeting with all 23 Counties and discussing their projects in more depth, there was an overwhelming response that more funds were needed to help further develop and define most projects to a minimum standard of detail for inclusion in the SEP. We have received approval from the Restoration Council that these funds can be used for up to 30% design of projects for inclusion in the SEP.

As directed by the Gulf Consortium Board at its February 8, 2017 meeting, the ESA consultant team is preparing a cost estimate to develop conceptual designs and conduct feasibility studies for all projects to be included in the SEP projects. This cost estimate will be used as the basis for the possible planning grant amendment requesting some portion of the remaining \$5.2 million in planning funds from the RESTORE Council. Therefore, in working with each of the counties to finalize their projects during March 2017, we will also be requesting your assistance in helping us define your project informational needs. We intend to present a summary of these informational needs and associated cost estimate at the April 6, 2017 Gulf Consortium meeting.

### **Cost Estimate Documentation**

To assist in the development of a cost-estimate for addressing informational needs for your project(s), please assess the applicability and availability of the following types of information related to your projects. Knowing the status of this type of information for your project(s) will be very helpful in determining the level of effort needed to adequately define each project in the SEP.

- Land Ownership/Acquisition
  - Deeds or proof of property ownership;
  - Easements;
  - Submerged land leases;
  - Parcel information and ownership of proposed acquisition parcels;
  - Documentation/MOU that owner is willing to sell.
  
- Project Site Information
  - Aerial/site photos;
  - Wetland delineations;
  - SAV maps;
  - Wildlife surveys;
  - LiDAR/DEM data;
  - Topographic/bathymetric surveys;
  - Geotechnical information;
  - Quantities and cut/fill calculations.
  
- Preliminary Project Design
  - Project permits;
  - Plan view and typical cross section drawings;
  - Engineering plan sets;
  - Utility plans.
  
- Cost/Schedule
  - Preliminary engineering cost estimates;
  - Contractor bids;
  - Phasing breakdown;
  - Anticipated project schedule.
  
- Baseline Monitoring
  - Existing water quality data
  - TMDL/BMAP reports

Please note that due to the predominance of septic to sewer projects, we will be developing and distributing a separate list of project informational needs for these types of projects. Our subconsultant Brown & Caldwell will be coordinating directly with those counties proposed septic to sewer projects.

### **Schedule**

We will be reaching out to each County to schedule a conference call or an in person meeting prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> to assist you in obtaining the necessary documentation and further define the project scope and design needs.

### **Questions**

We understand that respondents may have questions during this response period (March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline). We ask that questions be directed to the SEP Project Manager either by phone or in writing via letter or email to the following contact information:

Doug Robison – SEP Project Manager  
Environmental Science Associates (ESA)  
4200 West Cypress Street, Suite 450  
Tampa, Florida 33607  
(813) 207-7206  
drobison@esassoc.com