



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

100 College Boulevard • Niceville, FL 32578-1295 • (850) 678-5111 • www.nwfsc.edu

March 27, 2018

Attention: Jane Evans - jevans@co.okaloosa.fl.us

Grants and RESTORE Manager

County Administration, 1250 North Eglin Parkway, Suite 102, Shalimar, FL 32579

RE: Direct Component Application for the "***Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project***"

Dear Mrs. Evans,

Please find enclosed Northwest Florida State College's Application for funds under the Okaloosa County RESTORE Act, Direct Component.

As detailed in the Application, the *Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project* will:

- (1) Establish a Marine Engineering Institute to provide a skilled labor force to keep pace with current and future demands of Okaloosa County's marine engineering industry. This shortfall is already hindering economic prosperity in the region, so obviously there is a significant need to prepare students for these careers.
- (2) Expose Okaloosa County's K-12 students to the importance of our critical marine habitat in their formative years so that they develop an affinity and interest in pursuing professional careers in the marine engineering industry. Thereby, the STEM Education Component will act as a feeder program for NWFSC's Marine Engineering Institute.
- (3) Provide economic and environmental improvements in Okaloosa County by collecting all marine-generated sewage that is produced by the boating community and properly disposing of this effluent so it can be processed by a central sewer system and thereby improve Okaloosa County's economy and environment. The Program will also rotationally provide its pumpout boats to NWFSC's Marine Engineering Institute so that enrolled students can gain invaluable hands-on experience and professional certifications whilst servicing the pumpout boats.

Okaloosa County's one-time investment in the *Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project* will fix three significant problems which currently limit economic prosperity in Okaloosa County and will implement a generational solution which will last forever. More effectively stated:

"This transformative 'marine infrastructure' project will improve the overall quality of life for every student, resident, employer, and visitor to the Florida panhandle and position Okaloosa County with the aquatic capacity to accommodate future growth and prosperity for generations to come."

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT | DR. DEVIN STEPHENSON

NWF State College Fort Walton Beach Campus • (850) 863-6500 Chautauqua Center, DeFuniak Springs • (850) 892-8100

Hurlburt Center, Hurlburt Field • (850) 884-6296 Robert L. F. Sikes Education Center, Crestview • (850) 689-7911

South Walton Center, Santa Rosa Beach • (850) 200-4160

An Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Institution

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this application and are looking forward to providing whatever additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Stephenson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Devin Stephenson
President, Northwest Florida State College

Okaloosa County

Project
Data
Collection Form

RESTORE ACT - Direct Component

BCC Proposal Number

(To Be Assigned by Grant Administration)

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this data collection form is to assist Okaloosa County in prioritizing projects submitted for Direct Component ("Pot #1") funds allocated from the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund through the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act).

The following terms are used in this data collection form:

- Applicant or Responsible Entity - the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
- Project Proposer - the individual or organization completing this form

Prior to initiating this data collection form, it is recommended the Project Proposer download and review the entire form to understand the range of required information. Tools/data required to complete this form may include: permits, interlocal agreements, comprehensive plans, evidence of property ownership, and estimated project costs. Completing all required information in the collection form may require many hours; this will be a function of project complexity and proposer preparedness.

This data collection form differs from the U.S. Treasury Application Form (RESTORE Act Direct Component Guidance and Application to Receive Federal Financial Assistance; August 2014). This data collection form is designed to assist Okaloosa County in their task of developing a recommended list of potential projects for inclusion in an amendment to the BOCC's Multiyear Plan.

Projects that are identified for funding in the Multiyear Plan amendment may require additional information from the Project Proposer. If a proposed project is ultimately included in the approved Multiyear Plan, failure of the Project Proposer to provide the required project information may preclude funding for that project.

Per RESTORE Act guidance, the responsible entity shall be solely responsible for the execution of each funded project, including procurement of professional services and/or construction services. The Okaloosa County BOCC reserves the right to delegate these services to sub-entities with the demonstrated capability to comply with all County and Federal procurement processes required by the RESTORE Act.

By proposing a project through this data collection form, the Project Proposer acknowledges there is no guarantee the proposed project will be funded. Further, the Project Proposer acknowledges no reimbursement or compensation shall be provided for completing the data collection form or any other activities associated with proposing a project.

PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION

Incomplete applications will not be considered. By submitting this project proposal, the proposer certifies that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge. Any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may cause the application to be rejected without the opportunity to re-submit.

A.1 Project Point of Contact: Provide the name and contact info including the mailing address, e-mail address and phone number of the Project Proposer.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Name: | Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of NWFSC |
| Street 1: | 100 College Blvd |
| Street 2: | |
| City: | Niceville |
| State: | FL |
| Zip Code: | 32458 |
| County: | Okaloosa |
| E-Mail: | mcdowel2@nwfsc.edu |
| Phone Number: | (850) 200-4173 |

A.2 Proposed Activity / Project Name: Provide the name of the Proposer Activity/Project

| |
|--|
| Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project |
|--|

A.3. Requested Funding Amount: How much Direct Component (Pot #1) funding is being requested for this project?

| |
|---------------------------|
| \$24,234,294 over 7-years |
|---------------------------|

A.4. Qualifying Eligible Activity: Please check the primary eligible activity in the first column and then all other eligible activities that apply in the second column by placing a check mark or selecting the radio button in the column in the row corresponding to the qualifying eligible activity.

| Select Primary Activity (Select only one) | Select All Others That Apply | Qualifying Eligible Activity |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1. Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 4. Workforce development and job creation |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5. Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Coastal flood protection and related Infrastructure |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Planning assistance |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region |

A.5. Claimed in Oil Liability Trust Fund After July 6, 2012: Was this proposed activity included in any claim for compensation paid out by the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund after July 6, 2012?

- No.
- Yes. (STOP) This activity is not eligible for RESTORE Direct Component.

A. 6. Location of Activity: Provide the project location. (If there is more than one location for the activity, attach a list of the additional locations).

A.6.1. Address: Provide the actual address for the activity (street address, city/town, county/parish, state, zip code). (If there is no street number, provide the nearest intersection, or note boundaries on map submitted with [Question A.6.2](#)).

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Latitude/Longitude (if available): | |
| Street Address: | |
| City/Town: | |
| County/Parish: | Okaloosa County |
| State: | Florida |
| Zip Code: | |

A. 6.2. Map: Provide a map of the project location and describe how the proposed activity will be carried out in the Gulf Coast Region as defined in 31 CFR 34.2.

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| Please See Attachment A on page 19. |
|-------------------------------------|

(END OF PART A)

PART B: PROJECT DETAILS

B.1 Proposed Scope of Work: Provide a detailed scope of work that fully describes the project or program for which funding is requested. Including:

- Need, purpose and objectives;
- How the project/program meets the identified primary activity designated in **A4**;
- Specific tasks, milestones and related timeframes (**also captured in Milestones Report**); and
- Description of all funding sources.

NOTE: The RESTORE Act requires projects designed to protect or restore natural resources to be based on Best Available Science (BAS). (**Complete Question B.4 also.**)

If additional space is needed attach document. (2,000 characters max)

Please See Attachment B on page 21.

B.1.1 Part of a Larger Project: If the proposed project is part of a larger project outside the scope of this proposal, describe the larger project and the proposed project's relationship to it.

Please See Attachment C on page 33.

B.2 Monitoring: During the project & following its completion, will the project be subject to a monitoring program to evaluate project success?

- No
- Yes (provide information on monitoring and evaluation)

Please See Attachment D on page 34.

B.3 Management/Maintenance Program: Will the project be subject to a management/maintenance program to ensure project success?

- No
- Yes (Provide information on how the project will be monitored and maintained as well as the party (or parties) responsible for performing these tasks.)

Please See Attachment E on page 35.

B.4. Best Available Science (BAS), if applicable

Is the proposed activity designed to protect or restore natural resources?

No Yes (If “yes” complete this section).

B.4.1 Protection or Restoration Objective(s) of the Project– State clearly the objective(s) below:

The primary eligible activity of this proposed Project is Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.

B.4.2 Methods Used to Achieve Objective(s) – Describe below:

B.4.3 Methods Based on BAS – Explain in detail how the methods are based on BAS:

B.4.4 Peer Reviewed Information – Summarize the peer-reviewed information that justifies the proposed objective(s) including methods used for the proposed activity below:

B.4.5 Alternative Scientific Information Sources – if Peer Reviewed information is unavailable; explicitly stated this and provide a brief explanation of what sources were used. If sources are publicly available, please also provide a link below:

B.4.6 Literature Sources Used for BAS – if applicable, list the sufficient citations including: Title, Journal in which the literature source appeared, if applicable; Publication date; Author(s); and Web address if downloaded or available online that would apply to the proposed project **B4.4.1**

B.4.7 Conclusion of Literature Sources in B4.6– Summarize the literature sources’ conclusions and any uncertainties or risks in the scientific basis that would apply to the proposed project including any uncertainties or risks that were identified by the public or by a Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council member below:

B.4.8 Gulf Coast Region adaptability, if applicable – Summarize how the method’s used reasonably support and are adaptable to the Gulf Coast Region if the information supporting the proposed project does not directly pertain to the Gulf Coast Region below:

B.4.9 Evaluation of Uncertainties and Risks – Summarize an evaluation of uncertainties and risks in achieving the project’s BAS objective(s) over the longer term. For example, is there an uncertainty or risk that in 5-10 years the project/program will be obsolete or not function as planned given projections of sea level rise or other environmental changes such as in freshwater inflows to estuaries?

B.5 Project Narrative

Provide a narrative of your project and why this project should be funded. Discuss the following items as a minimum:

1. Explain how the proposed budget supports the proposed scope of work
2. Project Expenditures (long term and short term)
3. Project Revenues
4. Program Income, including nature and source, if any
5. Key personnel involved with the project
6. Will a subrecipient be required to complete the project
7. Specific objectives
8. Permits or land acquisition required
9. Design status
10. Similar project success or if new technology explain
11. Environmental impact (species affected, existing plans supported, etc.)
12. Risks to implement and maintain the activity
13. Jobs Created (short term, long term, and wage scales)

(1,000 characters max)

Please See Attachment F on page 38.

B.6 Project Budget

In the “Project Budget” table, provide best estimates of the costs and revenues associated with the proposed project during the period of performance.

There are two Project Budget tables below, one is for “Non-Construction” and the other is for “Construction”. Both mirror the budget format required for the forthcoming grant application. Complete the one that best pertains to your project.

Expenditures – Line 6.(a-g) – Section B

For each expenditure entered, it must be associated with a task as listed in the scope of work. You will be required to describe and justify the expenditure in the section that follows.

Indirect Charges – Line 6.(i). (if applicable)

Indirect cost rate (if applicable) as determined by 2 CFR Appendix to Part 200.

Program Income – Line 7 (if any)

Program Income means gross income earned by the Non-Federal entity that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the Federal award during the period of performance except as provided in §200.307 paragraph. Enter the estimated amount of income, if any, expected to be generated from this project. Do not add or subtract this amount from the total project amount. In the project narrative define the nature and source of income. The estimated amount of program income may be considered by the Federal grantor agency in determining the total amount of the grant. See 2 CFR §200.80 for more details.

Non-Federal Resources – Lines 8-11 – Section C

Restore Direct Component funds DO NOT require matching funds. Enter the total amount of RESTORE Direct Component funds that will be need to execute your project in column 1 Federal. However, if you are receiving matching funds from other sources to complete your project, the source of those funds will be listed separately in column a. on lines 8-11 and the respective amounts in columns b.- e.

For example, if you are proposing a \$2 million construction project and are asking for \$1 million from RESTORE Direct Component to match a \$1 million, you would enter \$1 million from RESTORE and \$1 million in non-Federal for the Proposer. However, once proposed, accepted and awarded by Treasury, the \$1 million in non-Federal proposed funds would then become a required cash match from the Proposer.

Use current year dollars rounded to the nearest dollar.

(“Project Budget Information table” is on the next page)

B.6.1 Non-Construction Project Budget table

| PROJECT BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Cost Classification | (1) Federal | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | TOTAL |
| a. Personnel | \$ 221,803 | \$ 227,622 | \$ 233,599 | \$ 239,738 | \$ 246,043 | \$ 252,521 | \$ 259,174 | \$ 1,680,499 |
| b. Fringe Benefits | \$ 64,645 | \$ 66,344 | \$ 68,089 | \$ 69,881 | \$ 71,722 | \$ 73,614 | \$ 75,557 | \$ 489,853 |
| c. Travel | \$ 131,254 | \$ 133,483 | \$ 135,751 | \$ 138,057 | \$ 140,403 | \$ 142,788 | \$ 145,216 | \$ 966,952 |
| d. Equipment | \$ 511,209 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 511,209 |
| e. Supplies | \$ 609,296 | \$ 62,614 | \$ 63,499 | \$ 64,398 | \$ 67,976 | \$ 66,238 | \$ 67,178 | \$ 1,001,199 |
| f. Contractual (outsourced services) | \$ 4,044,500 | \$ 1,750,000 | \$ 1,750,000 | \$ 1,800,000 | \$ 2,000,000 | \$ 1,750,000 | \$ 1,750,000 | \$ 14,844,500 |
| g. Other (specify) | | | | | | | | |
| Cost of Rent for Marine Engineering Institute | \$ 64,800 | \$ 65,448 | \$ 66,102 | \$ 66,764 | \$ 67,431 | \$ 68,105 | \$ 68,787 | \$ 467,437 |
| Insurance (P&I, Commercial General Liability, etc.) | \$ 16,839 | \$ 17,125 | \$ 17,416 | \$ 17,712 | \$ 18,013 | \$ 18,320 | \$ 18,631 | \$ 124,056 |
| Regulatory Licenses and Permits | \$ 896 | \$ 911 | \$ 927 | \$ 943 | \$ 959 | \$ 975 | \$ 991 | \$ 6,601 |
| Postage and Delivery | \$ 1,738 | \$ 1,766 | \$ 1,794 | \$ 1,823 | \$ 1,853 | \$ 1,883 | \$ 1,913 | \$ 12,769 |
| Telecommunications and Internet | \$ 5,158 | \$ 5,246 | \$ 5,335 | \$ 5,426 | \$ 5,518 | \$ 5,612 | \$ 5,707 | \$ 38,004 |
| Professional Fees (legal and accounting) | \$ 1,338 | \$ 1,361 | \$ 1,384 | \$ 1,408 | \$ 1,431 | \$ 1,456 | \$ 1,481 | \$ 9,859 |
| Dock Rent / Slip Fee | \$ 14,400 | \$ 14,645 | \$ 14,894 | \$ 15,147 | \$ 15,404 | \$ 15,666 | \$ 15,933 | \$ 106,089 |
| Disaster Preparedness and Post-Disaster Recovery | \$ 1,429 | \$ 1,429 | \$ 1,429 | \$ 1,429 | \$ 1,429 | \$ 1,429 | \$ 1,429 | \$ 10,000 |
| Incidental Expenses (unforeseen events, etc.) | \$ 1,550 | \$ 1,576 | \$ 1,603 | \$ 1,630 | \$ 1,658 | \$ 1,686 | \$ 1,715 | \$ 11,419 |
| h. Total Direct Charges (sum a-g) | \$ 5,690,855 | \$ 2,349,570 | \$ 2,361,823 | \$ 2,424,356 | \$ 2,639,841 | \$ 2,400,292 | \$ 2,413,711 | \$ 20,280,447 |
| i. Indirect Charges | \$ 1,035,929 | \$ 469,914 | \$ 472,365 | \$ 484,871 | \$ 527,968 | \$ 480,058 | \$ 482,742 | \$ 3,953,847 |
| j. TOTAL (sum a-i) | \$ 6,726,784 | \$ 2,819,484 | \$ 2,834,187 | \$ 2,909,227 | \$ 3,167,809 | \$ 2,880,350 | \$ 2,896,453 | \$ 24,234,294 |
| 7. Program Income (see 2 CFR 200.80) | \$ 205,920 | \$ 205,920 | \$ 205,920 | \$ 205,920 | \$ 205,920 | \$ 205,920 | \$ 205,920 | \$ 205,920 |
| SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Identify Funding Source: (Note: No Matching Funds are Required) | (b) Prosper | (c) State | (d) County | (e) Other | | | | (f) TOTAL |
| 8. | | | | | | | | |
| 9. | | | | | | | | |
| 10. | | | | | | | | |
| 11. | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11) | | | | | | | | |
| Reference: OMB Standard Form 424-A | | | | | | | | |

B.6.3 Budget Justification

Explain in detail how the above proposed budget supports the proposed scope of work. Provide specific justification for ALL project budget categories that apply, including a justification of how the proposed costs within each of the budget categories on the above SF-424A are necessary, reasonable, allowable, and allocable. (2,500 characters max)

Please See Attachment G on page 44.

B.7 Real Property or Land

B.7.1 Property Ownership/Use: If project requires the use of land, provide details of property to include land acquisition, ownership, agreements to use property, permits, easements, etc.

Please See Attachment H on page 51.

B.7.2 Attach documentation (i.e. letter of commitment, Memorandum of Understanding, deed, etc.)

B.7.3 Land Acquisition: Will land or interest in land be acquired?

- Yes, answer questions **B.7.5 – B.7.12.13**
 No

B.7.4 Land Improvements: Will land be improved?

- Yes, answer questions **B.7.5 – B.7.10, B.7.12.4**
 No

B.7.5 Legal Rights: What are the legal rights that will be acquired?

- Fee Title Easement Other (explain):

B.7.6 Easement: If an easement, what is the life or term of the easement?

B.7.7 Title: Will the **Project Proposer** hold title to the land? Yes No

B.7.8 Land Size: What is the total acreage of the proposed property interest to be acquired (easement or fee title)?

B.7.9 Appraisal: Has a recent certified appraisal of the property been obtained?

- No
 Yes (attach a copy of the appraisal)

B.7.10 Title Opinion or Certificate: Has a recent title opinion or certificate been obtained?

- No
 Yes (attach a copy of the title opinion or certificate)

B.7.11 Statement: Attach a signed statement from the seller(s) that he/she is a willing seller and has not been coerced into selling or conveying the property interest.

B.7.12 Legal Description & Parcel ID: Attached is the legal description of the property and the parcel identification number.

B.7.12.1 Land Description: Provide a description of the land to be purchased.

B.7.12.2 Federal Interest in Real Property: Are you aware that “Federal Interest” refers to real property that is acquired or improved, in whole or in part, with RESTORE Act Direct Component Funds, which must be held in trust by the recipient for the benefit of the project for the Estimated Useful Life of the Project, during which period Treasury retains an undivided equitable reversionary interest in the real property (i.e. the “federal interest”) To document the federal interest, a “Covenant of Purpose, Use and Ownership” (Covenant) will be prepared and recorded against the real property for which the funding was awarded.

No Yes

B.7.12.3 Use of Real Property with Federal Interest: Are you aware that the property on which there is a federal interest may not be used for purposes other than the authorized purpose for which funding was awarded without prior written approval from Treasury. The property must not be sold, conveyed, transferred, assigned, mortgaged, or in any manner encumbered except as expressly authorized in writing by Treasury.

No Yes

B.7.12.4 Insurance: Are you aware that the recipient of Restore funds, must at a minimum, provide the equivalent insurance coverage for real property improved with federal funds as required by 2 CFR 200.310.

B.8 Construction Activities

B.8.1 Permits: Does the proposed activity require any federal, tribal, state, or local permits?

No

Yes (If yes, list the specific federal, tribal, state or local permits required for this project and the status of the permits below)

B.9 Relocation Assistance: Will the proposed project cause the displacement of any persons, businesses, or farm operations?

No

Yes (If yes, as required by Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, explain:

1. the number of displaced persons, including businesses and farm operations;
2. what fair and reasonable relocation payments and advisory services will be provided to any displaced persons;
3. and what provisions will be made to ensure that safe, decent, and sanitary replacement dwellings will be available to such persons within a reasonable period of time prior to displacement.

(End of Part B)

(End of Data Collect Form)

PROJECT RISK ASSESSMENT

Please complete the Direct Component Proposer/Subrecipient Questionnaire which may be found at www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/grants.

The Project Data Collection Form and the Proposer/Subrecipient Questionnaire plus any required supporting documentation must be submitted in order for the project submission to be considered complete.

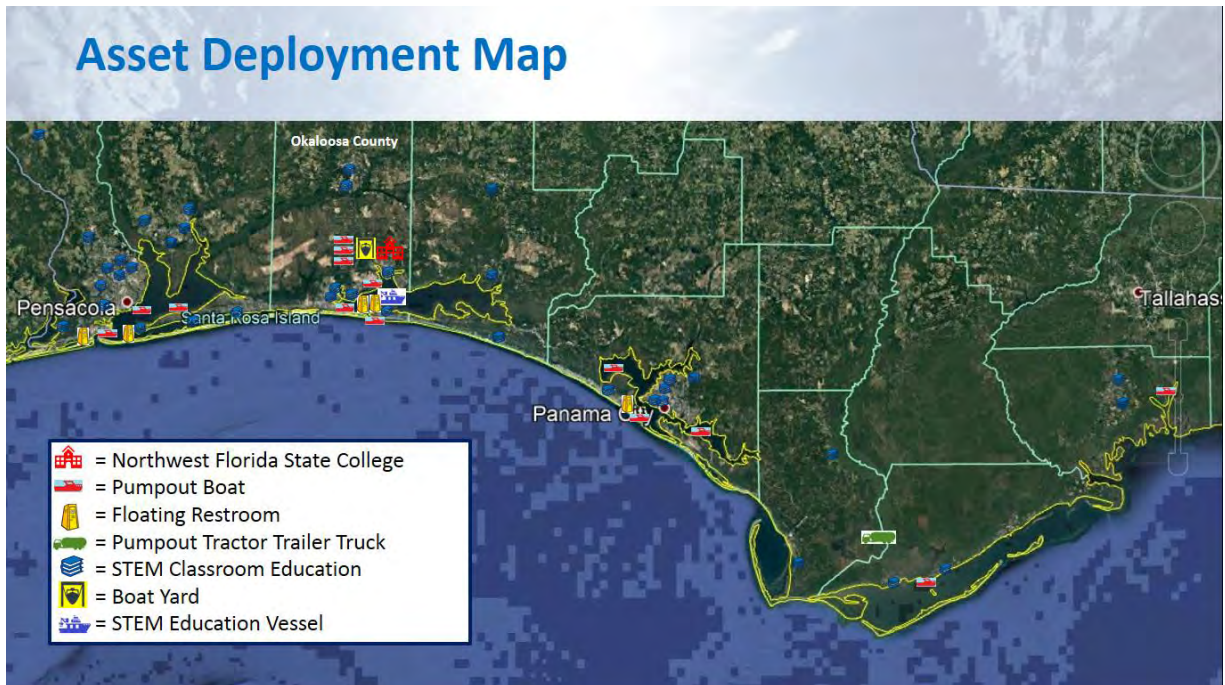
Project submissions shall be submitted to jevans@co.okaloosa.fl.us.

Attachment A

Response for Question A. 6.2. Map: **Provide a map of the project location and describe how the proposed activity will be carried out in the Gulf Coast Region as defined in 31 CFR 34.2.**

As depicted in the Asset Deployment Map below, the overall *Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project* (the *GCEEP*) will be implemented (at varying scales) across all 8 disproportionately affected counties including: Okaloosa County; Bay County; Escambia County; Franklin County; Gulf County; Santa Rosa County; Wakulla County; and Walton County. Thus, the human health and welfare benefits of the GCEEP has the potential to reach all citizens, properties and businesses of the entire Florida Panhandle and its visitors.

The Direct Component application for this RESTORE Act is focused on funding activities of the GCEEP conducted in Okaloosa County (OC), hereinafter as GCEEP-OC. In other words, all resources awarded under this application will be wholly expended within OC.



Asset Deployment Map for overall 8-County Project



Asset Deployment Map for Okaloosa County

There are three synergistically-aligned components of the GCEEP which will be established in or conducted within Okaloosa County. These three synergistically-aligned components are:

- (1) Establishing a Marine Engineering Institute on property owned by or controlled by Northwest Florida State College.
- (2) Creating a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Component to secondary elective science students consistent with the needs of the Okaloosa County School District that includes curriculum and experiential learning on board a STEM Education Vessel operated in the western portion of Choctawhatchee Bay in Okaloosa County.
- (3) Generating a Mobile Marine Pumpout Program (modeled on the successful Florida Keys-based program) that dedicates three mobile marine pumpout vessels and two floating restrooms to full-time service in Okaloosa County.

These components work in concert with one another to leverage-up the economic output for the overall project. For example, elective students from the STEM Education Component gain invaluable skills to become eligible enrollees in the Northwest Florida State College Marine Engineering Institute. Students from the Marine Engineering Institute repair and maintain the pumpout boats from the Project's Mobile Marine Pumpout program and thereby earn degree certifications to land high-wage jobs – including being hired on as mechanics or captains in the Project's Mobile Marine Pumpout program. This cycle self-perpetuates over time.

The methodology used to determine the percentage of GCEEP costs allocable to Okaloosa County is detailed at the bottom of Attachment G on Page 50.

Attachment B

Response for Question B.1 Proposed Scope of Work: Provide a detailed scope of work that fully describes the project or program for which funding is requested. Including:

- **Need, purpose and objectives;**

The Need:

The RESTORE Act (the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act) is designed to provide restoration for environmental, ecological, and economic damages to the Gulf Coast that occurred because of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Consistent with the Act, the GCEEP-OC is focused on Okaloosa County's marine-based economy (education for skills and jobs) and environmental needs (education to better protect marine areas and clean-up measures), and the Applicant has identified three specific, codependent needs in Okaloosa County. These needs are as follows:

- (1) *Shortage of skilled marine technicians to service vessels and take advantage of well-paid job opportunities* – Okaloosa has experienced explosive growth in the demand for marine engineers and mechanics yet none of the four Panhandle state colleges offer programs which raise the baseline of skills needed to do these jobs. This shortfall is already hindering economic prosperity in Okaloosa County, so obviously there is a significant need to prepare students for these careers.

Northwest Florida State College has documented the increase in demand for marine technicians. According to the labor market analytics firm EMSI, the marine industry has grown by 75% in Okaloosa County in just the last five years alone, and in addition to the growth in the number of jobs, advances in marine engine technology have compounded the shortage in the labor supply of highly skilled technicians to service the more than 83,000 registered vessels in the 8 disproportionately affected counties.

Although the industry was able to attract and train technicians utilizing on-the-job training in the past, rapidly changing technologies now require an entry level technician to begin his or her career with highly developed technical skills and this has compounded the shortage in the labor supply of highly skilled technicians to service the growing number of boats.

The industries within a 10-county region that employ marine mechanics include boat dealers, marinas, marine cargo handling, ship building and repairing, motorcycle and ATV dealers, and golf courses and country clubs. And, the average pay for this occupation averages \$37,500 annually.

The projected growth for marine engineers in the region is 15.4%, which is 290% higher than the national average of 5.3%. And, in 2017 there were 131 jobs posted in the region for motorboat mechanics and service technicians which is 135% above the national average. None of the four panhandle state colleges currently offer marine technician training programs, so Northwest Florida State College is prepared to seize the opportunity to work with local industry leaders to develop a state-of-the-art, short-term technical program (hereinafter called the Marine Engineering Institute) that will enable Okaloosa County students to get to work quickly and enable the industry to meet its current workforce demands and grow this skilled sector of the regional economy.

- (2) ***Lack of STEM education in K-12 classrooms that is connected to Okaloosa County's water-dependent economy and local marine environment*** – there is a significant need to prepare Okaloosa's K-12 students for careers in marine engineering and marine sciences and the ultimate success of this endeavor rests with capturing the student's affinity and interest during their formative years so they can develop the requisite STEM skillset to qualify for entry into a state college marine engineering program.

A 2006 economic analysis of the Contribution of Choctawhatchee Bay to Okaloosa and Walton Counties conducted by the Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development found that nearly all facets of the Panhandle's economic base (including the military component) are inextricably tied to the region's unique water assets. In fact, water-dependent activity has grown so quickly that Boat and Yacht dealerships comprise the single fastest-growing industry in Okaloosa County over the past two decades.

Yet, the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida has discovered that unlike many other areas of the state, Northwest Florida's regional K-12 education does not leverage this asset by exposing students to the potential of pursuing careers in the marine engineering and marine science fields and today there is insufficient skilled labor to keep pace with the current and future demand and this shortfall is hindering economic prosperity in the region.

- (3) ***Choctawhatchee Bay and its tributaries are ecologically impaired by unmitigated marine-generated sewage, and this impairment will soon negatively impact Okaloosa County's economy*** – This condition impacts human health and tourism (both directly and indirectly) and affects the quality of the Bay's marine life and natural assets for both recreation and ecosystem services. There is a significant need to recover and properly dispose of all marine generated sewage that is produced in Choctawhatchee Bay.

Over the last 20 years the permanent population base of Northwest Florida has doubled, tourism has tripled, and water-dependent activity has grown by 600%. During this same timeframe communities in the Panhandle have invested billions in upland infrastructure to accommodate this growth, but there has been negligible corresponding investment in the quality of our marine infrastructure. Today, most of the bays and estuaries of Choctawhatchee Bay are already listed as “Impaired” on the EPA’s Waterbody Quality Assessment Report and water quality testing in Okaloosa County routinely returns poor results for elevated levels of fecal contamination. Below is a copy of a public warning message that was routinely issued to visitors of Henderson Beach State Park in Okaloosa County last Summer.

The health advisory is based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s recommended standards for enterococci. This should be considered a potential health risk to the bathing public. The water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria (enterococci) that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals and which may cause human disease, infections, or rashes. The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from stormwater runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage.

And here is snapshot of a rather typical television news cast from last Fall.



While studies typically cite storm-water runoff, pets, and wildlife for fecal contamination, data gathered through a first-of-its-kind public/private partnership for a marine pumpout program in Monroe County, Florida demonstrates that sewage generated by the boating community plays a **much** larger role in marine pollution than once believed.

The waters of Okaloosa County collectively comprise a public infrastructure system that is in dire need of maintenance and enhancement, so building on the successes of the ongoing Monroe County public/private partnership, the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida State College is soliciting competitive bids to establish a similar program across the Florida Panhandle.

And extrapolating the actual results from Monroe County's public/private partnership suggests that implementing a similar program in Okaloosa County (where there are more than 18,500 registered vessels) would collect and properly dispose of the net equivalent of over 26,000,000 gallons of raw household sewage that may otherwise be disposed overboard in the near shore waters of Okaloosa County over the next seven years of the grant funding period.

The Purpose

The marine sector of Okaloosa County's economy is projected to continue growing and this growth will (A) exert demands on the industry that Okaloosa's educational system is not currently prepared to meet, and (B) exacerbate Okaloosa's already-prevalent marine pollution problem.

The purpose of the GCEEP is to facilitate proven and practical solutions to overcome these identified systemic needs in Okaloosa County.

(1) An Okaloosa County marine technician/engineer workforce will be developed to meet the demand for skilled labor in the growing local marine industry.

Northwest Florida State College proposes a workforce development program (hereinafter called the Marine Engineering Institute) to develop a steady supply of highly skilled labor which is needed to support the increasing demand for technicians in the growing local marine industry.

The Marine Engineering Institute programs will focus on preparing students to get to work quickly to strengthen the local economy and prepare for future economic expansion while providing well-paying jobs for local citizens.

Working in close partnership proposed with Okaloosa County employers, the College is confident of the program's relevance to the industry and of graduates' success.

(2) Okaloosa County K-12 students are educated to value Northwest Florida's critical marine infrastructure and the inextricable link between the ecosystem and the regional economy, and ultimately choose professional careers in marine technology, engineering and science.

The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) of Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) - will improve K-12 public education in Okaloosa County by offering a STEM-centered education curriculum which will expose secondary elective science students to the importance of Northwest Florida's critical marine infrastructure and the inextricable link between that ecosystem and the regional economy. This curriculum will be introduced during the students' formative years so they develop an affinity for pursuing professional careers in the marine engineering and marine science industries.

Operating in this manner, the Project's STEM Education component will act as a feeder program for NWFSC's Marine Engineering Institute which will help support Northwest Florida's regional economy over the long-term.

(3) Okaloosa County waterways are clean and free from the deleterious effects of marine sewage on human health and marine ecosystems.

Scientific research is replete with evidence indicating that human sewage waste distresses marine environments and is a significant contributor toward life-threatening diseases such as cholera, typhoid, dysentery, and hepatitis, and science even suggests that sewage discharge affects the level of flesh-eating bacteria of which there were five confirmed cases in neighboring Mobile Bay this summer. In fact, it is well-known that just the public perception of these water-quality stressors is tremendously damaging to otherwise robust tourism economies.

The GCEEP-OC will mitigate the catastrophic effects of marine sewage upon Okaloosa County's waterways by implementing a marine pumpout program which is modeled after a highly successful ongoing public private partnership for a mobile marine pumpout program in Monroe County, Florida. A description for the Monroe County program is provided in the answer to item (3) of the "The Objectives" Section which follows.

The Objectives

(1) Establish a Marine Engineering Institute (one-year program focused on marine service technologies) based at Northwest Florida State College that quickly gets skilled labor into the workplace with well-paying jobs.

The GCEEP-OC proposes to establish a Marine Engineering Institute to provide a skilled labor force to keep pace with current and future demands of Okaloosa County's marine engineering industry.

The proposed Marine Service Technologies workforce development program (which will be offered at the College's Marine Engineering Institute) is a one-year, post-secondary adult vocational program that prepares students for positions as marine technicians.

The program will include opportunities for students to earn college credit and industry certifications (in areas such as gas and diesel mechanics and fiberglass construction and repair) so they will be prepared to obtain positions in this high-demand field.

Students will also have access to the College's welding program, with its preparation for an industry certification. Additionally, for incumbent workers needing to increase their skills and earning power, the program will offer short-term (one semester) stand-alone preparation for the American Boat & Yacht

Council's industry certifications in marine technical fields that will benefit anyone in the marine service sector. Individuals with these credentials are more competitive in the job market and can expect a higher salary for multiple occupations.

- (2) ***Implement a STEM program to secondary elective science students consistent with the needs of the Okaloosa School District students that includes both curriculum-based and experiential learning tied to OC's marine resources and marine-based economy, and feeds the Marine Engineering Institute with motivated, educated students.***

Under the GCEEP-OC the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida State College will implement a STEM education component to secondary elective science students consistent with needs of the Okaloosa School District. This initiative will adhere to the State of Florida's education standards and will feature a curriculum that is focused on the value of Okaloosa County's critical marine infrastructure and the inextricable link between that ecosystem and the regional economy.

The content of the MSCEC curriculum to be implemented under the GCEEP-OC will adhere to the State of Florida's education standards and will be listed at the end of each activity on the lesson plan. Standards met by the content of this curriculum include, but are not limited to; SC.7.E.6.6 – Human Impact on Earth (water quality), SC.7.L.17.3 – Limiting Factors on Ecosystems and Impacts on Life (Human Activities), SC.8.N.4.1 – Science Used in Informed Government Decision Making, and SC.8.N.4.2 – Societal Concerns Affecting Science. These modules will consist of topics such as global ocean pollution, local pollution and effects on ecosystems and local ecosystems and the economy.

CBA will administer the GCEEP-OC's MSCEC professional development workshops to the participating faculty members of Okaloosa County's schools prior to commencement of the school year. Lesson plans and training will be available to teachers via an online database accessible on a variety of classroom interfaces (e.g. smartboard, Google Chrome books, and classroom computers) enabling teachers to administer lessons independently to fit individual classroom itineraries. Teachers will also be provided the materials and supplies needed for each monthly lesson. Additionally, two grant-allotted instructors from the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance will provide two enhanced learning opportunities for the students with hands-on activities to bridge the conceptual knowledge and technical skills taught in these modules.

The eight modules will focus on the impacts of marine pollution, including marine sewage, on global and local marine ecosystems. Lessons will have real-world applications integrated within the activities. Using classroom technology and materials provided for each lesson, students will investigate situations where marine pollution has impacted ecosystems or economies and apply the module

content taught to determine sources and solutions to these problems. Lessons will be structured to promote greater understanding of how classroom concepts intertwine with concrete scenarios occurring within society today.

The STEM Education Component will be implemented by three new education staff - one Education/Outreach Director, and two Education Technicians.

The Education/Outreach Director will create content with the assistance of two new Education Technician positions. The content will be hosted in an online portal that will offer teacher support, as well as materials needed for lessons. The Outreach Coordinator will form relationships with curriculum directors from the Okaloosa County School District to facilitate and incentivize (through professional development credits or stipends) participation in the program. The Education Coordinators will provide teacher trainings at two different central locations at the beginning of the school year. Teachers will learn to implement lessons and receive supplies and materials. In addition, teachers and Education Coordinators will schedule two in-person, hands-on lessons delivered by the technicians.

Participating schools from within Okaloosa County can share their experiences and data collected with other schools and participants by uploading to web portal, which may have a public interface (public website).

The Project team has also identified a missing component between inside-the-classroom coursework and students who are fully prepared to be successful in future marine science careers, and that missing component is in-the-field hands-on practical experience. So, the GCEEP-OC is designed to bridge that gap by placing a STEM Education Vessel into service in Choctawhatchee Bay.

The hands-on activities will be conducted in the field on a STEM Education Vessel that is funded by this grant. The STEM Education Vessel is a 36' – 40' custom-crafted powered catamaran watercraft that is specifically-designed to facilitate the unique needs of the GCEEP-OC. For example, the STEM Education Vessel is a shallow draft, catamaran which will accommodate up to 30 passengers. It has a large fold-down ramp so that students can easily and safely gain ingress and egress to the shallow waters of Choctawhatchee Bay to pull samples, etc. The Vessel is equipped with twin outboard engines, large washdown tables, custom lights, and a high-capacity generator to facilitate fresh and saltwater washdown pumps, collection tanks, and live-wells.

This STEM Education Vessel will be used to bring the classroom outdoors and promote sensory learning to students. Teachers will finally have an opportunity to enhance and reinforce the concepts reviewed within the classroom. The STEM Education Vessel will be operated and maintained by a State of Florida-licensed STEM Education Vessel captain and two STEM Education Vessel deckhands.

Working in tandem the STEM Education Vessel and the STEM Education component will act as a feeder program for NWFSC's Marine Engineering Institute which will help support Northwest Florida's regional economy over the long-term.

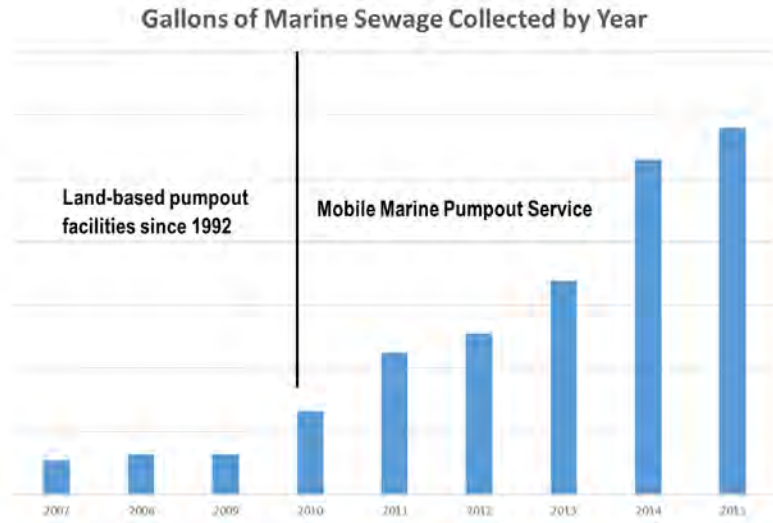
(3) Replicate the Monroe County marine sewage collection program in Okaloosa County, collecting all marine-generated sewage produced by the boating community and properly disposing the effluent to be processed by a central sewer system.

Cognizant of the observable deterioration of its water bodies, in 1992 Monroe County, Florida moved aggressively to remove septic tanks and to prevent illegal discharges of marine sewage by (1) deploying land-based sewage pumpout stations at docks throughout the Florida Keys, and (2) implementing regulatory measures to prevent illegal discharge of sewage that is generated by the boating community.

But, by 2010 it was evident that a more-comprehensive solution was needed. So, the Monroe County Commission, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the federal Clean Vessel Act, and Mote Marine Laboratory proactively partnered with a selected service vendor to help solve the County's marine sewage problem.

This Public/Private Partnership – which is the first and only of its kind in history - placed six specially-crafted mobile marine pump-out vessels into service to provide free pump-outs to the boating community in the Florida Keys. The results of the program are astounding;

- Even though significant investments in land-based pumpout facilities have occurred in Monroe County since 1992, last year the Public/Private Partnership collected and properly disposed of over 10 times the amount of sewage than all the land-based pumpout systems in the Florida Keys combined.
- Within only three years, the Public/Private Partnership had collected and properly disposed of more than 1,000,000 gallons of raw marine sewage and it is now recovering about 500,000 gallons per year.
- According to the FDEP, marine sewage is between 9 and 15 times more concentrated than household sewage, so the Public/Private Partnership has already prevented the net equivalent of more than 12,000,000 gallons of municipal sewage from entering the waterways of the Florida Keys.
- Most-importantly, the Public/Private Partnership is changing the culture and mindset in Monroe County regarding the illegal discharge of marine sewage. In fact, public pride in the program has cultivated citizen-driven compliance which is significantly improving water quality throughout the Florida Keys.



Obviously, the data gathered through this Public/Private Partnership demonstrates that sewage generated by the boating community plays a much larger role in marine pollution than once believed.

The objective of the GCEEP-OC’s Mobile Marine Pumpout program is to attain the same results that were achieved via the Monroe County public/private partnership. Consistent with this objective, the GCEEP-OC will implement a marine pumpout program that will recover and properly dispose of all marine-generated sewage in Okaloosa County and thereby benefit the health and welfare of all citizens, properties, businesses, and visitors in Okaloosa County.

As the Project Applicant, the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida State College is soliciting competitive bids from qualified service vendors to place a fleet of special-purpose pumpout vessels and floating comfort stations (restrooms) into rotational service for a seven-year period under this grant. This competitive procurement will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition pursuant to 2 CFR 200.319(a).

To perform this service across the entire 8-county region, the Project team will place fourteen mobile marine pump-out boats into rotational service within the overall Project Service Area. Three of the mobile marine pumpout vessels and two floating restrooms will be dedicated to service Okaloosa County.

Each of these marine pump-out boats will provide free pumpout services to all registered vessels (both commercial and recreationally-registered vessels) within Okaloosa County as well as to transient vessels that visit the County. The cost-free feature is the catalyst that guarantees complete voluntary compliance without the need for regulatory enforcement.

The acquisition and operations costs for these assets which will be placed into service in Okaloosa County comprise 30.2% of the overall multi-county project costs.

Please refer to Attachment G for a detailed explanation of this cost allocating methodology.

- **How the project/program meets the identified primary activity designated in A4;**

While the GCEEP-OC contributes to the restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habits, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region, and mitigates damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources, and promotes workforce development and job creation, and provides improvements to State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, **the primary eligible activity for the GCEEP-OC is infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.**

And, according 31 CFR § 34.2, *Infrastructure* encompasses upgrades and maintenance of public facilities or systems that are needed to support commerce and economic development. The proposed Project will be wholly conducted upon the navigable waters of Okaloosa County and the Florida Supreme Court has long held that the state's navigable waters are publicly owned and that the state's navigable waters are needed to support commerce and economic development. So, there is no doubt that the GCEEP-OC conforms to the definition of public infrastructure enhancement.

The GCEEP-OC meets this primary activity of infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure by implementing the following scope of services within Okaloosa County:

The Applicant's competitively-selected subcontractor will be responsible for furnishing all labor, equipment, expertise, and any and all other resources required for the prompt and efficient collection and proper disposal of all marine sewage that is generated within Okaloosa County.

The competitively-selected vendor will provide all capital equipment that is required to perform all services under this contract and will be responsible for insuring, operating and maintaining all capital equipment deployed under the Project.

The competitively-selected vendor will also provide all personnel required to perform this service and all personnel engaged in performing services under the GCEEP-OC will be fully qualified, and, if required, to be authorized or permitted under State and local law to perform such services.

Further, the GCEEP-OC will maintain insurance and indemnification of a type that is sufficient for a Project of this kind and coverage shall be in accordance with sound business practice under the circumstances.

The Project team will conduct an ongoing public exposure effort to encourage the maximum level of participation with the GCEEP-OC. The Project team will create a website, public education materials, instructional materials, and marketing materials in support of the

mobile marine vessel pump-out program. Appropriate materials will be made available online through the Applicant's website and distributed to participating marinas, local sporting good merchants, Okaloosa County government offices, etc.

The GCEEP-OC will also provide aesthetic improvements in Okaloosa County by collecting and disposing of floating household garbage which will aid in the prevention of microplastic formation.

Finally, according to scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency, micro-plastics – which are formed by the deterioration of larger plastic fragments – is becoming an alarming problem along the Gulf Coast of Northwest Florida because it is ultimately ingested by humans, and animals such as fish stock, seabirds, marine mammals, and turtles. Therefore, under the GCEEP-OC each pumpout vessel placed into service by the selected subcontractor will collect and dispose of household garbage it finds floating along its service area route. In addition to providing aesthetic environmental improvements, this service will prevent large floating debris from deteriorating into micro-plastics.

Extrapolating the actual results of the Monroe County pumpout program suggests that implementing a similar program in Okaloosa County (where there are more than 18,500 registered vessels) would collect and properly dispose of the net equivalent of over 26,000,000 gallons of raw household sewage that may otherwise be disposed overboard in the near shore waters of Okaloosa County over the next seven years.

- **Specific tasks, milestones and related timeframes (also captured in Milestones Report); and**

The selected subcontractor will develop a pumpout service schedule that will detail the logistics upon which each vessel in the Service Area will be pumped out. This service schedule will be made available on all promotional materials that are developed under the GCEEP-OC, including – but not limited to - a Project website.

The selected subcontractor will also develop and utilize a custom software application which will facilitate customer registration and onboarding, allow customers to request additional pumpouts in addition to their routine service schedule, etc. Amongst other things, the application will record the geographic mooring location of the vessel, the vessel's state registration number, the size, type, name, and point of contact for each vessel in the program. Finally, the custom-built software application – will be real-time synced to a satellite-based system – and will generate data that the Applicant will use to provide reports to Project stakeholders.

These detailed reports will show the date and time of each pumpout service performed under the GCEEP-OC, the precise GPS location where each pumpout occurred, the number of gallons of effluent recovered by each pumpout, and a recurring aggregate for the total amount of effluent recovered under the GCEEP-OC.

The selected mobile marine pumpout subcontractor will also digitally photograph the floating rubbish (microplastics) it recovers each day before it is disposed of. These digital photographs will be archived into a database to measure the effectiveness of this component of the GCEEP-OC.

These quantifiable outcome measures will be continually provided to the public and Project stakeholders to ensure the GCEEP-OC remains on track to meet its quantifiable outcome measures, and to ensure the economic and environmental benefits of the GCEEP-OC are generationally sustainable.

These databases will be incorporated into Monthly and Annual Reports to the Project stakeholders and the public to ensure the GCEEP-OC remains on track to meet its quantifiable outcome measures, and to ensure the economic and environmental benefits of the GCEEP-OC are generationally sustainable.

- **Description of all funding sources.**

Under the GCEEP-OC Northwest Florida State College is contributing real property at its Okaloosa County Campus to establish the Marine Engineering Institute. This contribution's estimated value is \$649,218 over the 7-year duration of the grant award period. The College has also invested 25% of the Director's annual salary towards the GCEEP-OC and will do so through the remainder of the award period. Student tuition is also contributed so the Marine Engineering Institute will break even after the first year's startup costs. The City Council for the City of Destin has preliminarily committed by unanimous vote to provide boat-mooring slips and the right to discharge marine sewage effluent recovered under the GCEEP-OC into its sewage collection facility and this contribution is valued at \$390,000 over the life of the award period. The Applicant will file a Triumph Gulf Coast grant application in the amount of \$11,735,021 as a match for this GCEEP-OC. The Applicant is also working with other local governments and industry partners in the Project area to secure additional services, infrastructure, land, and other valuable assistance on behalf of the GCEEP-OC.

Finally, the applicant is preparing detailed applications for submission to other private and public grants (for example, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, and the National Resource Damage Assessment, etc.) to fund the balance of the Project. The Applicant has already briefed some of these grantors and is optimistic the balance of the Project will be funded.

The GCEEP-OC leverages partnerships between the Northwest Florida State College, tourism organizations, local governments, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, military installations, and others across the region.

Attachment C

Response for Question B.1.1 Part of a Larger Project: If the proposed project is part of a larger project outside the scope of this proposal, describe the larger project and the proposed project's relationship to it.

As detailed in Attachment A, the scope for this proposal only describes the specific portion of the overall Project that will be wholly conducted in Okaloosa County.

However, the overall *Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project* (the *GCEEP*) will be implemented (at varying scales) across all 8 disproportionately affected counties including: Okaloosa County; Bay County; Escambia County; Franklin County; Gulf County; Santa Rosa County; Wakulla County; and Walton County. And, prospective students in each of these counties can choose to attend the Marine Engineering Institute in Okaloosa County to get prepared for a professional career in the marine engineering industry. Likewise, the same STEM Education Component will be rolled out in middle school classrooms within each of these other counties. And, a similar Mobile Marine Pumpout Program will be established for the boating community within each of these counties so that the environmental benefits of this Project are extended across the entire Panhandle of Florida. But, the funding for establishing these services in those other counties is not included in this application.

Thus, the human health and welfare benefits of the GCEEP has the potential to reach all citizens, properties and businesses of the entire Florida Panhandle and its visitors.

Attachment D

Response for Question B.2 Monitoring: During the project & following its completion, will the project be subject to a monitoring program to evaluate project success?

As detailed in Attachment C, the overarching objectives of the GCEEP-OC are to (1) establish a Marine Engineering Institute to provide a skilled labor force to keep pace with current and future demands of Okaloosa County's marine engineering industry, (2) implement a STEM Education curriculum within K-12 education facilities to educate Okaloosa County students about our critical marine resources and thereby prepare them to compete for future jobs in the realm of science and technology, and (3) provide economic and environmental improvements in Okaloosa County by collecting all the marine-generated sewage that is produced by the boating community and properly disposing of this effluent so it can be processed by a central sewer system.

The GCEEP-OC will incorporate a monitoring program to evaluate project success for each of these objectives. For Objective (1) the Applicant will monitor and track student enrollment and success-achievement using its Banner by Elucian ERP system.

For Objective (2), The curriculum for the GCEEP-OC will align with the State of Florida Standards and lesson plans, and thus the Okaloosa County School District (and the Applicant) will monitor and track student success for this Objective in the same manner that is required for all other School District programs.

For Objective (3), the GCEEP-OC incorporates a customer onboarding process which encourages all registered vessels to register in the pumpout service and thereby become eligible to receive pumpouts. The customer onboarding process for the GCEEP-OC is modelled after the one used under the Monroe County Public/Private partnership which has proven to be highly effective.

The GCEEP-OC will also leverage a custom software application which will help facilitate this customer onboarding process which will record the geographic mooring location of each customer, the customer's state registration number, the size, type, name, and point of contact for each customer, and will be real-time synced to a satellite-based system so that it can precisely track the amount of marine sewage effluent that is collected from each customer. This methodology will enable the Applicant to collect data to monitor the program and to evaluate project success. And, the Applicant will use this data to generate monthly reports which will be distributed to the Grantor, the public, stakeholders, and policy leaders to ensure the GCEEP-OC remains on course. Additionally, the GCEEP-OC will ensure that at the end of each service day each pumpout vessel captain will digitally photograph the household garbage that it finds floating along its service area route before it is disposed of. The GCEEP-OC team will assimilate these daily photographs into a digital archive which can be monitored and inspected by stakeholders.

Attachment E

Response for Question B.3 Management/Maintenance Program: Will the project be subject to a management/maintenance program to ensure project success? (Provide information on how the project will be monitored and maintained as well as the party (or parties) responsible for performing these tasks.)

As detailed in the Non-Construction Budget and Budget Justification, this grant application includes the substantial startup costs for the Marine Engineering Institute. However, as noted in row 7 “Program Income” of the Budget, the future operating expenses for the Marine Engineering Institute are covered by student-paid tuition, so that the Institute breaks even after the first year of operations.

As for the STEM Education Component, as an institution of higher learning and a non-profit entity, one of Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida State College’s greatest strengths is the ability to leverage funding and partnerships to secure additional funding. Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance is entirely grant, donor and contract funded. As such, the organization is well-equipped to maintain and even expand programs through strategic and timely grant writing, along with donor and sponsor cultivation. CBA fully expects to maintain and grow the STEM Education Curriculum and the STEM Education Vessel components of the GCEEP-OC beyond this grant’s period of performance. Obviously, the easiest scenario is to replace the original budget through additional grants, donors or sponsors. Because the GCEEP-OC will have a years-long record of success and name recognition, CBA will be able to pursue this outcome with optimal chance for success. To ensure continued success, we will also undertake other strategies for funding.

Additionally, some activities of the STEM Education Component will transition to low- or no-cost alternatives. For instance, maintenance of the STEM Education Vessel will be taken on by the Marine Engineering students and operation costs can be sponsored by local businesses. Other activities can be transitioned to a cost-sharing model. For example, CBA currently partners with the national service organization, AmeriCorps to deliver the *Grasses in Classes* environmental education program – at a fraction of what it would cost to man the program with full-time professionals. This *Grasses in Classes* campaign – after which the STEM Education Component is modelled – is a CBA success story that has been ongoing since 2011.

After the GCEEP-OC ’s seven-year period of performance, the STEM education team will have created time-tested curriculum, mature partnerships with Panhandle school systems, and well-established routines and schedule. Such a fully developed program can transition from a staff of three professionals to a staff of one professional leading a team of pre-professionals made up of AmeriCorps members or the College’s Teacher Education students. This type of funding and delivery model diversifies the costs while involving even more people in the project.

Finally, providing a definitive statement concerning the sustainability of the Mobile Marine Pumpout portion of the GCEEP-OC is virtually impossible since there has only been one similar

program in history. But we can make a qualified judgement based on what is currently transpiring with the Monroe County, Florida public/private partnership for a mobile marine pumpout service.

And, as evidenced by the appended Letter of Support submitted by Mayor David Rice (Chairman of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners), the public/private partnership for a marine pumpout program in Monroe County clearly demonstrates that project has been so successful that it is transitioning from a government grant sponsored program into a perpetually-funded, self-sustaining project. An excerpt from Mayor Rice's letter is inserted below:

“Most-importantly, the pumpout Program has changed the culture and mindset of the Florida Keys boating community. In the beginning, vessel owners were skeptical about pump-outs in general. Today, most boaters in the Keys not only support the program, but actively advocate on the Program’s behalf. Our County has come to appreciate the Program so much that (just like household garbage collection services) it is now considered an “essential quality of life” service. The Monroe County Commission is currently in the process of determining how to implement dedicated funding sources to ensure the benefits of the Program are sustainable for generations to come.”

- Mayor David Rice, Chairman of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners

Mayor Rice's comparison between Monroe County's marine pumpout program and a household garbage collection service is a perfect analogy. In fact, Monroe County's experience with its marine pumpout program corresponds precisely to the way modern household waste collection services have evolved in America.

Historical records show that as recently as the mid-20th century, citizens of a community typically gathered their own household waste and hauled it to a shared landfill, lake, or ocean where they disposed of it themselves for free. Then at some point in time (likely due to the US Supreme Court banning the popular practice of dumping municipal waste into oceans in 1934) the community - in the name of health, safety, and welfare - establishes a new solid waste service utility that is to be paid for by the homeowners (the users). At the onset users typically do not see the benefit and oppose paying for a service they could heretofore do themselves for free, so the community wields its regulatory powers to force compliance. Soon though, homeowners come to appreciate the convenience and effectiveness of the new paid service, and before long they would never consider going back to the free option.

This perspective exactly corresponds the history of Monroe County's Public/Private partnership for a marine pumpout service. As Mayor Rice explained, *“the pumpout Program has changed the culture and mindset of the Florida Keys boating community. In the beginning, vessel owners were skeptical about pump-outs in general. Today, most boaters in the Keys not only support the program, but actively advocate on the Program’s behalf”*.

However, there is one notable difference between a mobile marine pumpout program and an upland solid waste service. Namely, marine sewage discharge takes place below the water line

(which cannot be seen) and thus it is impossible to enforce compliance in any practical way. That is why Monroe County's early attempts to establish a pumpout program failed despite trying every regulatory enforcement means imaginable to force compliance. This deficiency ultimately became the impetus for Monroe County's decision to offer free pumpouts to the entire boating community – a catalyst that rapidly gained 100% voluntary compliance with no regulatory enforcement.

Today - after seven years of free pumpouts, user advocacy has been clearly established. Mobile marine pumpouts have become a permanent way of life and the boating community in the Florida Keys will never consider going back to the free option of illegally discharging marine sewage overboard. And this has had a profound improvement in water quality - and thereby the regional economy of the Florida Keys. This improvement is best expressed by Mr. Sean Cannon, Ports Director for the City of Marathon, Florida in his attached letter which reads;

“When I first started working at the City Marina the water was very polluted and the clarity of the water was virtually zero. At least 100,000 gallons of raw sewage was being dumped into the water each year making the water very toxic. But now thanks to the mobile pumpout service it is now a vibrant marine environment teeming with wildlife and recreational boaters. The water has become clear and we can now see the bottom in many places. The boater's attitude about sewage has completely changed. Now the first question is how do we arrange for a pumpout?”

Okaloosa County has already established that clean water is a priority and public benefit that contributes value to every person, every property, and every business. And just like the Public/Private Partnership in Monroe County, a short-term investment by Okaloosa County under the Direct Component to provide free pumpouts to the boating community will be rewarded in the long-term by changing the culture and mindset in Okaloosa County regarding the responsible discharge of marine sewage. Within seven years the County's boating community will have grown to rely upon and appreciate the program so much that they will come to consider this marine pumpout program to be an essential quality of life service just like they do their own household garbage collection service. They will not only support a user fee-based approach, they will demand it. In this manner the Mobile Marine Pumpout component of the GCEEP-OC will demonstrate long-term financial sustainability after the 7-year grant funding period by Okaloosa County.

Okaloosa County's one-time investment in the *Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project* will fix three significant problems which currently limit economic prosperity in Okaloosa County and will implement a generational solution which will last forever. More effectively stated;

“This transformative ‘marine infrastructure’ project will improve the overall quality of life for every student, resident, employer, and visitor to the Florida panhandle and position Okaloosa County with the aquatic capacity to accommodate future growth and prosperity for generations to come.”

Attachment F

Response for Answer for Question B.5: Project Narrative

Provide a narrative of your project and why this project should be funded. Discuss the following items as a minimum:

14. Explain how the proposed budget supports the proposed scope of work

The GCEEP-OC team (a collaboration of Northwest Florida State College, the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida State College, AmeriCorps, and the Project's competitively-selected service provider) possesses extensive experience in successfully planning, budgeting, and executing a project of this type and magnitude.

As depicted in the Budget Narrative of Attachment G, every line item in the GCEEP-OC budget is specifically designed to support the Project's proposed scope of work.

15. Project Expenditures (long term and short term)

As detailed in the Non-Construction Program Budget included in Section B.6.1 and the Budget Narrative of Attachment G, the GCEEP-OC Expenditures includes categories for; Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual (Outsourced Services – which includes the Mobile Marine Pumpout program and the STEM Education Vessel), the Cost of Rent (including security) Insurance, Regulatory Licenses and Permits, Postage and Delivery, Telecommunications and Internet, Professional Fees (legal and accounting fees), Dock Rents, Disaster Preparedness and Post-disaster Recovery, Incidental Expenses (for unforeseen events), and Indirect Charges.

16. Project Revenues

As detailed in the Non-Construction Program Budget included in Section B.6.1 and the Budget Narrative of Attachment G, the GCEEP-OC Revenues includes student tuition (in accordance with 2 CFR 200.80) of approximately \$205,920 per year.

17. Program Income, including nature and source, if any

Not Applicable. The principle Qualifying Eligible Activity for the GCEEP-OC is repair and enhancement of public infrastructure which benefits the economy and ecological resources. As such, all Project revenues will be expended in support of this activity so there is no Project Income anticipated.

18. Key personnel involved with the project

The GCEEP-OC's Key personnel includes; Mrs. Alison McDowell who is the Director of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida State College, Mrs. Brittany Tate who is the Education Coordinator and Senior Grant Manager for the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida State College, Dr. Scott Behrens who is the Vice President of Teaching and Learning for Northwest Florida State College, and Mr. Randall White who is the Vice President of Administrative Services and the Chief Financial Officer of Northwest Florida State College.

Mrs. Alison McDowell is authorized to sign the grant application and award. Mrs. McDowell will act as the overall Program manager and will track expenses and budgets related to grant and supervise CBA and AmeriCorps staff. Mrs. McDowell is a Marine Scientist and as a lifelong resident of Okaloosa and Walton counties, Alison grew up swimming, fishing and boating in the Choctawhatchee Bay. Having a greater appreciation for local waterways, her passion extended past her childhood and set the path for her career. She received her Master's in Environmental Science from the University of West Florida in 2007, which eventually lead her to the role as Director of CBA in 2013. As Director, her goals for the organization focus on the growth and expansion of CBA's mission and objectives.

Mr. Brittany Tate is the Grant Education Coordinator and will oversee the programs, schedule school visits, train the AmeriCorps team, create educational content, and collaborate with all partners as it relates to the education component of the GCEEP-OC. After graduating from the University of Alabama with a degree in Journalism and Studio Art, Brittany returned home to the Emerald Coast and joined the CBA team as an AmeriCorps member. Brittany currently serves as the Education Coordinator for CBA, leading CBA's Grasses in Classes, Dunes in Schools, and Spat On! programs. In 2016, she received her Master's in Education from the University of West Florida and it is her passion to expand CBA's environmental education efforts throughout the Choctawhatchee Bay watershed.

Dr. Scott Behrens is the Vice President of Teaching and Learning for Northwest Florida State College and as such he serves as the chief academic and articulation officer of the college. Dr. Behrens received his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Florida; his Master of Arts in Human Development/Educational Psychology from the University of Arizona; and his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Western Maryland College.

Mr. Randall White is the Vice President of Administration and the Chief Financial Officer at Northwest Florida State College, a position he has held since 2014. Mr. White is responsible for college financial affairs, administrative services and safety. Before stepping into this role at Northwest Florida State College, Mr. White served as a Colonel in the United States Air Force. Mr. White is the financial authority for the grant award.

19. Will a subrecipient be required to complete the project

The Applicant is a subrecipient and will be charged with following Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 200.

20. Specific objectives

As detailed in Attachment B, the specific objectives of the GCEEP-OC are to;

- (1) Establish a Marine Engineering Institute (one-year program focused on marine service technologies) based at Northwest Florida State College that quickly gets skilled labor into the workplace with well-paying jobs
- (2) Implement a STEM program to secondary elective science students consistent with

the needs of the Okaloosa School District students that includes both curriculum-based and experiential learning tied to OC's marine resources and marine-based economy, and feeds the Marine Engineering Institute with motivated, educated students.

- (3) Replicate the Monroe County marine sewage collection program in Okaloosa County, collecting all marine-generated sewage produced by the boating community and properly disposing the effluent to be processed by a central sewer system, and by providing aesthetic improvements in Okaloosa County by collecting and disposing of floating household garbage which will aid in the prevention of microplastic formation.

21. Permits or land acquisition required

This GCEEP-OC does not require lengthy or rigorous regulatory permits to be obtained prior to commencing work. In fact, only a business license in Okaloosa County is required to conduct all components of the Project.

22. Design status

The design for the proposed GCEEP-OC is 100% complete. Work on the GCEEP-OC is ready to commence upon award of funding.

23. Similar project success or if new technology explain

The GCEEP-OC Team possesses vast experience with implementing, maintaining, and reporting for similar previous projects. To wit;

Northwest Florida State College has enjoyed tremendous previous success working with local industry leaders to develop state-of-the-art, short-term technical programs which enable students to get to work quickly and enable industry to meet workforce demands.

Moreover, the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance is accomplished at implementing a hands-on, environmental education programs in Okaloosa County that gives students a direct role in the restoration of Choctawhatchee Bay. In partnership with AmeriCorps the CBA provides teachers in Okaloosa County with the equipment and materials required to grow education programs within classrooms at their schools. Now in its seventh year of existence, the "*Grasses in Classes*" Program reaches over 2,100 students in 101 classrooms in Okaloosa County monthly.

Finally, the Mobile Marine Pumpout Program of the proposed GCEEP-OC is designed after the tremendous successes of a public/private partnership for a mobile marine pumpout program in Monroe County, FL. which has been ongoing since 2010.

24. Environmental impact (species affected, existing plans supported, etc.)

Pollutants that are present in marine sewage which may be discharged into Okaloosa County's water bodies includes; nutrients, metals, solids, toxics, endocrine disrupters, and pathogens. These discharges have the potential to impair water quality, adversely affect aquatic environments and increase risks to human health. Marine sewage discharges have

a wide-ranging impact on all aquatic environments and these impacts are especially problematic in areas of high concentrations of vessels and people.

Sewage affects the marine environment in three primary ways, through oxygen depletion, by causing disease, and by nutrient enrichment.

Oxygen depletion occurs when sewage decomposes and uses up oxygen from the surrounding water and if the discharged concentration is too great, the amount of oxygen available for fish and other aquatic animals and plants will be insufficient and all may die.

Disease – it is well-known that marine sewage contains disease causing bacteria and viruses which pose a risk to public health for swimmers and those eating contaminated shellfish.

Nutrient enrichment – Marine sewage discharges also contain nutrients which when elevated slightly may increase algal and plant growth under certain background conditions. However, when present in high concentrations nutrients can be responsible for the formation of algal blooms which reduce light penetration through the water column, may produce toxins and can cause oxygen depletion when decomposition takes place.

In addition to the sewage itself, the chemical additives which are used to deodorize vessel holding tanks (such as; formaldehyde, paraformaldehyde, quaternary ammonium chloride, and zinc sulfate) are toxic to marine life and therefore may potentially affect marine animals and plants.

All species of plants and animals in Choctawhatchee Bay are subject to these deadly conditions.

25. Risks to implement and maintain the activity

The risks associated with implementing and maintaining the GCEEP-OC are minimal because - as previously outlined - the Project team has vast experience standing-up career education and certification programs in Okaloosa County and implementing STEM education curriculums in classrooms of Okaloosa County. And because the proposed Marine Pumpout Program is modelled after the tremendous successes of a public/private partnership for a mobile marine pumpout program in Monroe County, FL. which has been ongoing since 2010.

However, the GCEEP-OC team will take measures to mitigate potential risks by implementing disaster preparedness plans, post-disaster recovery plans, and by following operational best management practices in every aspect of the proposed Project.

26. Jobs Created (short term, long term, and wage scales)

The overall Project (which takes place across an 8-county region of the Florida Panhandle) generates maximum economic benefits, no government expansion, and is expected to create a total of 32 net new long term private-sector jobs (many of which are in a Rural Economic Opportunity Area as defined by the State of Florida (DEO)) and pay wages and

benefits of more than \$13,700,000 over the seven-year award period. Additionally, the GCEEP is expected to create many induced and indirect jobs at various wage scales.

The Okaloosa County portion of the Project, is anticipated to create 24 new full-time jobs which pay wages and benefits of \$1,507,774 per year or \$10,554,419 over the seven-year life of the grant award period (and beyond). And the GCEEP-OC is also expected to create and sustain many induced and indirect jobs at various wage scales.

According to the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the GCEEP-OC's average annual wage of \$46,863 per year is 10.1% higher than the average annual mean wage for the Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Destin Metropolitan Area.

The chart below details these positions and anticipated wage scale (excluding fringes):

| Job Classification | Number of Jobs | Term | Wage Scale (excluding Fringes) | Extended Wages Paid (excluding Fringes) |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Marine Engineering Institute Professor | 2 | Long Term | \$50,000 | \$100,000 |
| Education/Outreach Director | 1 | Long Term | \$38,000 | \$38,000 |
| Education Technician | 2 | Long Term | \$32,000 | \$64,000 |
| STEM Education Vessel Captain | 1 | Long Term | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| STEM Education Vessel Deckhand | 2 | Long Term | \$22,000 | \$44,000 |
| The following positions will be filled via competitive procurement which will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition pursuant to 2 CFR 200.319(a), so the wage scales listed are estimates based on the job classifications as detailed in the RFP Scope of Services. | | | | |
| Pumpout Boat Captain | 6 | Long Term | \$37,000 | \$222,000 |
| Service Area Manager | 1 | Long Term | \$65,000 | \$65,000 |
| Logistics Manager | 2 | Long Term | \$37,000 | \$74,000 |
| Outboard Engine Mechanic | 1 | Long Term | \$55,000 | \$55,000 |
| Customer Onboarding Manager | 1 | Long Term | \$60,500 | \$60,500 |
| Customer Onboarding Support | 1 | Long Term | \$32,500 | \$32,500 |
| Book Keeper | 1 | Long Term | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| Program Compliance Officer | 1 | Long Term | \$45,000 | \$45,000 |
| Overall Program Manager | 1 | Long Term | \$125,000 | \$125,000 |
| <u>Systems and Network Administrator</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>Long Term</u> | <u>\$50,000</u> | <u>\$50,000</u> |

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| TOTAL: | 24 | | | \$1,124,705 ÷ 24 = \$46,863/year *includes a 3% COLA adjustment |
|---------------|-----------|--|--|--|

It should be noted that in addition to the economic output promoted by the jobs created under this Project, there is no doubt that the GCEEP-OC generates maximum estimated economic benefits for the long-term economic growth potential for Okaloosa County.

In fact, there are four separate mechanisms by which the GCEEP-OC either contributes to or protects against the loss of the economy in Okaloosa County.

The first such means is the Direct Component (job creation, wages paid, etc.).

The second means measures potential economic losses of tourism and recreation resulting from catastrophic events which foul local waters (for example a red tide event - which has now been linked to a high concentration of marine sewage effluent – that has been shown to reduce restaurant revenues by 29% and lodging revenues by 35% per month respectively in the Fort Walton Beach and Destin areas) or which lend public perception to the notion of fouled local waters (such as the June 29, 2016 false news report which erroneously warned of flesh-eating bacteria in Okaloosa County, especially since flesh eating bacteria has now been linked to a high concentration of marine sewage effluent). For one example, this one false news report – if true - would have created a direct financial loss of \$8,963,231 and bed tax losses of \$448,162 in Okaloosa County in just a single week of lost occupancy. Worst yet, this loss does not include economic losses to restaurant, retail, fishing, etc.

The third means is the Economic Value of Ecological Services and Goods which measures the environmental goods and services of the bay systems in the Project service area (for example Choctawhatchee Bay) that have both intrinsic and extrinsic economic value.

The fourth means is the Potential Economic Losses from Seafood Harvests which measures the economic losses associated with failed seafood harvests should local waters become fouled or the public perception that local waters are fouled.

The GCEEP-OC is a proven, proactive, and practical solution to overcome systemic needs in Okaloosa County.

So, while the RESTORE Act Direct Component grant application did not seek an explanation and calculation for how each of these economic contributions (or loss avoidances) are quantified, the Applicant looks forward to the opportunity to provide this information because the GCEEP-OC delivers astounding economic output to Okaloosa County in comparison to the requested grant award.

Attachment G

Response for Question B.6.3: Budget Justification

Explain in detail how the above proposed budget supports the proposed scope of work. Provide specific justification for ALL project budget categories that apply, including a justification of how the proposed costs within each of the budget categories on the above SF-424A are necessary, reasonable, allowable, and allocable.

The specific duty or purpose for each category of the SF-424A Non-Construction Budget table provided in Section B.6.1 is detailed in the Budget Narrative below. The Budget Narrative details why each of these expenditures is necessary and reasonable. A detailed explanation for how each cost is allowable and allocable follows immediately after the Budget Narrative.

The “Personnel” and “Fringe Benefits” categories of the Budget Narrative includes items under the “Contractual” category (row 6.f. of the Budget) which will be required to fulfill the Scope of Services obligations for the competitively-bid portion of the GCEEP-OC:

Budget Narrative

a. Personnel –

Total Wages Paid (excluding fringe benefits): \$7,872,936

- **Includes personnel wages paid only for Okaloosa County portion of the Project**

Total New Jobs Created: 24

- **Includes only jobs that are created for the Okaloosa County portion of the Project**

Marine Engineering Institute Professor – There are 2 employees in this classification and the average salary for this classification is \$50,000 plus benefits which will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Marine Engineering Institute Professor is a tenure-track faculty position will provide tutelage to students of Northwest Florida State College Marine Engineering Institute. Professors will be required to have a Masters degree from an accredited college or university in Marine or Mechanical Engineering or a related field, such as naval architecture, naval engineering, or nuclear engineering. Relevant disciplines for this position include; acoustics and vibration, marine structures, marine hydrodynamics, marine design, fluid-structure interactions, marine engineering, autonomous vehicles, electrification, control and dynamics, condition monitoring, distributed systems, sensing, and navigation with applications in marine platforms and vessels.

The Professors will instruct enrolled students to provide service and maintenance for the 14 marine pumpout vessels that are placed into service under the GCEEP-OC. In this

manner these students will receive practical hands-on experience which will prepare them to enter professional careers in the marine engineering industry – especially in the areas of vessel manufacturing, propulsion, power distribution systems, and auxiliary systems.

Education/Outreach Director – There is 1 employee in this classification and the average salary for this classification is \$38,000 plus benefits and will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Education/Outreach Director will create curriculum content which will be hosted in an online portal that will offer teacher support, as well as materials needed for lessons. The Education/Outreach Coordinator will form relationships with curriculum directors from the service area school systems to facilitate and incentivize (through professional development credits or stipends) participation in the program. The Education/Outreach Coordinator will also provide teacher trainings at two different central locations at the beginning of the school year whereby teachers will learn to implement lessons and receive supplies and materials.

Education Technician - There are 2 employees in this classification and the average salary for this classification is \$32,000 plus benefits and will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Education Technicians from CBA will provide two enhanced learning opportunities for the students with hands-on activities to bridge the conceptual knowledge and technical skills taught in these modules.

STEM Education Vessel Captain – There is 1 employee in this classification and the average salary for this classification is \$30,000 plus benefits and will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The STEM Education Vessel Captain will be licensed under the State of Florida, and this sea captain will operate the Project’s STEM Education Vessel on a daily basis.

STEM Education Vessel Deckhand – There are 2 employees in this classification and the average salary for this classification is \$22,000 plus benefits and will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The STEM Education Vessel deckhands will assist the STEM Education Vessel Captain to operate the GCEEP-OC’s STEM Education Vessel on a daily basis.

Pumpout Boat Captains – There are 14 employees in this classification which will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Boat Captains are licensed under the State of Florida, and these sea captains will operate the Program’s marine pumpout vessels on a daily basis. Boat Captains will be hazmat trained.

Service Area Manager – There is 1 employee in this classification which will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Service Area Manager oversees the overall operational facets of the pumpout program and will spend 100% of his/her time hiring and training staff, supervising, and resource allocation. The Service Manager will be hazmat trained.

Logistics Manager – There are 2 employees in this classification which will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Logistics Manager works for the Service Area Manager and is responsible for managing local delivery, and materials, and inventory. The Logistics Manager will be hazmat trained.

Outboard Engine Mechanic – There is 1 employee in this classification which will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Engine Mechanic will be industry certified and hazmat trained. This Outboard Engine Mechanic will be an employee of the competitively-selected service contractor and will be responsible for emergency engine repairs (non-routine, non-scheduled routine engine maintenance that is provided by the Northwest Florida Marine Engineering Institute) for pumpout vessels which are actively providing pumpout services.

Customer Onboarding Manager – There is one employee in this classification which will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Customer Onboarding Manager is responsible for managing the pumpout customer onboarding process to ensuring this process is meeting specific milestones to ensure the GCEEP-OC remains on track to meet its quantifiable outcome measures. This position starts tapering down and becomes a part-time position during year three.

Customer Onboarding Support – There is one employee in this classification which will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Customer Onboarding Support member supports the Customer Onboarding Manager throughout the 8-county territory service area under the Project.

Book keeper - There is 1 employee in this classification which will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. As the title implies, the Book keeper will perform general accounting and book keeping processes to ensure the GCEEP-OC's expenses are synergistically aligned with the Project Budget.

Program Compliance Officer – There is 1 employee in this classification which will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Program Compliance Officer will be responsible for ensuring the GCEEP-OC and its deliverables remain wholly consistent with requirements of each Project investor.

Overall Program Director – There is 1 employee in this classification which will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Program Director will be responsible for the overall performance of the GCEEP-OC.

Systems and Network Administrator – This is a Part Time Position for 1 employee in the classification which will be covered for the entire 84 months under the Project award. The Systems and Network Administrator will manage the wide array of electronic communication infrastructure for the entire GCEEP-OC.

Finally, the GCEEP-OC incorporates training and development for all staff dedicated to this Project. And, all field-operation staff placed into service under the competitively - bid portion of the GCEEP-OC (listed in row f. “Contractual) will be HAZMAT trained.

The total “Personnel” costs for the Okaloosa County portion of the Project is \$7,872,936.

b. Fringe Benefits - Total: \$2,681,482

Fringe Benefits will be paid at current published US Department of Labor rates and includes legally required benefits such as; Social Security, Medicare, Unemployment Insurance, Workers Compensation. Fringes for some salaried employees include Life, Health, Disability Insurance, Paid Leave (vacation, holidays, sick leave and personal), average employer contribution to retirement savings, and Supplemental pay.

The total “Fringe Benefits” costs for the Okaloosa County portion of the Project is \$2,681,482.

c. Travel - Total: \$966,952

This category includes all travel expenses related to the public education component and the public outreach component. As the name of this category suggests, this includes all reimbursable travel expenses for employees who use their personal automobiles in the conduct of the GCEEP-OC which will be reimbursed at the government rate.

This category also includes the operational costs for the STEM Education Vessel which will provide students with in-the-field experience to reinforce the STEM education curriculum that is delivered in the classroom. Examples of costs within this category includes fuel and oil, minor maintenance, consumable cleaning supplies and materials, etc.

The total “Travel” costs for the Okaloosa County portion of the Project is \$966,952.

d. Equipment - Total: \$511,209

This category includes capital equipment required by the GCEEP-OC that has an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more. This equipment is required to establish the Marine Engineering Institute and includes items such as; EFI ignition system trainers, marine gear case trainers, AC/DC electrical training systems, marine fuel system trainers, jet 13” geared head speed controls, journeyman mechanic tool sets, master mechanic hand tool sets, and an electrical systems trainer kit.

The total “Equipment” costs for the Okaloosa County portion of the Project is \$511,209.

e. Supplies -

Total: \$1,001,199

This category generally includes non-capital equipment with an acquisition cost less than \$5,000 and materials, supplies, and the repairs and maintenance of the materials and supplies which are consumed in the course of implementing the Marine Engineering Institute, the STEM Education Component and the Public Outreach portions of the GCEEP-OC. Examples include; classroom materials, office equipment, office furniture and fixtures (such as computers, phones, and copiers, as well as office furniture such as chairs, tables, etc.), office supplies (such as binders, file folders, printer paper, toner, staples, etc.), printing and website production (includes the cost of producing marketing materials, the computer website, handouts, etc., and the costs of production, advertising buys, search engine optimization, etc.), dues and subscriptions (including computer software), and employee uniforms.

This category also includes supplies and consumable materials for the STEM Education Vessel such cleaning supplies, ropes, drinking water, ice, filters, spark plugs, and employee uniforms.

The total “Supplies” costs for the Okaloosa County portion of the Project is \$1,001,199.

f. Contractual (outsourced services)

Total: \$14,844,500

This category includes the two portions of the GCEEP-OC that will be competitively bid separately by the Applicant.

The first competitively bid item is the acquisition of the STEM Education Vessel. The STEM Education Vessel is a 35’- 40’ powered catamaran watercraft that is specifically-designed to facilitate to the unique needs of the GCEEP-OC. For example, the STEM Education Vessel is a shallow draft, catamaran which will accommodate up to 30 passengers. It will have a large fold-down ramp so that students can easily and safely gain ingress and egress to the shallow waters of Choctawhatchee Bay. The Vessel will be equipped with twin outboard engines, large washdown tables, custom lights, and a high-capacity generator to facilitate fresh and saltwater washdown pumps, collection tanks, and live-wells. The expected acquisition cost for the STEM Education Vessel is ~\$500,000.

The second competitively bid item is to procure the Mobile Marine Pumpout Services for the GCEEP-OC. The scope of services for this category (detailed in Attachment B), includes providing all the personnel, equipment, and supplies necessary to facilitate the pumpout scope of services under this Project. The expected cost for the Mobile Marine Pumpout Services for the Okaloosa County portion of the Project is \$14,350,000.

The Applicant has already prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) with a detailed Scope of Services for each of these items and will soon advertise the solicitations.

The total “Contractual” costs for the Okaloosa County portion of the Project is anticipated to be \$14,844,500.

g. Other -

Total: \$786,534

This category includes the cost of rent (plus security) for the Marine Engineering Institute and STEM Education Component), insurance (including; Protection & Indemnity, Maritime, Commercial General Liability, automobile, etc.), regulatory licenses and permits (including; licenses for business operations, pumpout boats, trailers, trucks and service vehicles), postage and delivery (category includes shipping and freight expenses, postage expense, and local delivery expenses consumed on behalf of the GCEEP-OC), telecommunications and internet expense (which includes all telephone, communications, and internet expenses for the wide area network), repairs, professional fees (which includes outsourced professional fees for legal and accounting), cost of space (such as the cost of rent for dock space, boat trailer storage, boat yard, and office rent including utilities), disaster Preparedness and Post-Disaster Recovery expenses (This category includes the potential mobilization costs of evacuating all equipment and crews to pre-established safe zones in preparation of natural disasters. This category also includes the costs of relocating and re-commencing full-up operations immediately after the natural disaster has passed. For budgetary purposes, the GCEEP-OC team has budgeted for two events over the 7-year grant investment period), and incidental expenses (such as the costs associated with unforeseen and unpredictable operating costs such as bad fuel, etc.).

The total “Other” costs for the Okaloosa County portion of the Project is \$786,534.

Methodology Used to Determine How Each Budget Cost is Allowable and what Percentage of the Overall Project Costs are Allocable to Okaloosa County:

The following is a detailed explanation for how each cost in the budget is allowable and allocable so that collectively the expenses incurred under this Project budget deliver success for each of the three separate components of the GCEEP-OC.

As previously explained, the overall Project will be conducted in all 8 disproportionately affected counties of Northwest Florida and thus it will cross multiple county lines. However, the only allowable costs under the RESTORE Act Direct Component for Okaloosa County are the costs associated with the Project expenditures that will be incurred in Okaloosa County, Florida.

Therefore, to calculate the costs allowed under the Okaloosa County Direct Component, the GCEEP-OC team has attributed the budget costs individually for each of the three separate but synergistically-aligned components of the Project, which include; (1) a Marine Engineering Institute, (2) a STEM Education Component, and (3) a Mobile Marine Pumpout Program. The allocation methodology for each of these components is detailed individually below.

(1) Marine Engineering Institute:

The College draws the vast preponderance of its students from Okaloosa County and from Walton County. Thus, the most-accurate formula for allocating costs under this component is to prorate the expenses in direct proportion to the number of students the College serves from each county within its two-county service district. I.e. the percentage of students the College serves from Okaloosa County versus Walton County.

Following that methodology, 72.0% of the College's total student headcount are residents of Okaloosa County, so the Project's Okaloosa County Direct Component funding request for the Marine Engineering Institute costs is set at **72%** of the overall Project's budgeted expenses since 72% of the overall costs for the Marine Engineering Institute will be incurred in Okaloosa County.

(2) STEM Education Component:

There are two initiatives under the STEM Education Component, (a) implementation of an in-class curriculum, and (b) placing a STEM Education Vessel into service so that students can gain invaluable hands-on experience. So, a blended methodology that allocates the costs for both initiatives is appropriate.

For the in-class curriculum, there are 38 middle schools across the entire 8-county service area and seven of those middle schools are located in Okaloosa County, so for the in-classroom curriculum initiative 22.2% of the Overall project expenses (7/38) will be incurred within Okaloosa County. For the hands-on experience, the STEM Education Vessel (and thus 100% of its costs) will operate wholly in Okaloosa County for the entirety of the Project duration. So, employing a 50/50 blended average, then the Project's Okaloosa County Direct Component funding request for the STEM Education Component should be set at **59.2%** $((7/38) + 100\%)/2$ of the overall Project, since 59.2% of the overall Project's budgeted expenses will be incurred in Okaloosa County.

(3) A Mobile Marine Pumpout Program:

In 2016 there were a total of 7,225 registered vessels in the 8-county service area for the overall Project in the Class 2, Class 3, Class 4, and Class 5 classifications (these classifications are required by law to possess a sewage holding tank which will be pumped out under this Project), and 2,184 of those vessels were registered in Okaloosa County. Thus, the Okaloosa County Direct Component expense allocation for the Mobile Marine Pumpout Program should be **30.2%** (2,184/7,225) since 30.2% of the overall Project's budgeted expenses will be incurred in Okaloosa County.

The Non-Construction Budget table included in Section B.6.1 and the Budget above reflect these allocable percentages.

Attachment H

Response for Question B.7: Real Property or Land

B.7.1 Property Ownership/Use: If project requires the use of land, provide details of property to include land acquisition, ownership, agreements to use property, permits, easements, etc.

The Marine Engineering Institute component of the proposed GCEEP-OC will utilize a ~0.5-acre +/- yard that is located on the main campus of Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) in Okaloosa County.

As the name implies, students at the Marine Engineering Institute (under the tutelage of Northwest Florida State College instructors on the Okaloosa Campus) will provide service and maintenance for the 14 marine pumpout vessels that are placed into service by the Mobile Marine Pumpout component of the GCEEP-OC. In this manner these students will receive practical hands-on experience which will prepare them to enter professional careers in the marine engineering industry – especially in the areas of vessel manufacturing, propulsion, power distribution systems, and auxiliary systems.

If the grant is awarded for the GCEEP-OC, then the boat maintenance yard will be contributed to the Project by NWFSC as evidenced by the attached letter from Dr. Devin Stephens (President of Northwest Florida State College) which memorializes this donation to the GCEEP-OC.



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

100 College Boulevard • Niceville, FL 32578-1295 • (850) 678-5111 • www.nwfsc.edu

February 26, 2018

Okaloosa County RESTORE Act – Direct Component
Attention: Jane Evans, Grants and RESTORE Manager
County Administration, 1250 North Eglin Parkway, Suite 102, Shalimar, FL 32579

RE: Support for the *Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project*

Dear Ms. Evans:

This letter serves as our College's strong pledge of support for the *Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project*. The applicant, the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida State College, will implement three separate but synergistically-aligned components under the proposed Project:

- (1) A Marine Engineering Institute (led by Northwest Florida State College Faculty on the Niceville Campus) that is designed to prepare students to enter professional careers in the marine industries, specifically vessel manufacturing, propulsion, power distribution systems, and auxiliary systems. The grant amount requested for the Institute is limited to the first-year startup costs and will become revenue positive thereafter.
- (2) A STEM Education component that will be implemented via online curriculum within eighth grade classrooms in Okaloosa County. The curriculum will expose students to the precious nature of Northwest Florida's critical marine habitat. This component will also provide students with in-the-field hands-on experience by placing a STEM Education Vessel into service in the Choctawhatchee Bay. The STEM Education Vessel will be utilized to take students on explorative, educational trips with Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance scientists so they can personally participate in important marine research and even snorkel to observe Okaloosa County's underwater marine habitats first-hand.
- (3) A marine pump-out program that will (A) collect and properly dispose of all marine-generated sewage in Okaloosa County (Project is estimated to recover the net equivalent of more than 26,400,000 gallons of household sewage over the seven-year cycle of the grant award in Okaloosa County alone), (B) collect and properly dispose of floating household garbage so that microplastic formation can be prevented, and (C) provide the 14 marine pump-out vessels that are deployed under the overall marine pump-out program for servicing by NWFSC's Marine Engineering Institute so that enrolled students can gain practical hands-on experience.

The *Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project* has demonstrated to be a proven, proactive, practical, and comprehensive solution to solve these pressing problems and for this reason, Northwest Florida State College and the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance wholeheartedly endorse the Project and pledge our strong support to deliver a quality and impactful project on behalf of the citizens of Okaloosa County.

Sincerely,



Dr. Devin Stephenson, President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT | DR. DEVIN STEPHENSON

NWF State College Fort Walton Beach Campus • (850) 863-6500 Chautauqua Center, DeFuniak Springs • (850) 892-8100
Hurlburt Center, Hurlburt Field • (850) 884-6296 Robert L. F. Sikes Education Center, Crestview • (850) 689-7911
South Walton Center, Santa Rosa Beach • (850) 200-4160
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County of Monroe

The Florida Keys



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mayor David Rice, District 4
Mayor Pro Tem Sylvia J. Murphy, District 5
Danny L. Kolhage, District 1
George Neugent, District 2
Heather Carruthers, District 3

Mayor David Rice
9400 Overseas Highway, Suite 210
Marathon Airport Terminal Building
Marathon, FL 33050
305.289.6000
Boccdis4@monroecounty-fl.gov

January 19, 2018

RE: Monroe County Marine Pumpout Program

To Whom It May Concern:

Residents and visitors from all over the world are drawn to the Florida Keys by our clear and bountiful waters. In fact, tourism is the County's chief economic driver. The Monroe County Commission has determined that clean water benefits every person, property, and business in the Florida Keys.

Historically, Monroe County has been vitally concerned about the health and vitality of our water resources. We have moved aggressively to eliminate point sources of pollution (such as septic tanks). The Florida Legislature required the County and Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority establish Keys-Wide central sewer collection and treatment. And, Monroe County deployed land-based pumpout facilities throughout the Keys to prevent the unlawful discharge of marine sewage.

Despite these efforts over many years, most of our nearshore waters remained imperiled due to the high concentration of boats. A few years ago, the Monroe County Commission entered into a public/private partnership with the Florida DEP, the Federal Clean Vessel Act, Mote Marine Laboratory and PumpOut USA, Inc., to establish a first-of-its-kind mobile marine pumpout service, which provides FREE pumpouts to the Keys boating community.

Monroe County's mobile marine pumpout program run by PumpOut USA, Inc. (the Program) is working amazingly well. For example, despite Monroe County's investments in land-based (marina) pumpout systems (since 1992), this past year the Program collected and properly disposed of over 10 times the combined amount of marine sewage than all Keys land-based sewage pumpout facilities.

We have recently learned through the data collected through the Program that marine-generated sewage has played a leading role in the decline in Keys water quality. Within three years, the Program had already recovered and properly disposed of more than a Million gallons of marine sewage. The Program is now recovering almost half million gallons of raw marine sewage each year. This is critical to our water quality. According to the FDEP, marine sewage is between 9 and 15 times more concentrated than household sewage, and the chemical additives (which are used to deodorize marine sewage holding tanks) further compound the harmful effects on our marine environment. Monroe County's Program is presently recovering the net equivalent of 4 – 8 million gallons of household sewage each year!

The effect this Program has had on nearshore water quality in the Florida Keys cannot be overstated. Since this Program commenced the water bodies, once imperiled, are now plentiful with wildlife and are again enjoyed by our residents and millions of our visitors.

Most-importantly, the pumpout Program has changed the culture and mindset of the Florida Keys boating community. In the beginning, vessel owners were skeptical about pump-outs in general. Today, most boaters in the Keys not only support the program, but actively advocate on the Program's behalf. Our County has come to appreciate the Program so much that (just like household garbage collection services) it is now consider an "essential quality of life" service. The Monroe County Commission is currently in the process of determining how to implement dedicated funding sources to ensure the benefits of the Program are sustainable for generations to come.

In conclusion, as Mayor of Monroe County, I can personally attest to the fact that the Monroe County Marine Pumpout Program has become a proactive, practical, and comprehensive solution to our marine pollution problems. For all these reasons, I am pleased to recommend the expansion of a similar program in other coastal regions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Rice".

David Rice, Mayor
Monroe County Board of Commissioners



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 96TH TEST WING (AFMC)
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE FLORIDA

FEB 1 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CRAIG BARKER
PUMPOUT USA, INC.
1150 HWY 83 NORTH
DEFUNIAK SPRINGS FL 32433

FROM: 96 CEG/CC
501 De Leon Street, Suite 100
Eglin AFB FL 32542

SUBJECT: Eglin AFB Endorses the "*Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project*"

1. Eglin AFB shares the same concerns as the Tri-County Community Partnership (TCPI) about the environmental and ecological impacts of intercoastal vessel sewage dumping. The preservation, protection and improvement of marine environment is essential to the livelihood and well-being of our local communities.
2. Recent briefing received about a marine pump-out program in Monroe County, Florida where data showed the negative environmental and ecological impacts of sewage dumping to water bodies coupled with the number of marine vessels registered in the Florida Panhandle (more than 80,000) makes the *Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project* a very practical, proactive and comprehensive solution to mitigate pollution.
3. The *Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project* provides the opportunity to implement a similar program in the Florida Panhandle. This type of investment will collect and prevent the net equivalent of 240 million gallons of raw municipal sewage from entering the waterways of the Florida Panhandle. This project will preserve, protect and enhance not only the aquatic environments but will improve the quality of life of residents and visitors of our local communities.
4. Eglin AFB recognizes the importance of maintaining and improving the state's waterways and being good stewards of the environment; Eglin AFB endorses the *Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JDS", with a stylized flourish.

JOHN D. SCHULIGER, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 96th Civil Engineer Group



February 2, 2018

Mr. Craig Barker
Pumpout USA Inc.
1150 Highway 83 North
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

Dear Mr. Barker:

As you know, the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County created the Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative (TCPI) in 2013 to assist area military installations and the communities that host them with identifying and executing mutually beneficial partnership projects. This initiative is overseen by a 30 member TCPI Advisory Board, comprised of local governments, installation representatives, service providers, utility companies, financial and real property experts, chambers of commerce, etc. Along with the Advisory Board, five specific work groups are tasked with identifying and vetting specific partnership opportunities.

We greatly appreciate you attending our October 2017 TCPI Advisory Board meeting at the invitation of our Environmental and Ecotourism Work Group. Your presentation highlighting the environmental and ecological impacts of intercoastal marine vessel sewage dumping was most enlightening, as was the information you provided about the success of a pilot marine pump-out program in Monroe County.

With the economic and environmental well-being of our region being so closely aligned, the Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative is keenly interested in how such a targeted marine vessel pump-out program could collect and prevent the net equivalent of 92 million gallons of raw municipal sewage from entering the waterways of the Florida Panhandle. Moreover, we stand in full support of your Gulf Coast Economic Preservation application with Triumph Gulf Coast as a means of securing the necessary resources to effectively mitigate the highlighted impacts of intercoastal vessel sewage dumping.

Sincerely,

Nathan Sparks, CECD

Chairman

Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative

CC: Erika Zambello, Co-Chair, TCPI Environmental & Ecotourism Work Group
Tom Tolbert, Community Planner, 96th Civil Engineering Group, Eglin AFB



"Building Bridges for our Community"

January 18, 2018:

RE: The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce endorses the
"Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project"

Dear Grant Coordinator:

The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce recently received a briefing about a marine pumpout program in Monroe County, Florida, the results of which demonstrate that marine-generated sewage plays a much larger role in marine pollution than once believed. This is an important fact because according to the Florida DEP, a single overboard discharge of human waste can be detected in up to a one square mile area of shallow enclosed water (such as Choctawhatchee Bay) and can close down shellfish beds for harvesting.

Extrapolating the actual results of that pumpout program suggests that implementing a similar program in the Florida Panhandle (where there are over 83,000 registered vessels) would collect and properly dispose of over 7,500,000 gallons of raw marine sewage. And because marine sewage is approximately 12 times more concentrated than household sewage, this program would remove the equivalent of ~92,000,000 gallons of raw untreated household sewage that may be disposed overboard in the near shore waters of northwest Florida. Even further, chemical additives (which are used to deodorize sewage holding tanks) further compound the harmful effects of marine sewage upon our critical marine environment.

The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce believes the *Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project* is important for Northwest Florida because most of the bays and estuaries of northwest Florida are listed as "Impaired" on the EPA's Waterbody Quality Assessment Report and because water quality testing in our area routinely returns poor results for elevated levels of enterococci – which indicates the presence of fecal contamination which is a known contributor towards life-threatening diseases such as cholera, and hepatitis. Furthermore, sewage effluent has been linked to an increase in the frequency and magnitude of harmful algal blooms such as red tide and studies have shown that such events in the Fort Walton Beach and Destin areas reduced restaurant and lodging revenues in the localized area by \$2.8 million and \$3.7 million per month respectively, which is far greater than any losses associated with tropical storms and other weather-related events.

- Nick Chubb**
2018 Chair of the Board
Cabinets RRR Us
- Matt Turpin**
2019 Chair-Elect
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC
- Bill Roberts**
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Barnes Insurance and Financial Services
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- Oxana Solovieva**
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- Olen Holsten
- Patricia Payne
- Pam Woodall
- Steve Baxter
- Tracy Stage
- Vicki Tarro
- *Life Director

2018 Sponsors





GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

34 Miracle Strip Parkway, S.E. • P.O. Box 640
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549
Office: 850-244-8191 • Fax: 850-244-1935
www.fwbchamber.com

"Building Bridges for our Community"

The *Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project* has demonstrated to be a proactive, practical, and comprehensive solution to mitigate marine pollution and for these reasons the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce endorses the *Project* and requests that other community and financial stakeholders consider the same.

Sincerely,

Nick Chubb
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce

Nick Chubb
2018 Chair of the Board
Cabinets RRR Us

Matt Turpin
2019 Chair-Elect
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC

Bill Roberts
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- Joyce Sanders*
- Kathy Houchins*
- Ken Hair
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- Lisa Jo Spencer*
- Olen Holsten
- Patricia Payne
- Pam Woodall
- Steve Baxter
- Tracy Stage
- Vicki Tarro
- *Life Director

2018 Sponsors





Advocating for Businesses - Strengthening our Community

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Bob Perry, Destin Commons

Chairman Elect
Julie Cotton,
Northwest Florida State College

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Destin Water Users, Inc.

Treasurer
Bill Lindsley, SimpleHR

Vice Chairman/
Communications & Marketing
Ken Wampler, Newman-Dailey
Resort Properties, Inc.

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& Economic Development
Dion Moniz, Harrison Sale McCloy

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Membership Development
Jason Connor, BrightView
Landscape Services, Inc.

Kevin Bowyer, Warren Averett

David Costa, McDonald's

Hayward Dykes, Conerly,
Bowman & Dykes, LLP

Vickie Giles, ResortQuest
by Wyndham Vacation Rentals

Mitch Mongell, Fort Walton
Beach Medical Center

Pam Martin, Gulf Power

Jerry Sullivan, Century 21
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Michelle Terry, Dale E.
Peterson Vacations

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Special Appointee - Events
Skip Overdier,
American Legion Post 296

Special Appointee - Military Affairs
Kim Wintner, Alliance Association
Management Co., Inc.

March 26, 2018

Please accept this letter as support from the Destin Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for the Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project.

Sustaining a clean Choctawhatchee Basin Watershed is vital to Destin's economy. Our natural resources, such as Choctawhatchee Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, draw millions of tourists and recreation boating enthusiasts to our community each year. The charter fishing industry is a major driver in our economic success. For this to continue, clean waterways are a must.

The proposed pump-out project helps us maintain those natural resources. By protecting and sustaining our bays and waterways, we will continue to create jobs and keep money flowing through our economy. Our community will continue to be the great place to live, work, and play that it is today.

It is with pleasure we submit this letter of support from the Destin Chamber of Commerce for the Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project.

Sincerely,



Bob Perry, Destin Commons
Chairman of the Board



DESTIN WATER USERS, INC.

P.O. BOX 308 DESTIN, FL 32540-0308
850-837-6146 FAX 850-654-5173

March 26, 2018

RE: Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project

To Whom It May Concern,

Destin Water Users has been approached and asked to provide a letter of support for the Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Program. We agree there is a need for and support the three components of the program to provide training to meet the marine industry workforce demands, enhance STEM education, and to clean up our environment through the mobile marine pumpout program.

As an industry that relies on specially trained individuals with a STEM background, we recognize the need for the training and education components of this program. Additionally, we understand that raw marine sewage is a contributing factor to poor water quality reports.

We are talking with the project sponsors to work through the details to properly dispose of the pumpout waste and are confident that we will reach a resolution.

In the meantime, we lend our support to the Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Program and hope that it will be favorably considered for funding.

Sincerely,

Lockwood Wernet
General Manager



Destin Charter Boat Association

February 12, 2018

RE: Support for a Marine Pumpout Program

To Whom It May Concern:

The Destin Charter Boat Association is made up of the Destin Charter Boat Captains and their families that represent the fishing heritage and tradition that helped found Destin and supported the Destin families throughout the years. Many of the Captains and mates in Destin are 2nd and 3rd generation fishermen and are a part of the fabric that makes up the fishing community.

And the livelihood of the fishing community itself is supported by visitors from all over North America who choose to spend their vacation along the Gulf Coast because of our emerald green waters which are bountiful with pelagic and reef fish. As the largest charter fishing fleet in North America, the membership of the Destin Charter Boat Association is vitally concerned that we do everything within our power and reason to ensure we maintain these waters in a pristine condition.

We were recently shown results of a public/partnership for a marine pumpout program in the Florida Keys. This program is widely supported by the residents, visitors, and the fishermen in the Florida Keys because it is convenient, cost-free, and effective. In fact, that program is currently collecting and disposing the net equivalent of 6,000,000 gallons of household sewage each year.

That is impressive. And we support the implementation of a similar program in Northwest Florida where there are more than three times as many registered boats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Green", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Green,

President, Destin Charter Boat Association

P.O. Box 1713
Destin, Florida 32540



850-296-0896 • 855-269-0896
www.DestinPirateShip.com

February 26, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

One of the primary economic forces in Northwest Florida is tourism, and the tourism business prospers in this region primarily because of clean and bountiful waters.

Given the extremely high volume of recreational boating activity in our area, it is often times challenging and unsafe to pilot our vessels to within proximity of a land-based pumpout facility. This summer, members of the Destin Tour Boat Operators Association participated in a pilot program to test the viability of a mobile marine pumpout service. We found the mobile service to be a safer, more convenient alternative which allowed us to focus on more-effectively serving our customers. We also like the fact that the *Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project* will enhance the visual aesthetics of our community by disposing of floating rubbish.

This pilot program was modeled after a successful ongoing program in the Florida Keys, which has demonstrated that marine-generated sewage plays a much larger role in marine pollution than once believed. According to the Florida DEP, marine sewage is significantly more concentrated than household sewage, and a single overboard discharge of human waste can be detected in up to a one square mile area of shallow enclosed water, such as Choctawhatchee Bay.

The *Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project* is important for Northwest Florida because most of the Choctawhatchee Basin in which we operate is listed as "Impaired" on the EPA's Waterbody Quality Assessment Report, and because water quality testing in our area routinely returns poor results for elevated levels of fecal coliform. Moreover, it has been brought to our attention that sewage effluent is linked to an increase in the frequency and magnitude of red tide events which have been shown to reduce restaurant and lodging revenues in the localized area by \$2.8 million and \$3.7 million per month, respectively. These losses are far greater than any losses associated with tropical storms and other weather-related events.

Our members rely upon clean water to earn our livelihoods, and thus, our organization is committed to upholding the highest standard of water quality possible. This proposed Project has demonstrated to be a proactive, practical, and comprehensive solution to mitigate marine pollution. For these reasons the Destin Tour Boat Operators Association endorses the *Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project* and encourages others to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cliff Atwell'.

Cliff Atwell
Chairman, Destin Tour Boat Operators Association



CITY OF
MARATHON, FLORIDA
Ports Department

Latitude 24° 42' 33.8" N Longitude 81° 5' 29.1" W

Subject: Expansion of Marine Pumpout Program

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the Ports Director for the City Of Marathon in the Florida Keys, and I am pleased to comment on the effectiveness of our mobile Pumpout program.

We have placed 2 pumpout boats into service since 2002 and the effects this marine Pumpout program has had on the water quality of Boot Key Harbor has been outstanding.

For example, when I first started working at the City Marina the water was very polluted and the clarity of the water was virtually zero. At least 100,000 gallons of raw sewage was being dumped into the water each year making the water very toxic. But now thanks to the mobile Pumpout service it is now a vibrant marine environment teaming with wildlife and recreational boaters. The water has become clear and we can now see the bottom in many places. The boater's attitude about sewage has completely changed. Now the first question is how do we arrange for a pumpout?

The pumpout program has demonstrated to be a proactive , practical and comprehensive solution to mitigate marine pollution and for these reasons I am pleased to recommend the expansion of this program in other coastal regions.

Sincerely,

Sean Cannon, Ports Director
Boot Key Harbor City Marina
800 – 35th Street Ocean
Marathon, FL 33050
cannons@ci.marathon.fl.us
305-289-8877 Office
305-393-3573 Cellular



February 14, 2018

RE: Support for the "*Gulf Coast Economic Preservation Project*"

To Grant Coordinator:

Galati Yachts has been committed to exceeding our customer's expectations since 1970. The Company has ten locations throughout the Gulf Coast which covers the States of Florida, Alabama and Texas, in addition to international offices in Costa Rica and Mexico. Our team can tell you that we succeed in large part because people from all over the world are drawn to the Emerald Coast by its clear and bountiful waters and white sand beaches.

We recently learned of an effort to establish a marine pumpout service in Northwest Florida. This program is modelled after a successful ongoing program in the Florida Keys which demonstrated that marine-generated sewage plays a much larger role in marine pollution than anyone once believed. That is primarily because according to the Florida DEP, marine sewage is significantly more concentrated than household sewage and a single overboard discharge of human waste can be detected in up to a one square mile area of shallow enclosed water such as Choctawhatchee Bay.

The Galati team members rely upon a good economy and clean waters to put food on their family's table and this program has proven effective in enhancing both. Therefore, we strongly support the Gulf Coast Economy Preservation project and encourage others to follow suit.

Sincerely,



Joe Galati
President – Galati Yacht Sales



33 Beal Pkwy NW • Fort Walton Beach • FL 32548 • (850) 243-7163

March 15, 2018

Attn: Northwest Florida State College

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that Northwest Florida State College maybe starting a Marine Engineering Institute. I think this would be a great asset to Okaloosa and surrounding Counties.

Auer Marine has been in business for 48 years in Okaloosa County and we have found a significant need for Marine technicians over the years. As time has gone by we find it harder to hire technicians with the skills that are needed. In the world today it seems easy to find technicians that can work on the computer side of the engines. However, finding marine technicians that know the nuts and bolts about the mechanics side of marine products has become a lot tougher.

A technician in the marine field can make a good living in this area with the right training. A good percentage of our employees have been with the company more than 20 years.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Fought".

Pat Fought

General Manager, Auer Marine

MOTE MARINE LABORATORY

August 8, 2016

PumpOut USA
Capt. Donnie Brown

Dear, Captain Brown,

As the Executive Director of the Mote Tropical Research Lab in the Florida Keys, I am pleased to be able to comment on the exceptional impact that PumpOut USA has had on the water quality of the Florida Keys. It has come to everyone's attention in the Florida Keys that our near shore water quality affects our quality of life and the condition of our corals reefs. All efforts to control storm water runoff, advanced wastewater treatment instead of septic systems have made a large improvement in our water quality conditions. But all local and regional stressors must be brought under control for us to continue to improve our tropical environment, coral reefs, seagrass beds and fisheries populations. With increasing human impacts, we must be more diligent in addressing our "no-discharge" regulations for our Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. To do this we must continue to provide an alternative to illegal discharging from marine vessels if there is no easy way for vessel to get wastes removed. This program proved the large volume of waste water that would have been illegally discharged under a "business as usual" program of previous years. This "no-charge" program is the only way this large volume of waste is going to get handled legally and removed as a threat to our delicate ecosystem.

I encourage this system to be continued as the only viable way to insure the wastes produced are not illegally discharged. The research is clear, from the sheer volumes of waste handled when pump outs are easy and free. I hope this very important solution is continued here and at other locations



David E. Vaughan, PhD
Executive Director,
Mote Tropical Research Lab

126 Indian Bayou Drive

Destin, Florida 32541

12 March 2018

To whom it May Concern:

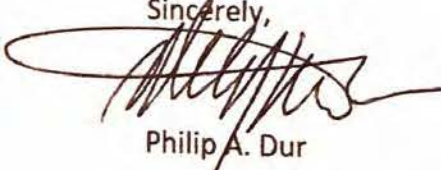
This letter is written in support of the Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project. I am a retired Naval Officer and an eighteen-year resident of the Gulf Coast in Mississippi and Florida. I am an avid boater and a member of the Florida Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Boating Advisory Council.

In the course of my residence in Florida and my boating experience in Florida waters from Destin in the northwest corner to Fernandina Beach in the northeast corner, I have had occasion to witness first-hand the impact of human waste and other pollutants that despoil these beautiful waters. It is no exaggeration to assert that the quality of the waters in the closed bays and bayous which define much of our coastline are a reflection of the density of boating traffic and the frequent disregard for laws governing the discharge of heads and holding tanks by boaters, both recreational and commercial.

The proposals advanced by advocates of the Project make eminent sense. The precedents set in Monroe County and the Florida Keys are illustrative of what could be done in the rest of Florida and most specifically in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton Counties. The establishment of mobile pump out vessels to relieve human waste in the resident and transient boating in our waters is an attainable goal. The potential economies that may be realized in the enhanced attraction of tourists and visitors to our shore are obvious. Similarly, the improved quality of coastal waters in populated coastal communities cannot be discounted.

I intend to table this Project's goals at a forthcoming meeting of the Boating Advisory Council, and recommend that the State of Florida support its worthy objectives.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Dur

Rear Admiral, USN (ret)

Donnie:

Monroe County and the City of Marathon have had the absolute pleasure of working with Capt. Donnie Brown and Pump Out USA for nearly a decade and a half . Within the Keys and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary we have collectively succeeded in approving a No Discharge Zone for both state and federal waters. Key to implementation of this 2,900 nautical square mile zone has been the ability to provide adequate pump out facilities and service to those vessels and boaters that don't have immediate pump-out services at dockside. In part, this has been facilitated by the \$1 B dollar construction of centralized wastewater improvements throughout the Keys. It's all about reducing the nutrient impacts to our nutrient limited nearshore waters.

The services of Pump-Out USA have been invaluable over the years to reducing the wastewater and resulting nutrient impacts to the nearshore waters of the Florida Keys. Notably, in the first year after acquisition of the Donnie Brown's first pump-out platform, we pumped over 100,000 gallons of vessel effluent from those boats located in Boot Key Harbor, Marathon. That was twelve years ago. The improvements in water quality and clarity in the harbor today are marked. The County continues to use Pump-Out USA services to pump-out vessel throughout the Keys. I cannot speak highly enough about Donnie Brown, Pump-out USA, and the impacts that his entrepreneurial business have had toward improving water quality in the Florida Keys.

Best

George Garrett

Deputy City Manager / Planning Director

City of Marathon, Florida

9805 Overseas Highway

Marathon, Florida 33050

305 289 4111

garrett@ci.marathon.fl.us



January 17, 2018

**PumpOut USA, FL Keys
PO Box 510454
Key Colony Beach, FL 33051**

To Whom It May Concern:

We want to extend our utmost appreciation for providing Marathon Marina with pumpout service beginning November 6, 2017 through the end of the year.

Immediately after Hurricane Irma, some of our employees returned to begin the monumental task of rebuilding. Others were unable to return due to losing their homes.

We were fortunate that we got our pumpout system working with minimal repair, but then realized that we did not have the manpower necessary to continue rebuilding our facility and take care of the pumpout needs for our guests that were beginning to trickle back into the Keys.

PumpOut USA and Max McManus to the rescue! Seriously, if not for Max, I would not have known that we could temporarily use your service. Without PumpOut USA, we would not have been able to open our doors to visitors to the Florida Keys as quickly as we did.

The service that Max provided us through PumpOut USA was above and beyond. Max is not only capable in his job, but easy to work with and most importantly kind, understanding and generous in his dealings with the various boat owners.

Thank you again from Marathon Marina and our guests.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Prichard".

**Susan Prichard
General Manager
Water's Edge Marina, LLC
dba Marathon Marina**

**Water's Edge Marina, LLC
d/b/a Marathon Marina and Boat Yard
1021 11th Street Ocean
Marathon, FL 33050
(305) 743-6575 / Fax (305) 743-5509**



Pump Out USA
PO Box 510454
Key Colony Beach, FL 33051

January 30, 2018

Don Brown,

MWR/Boca Chica Marina would like to thank Pump Out USA for your quick response after Hurricane Irma to assist our boaters with their black water pump out requirements. Our facility lost electricity to our pump out station and without your assistance our boaters would not have been able to empty their holding tanks.

We appreciate your assistance and applaud your continued service to our boaters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Billie Adkins', is written over a large, stylized flourish that extends across the page.

Billie Adkins, Marina Manager
Boca Chica Marina Staff
MWR/NAS Key West



Bob,

I want to thank Pump Out U.S.A for helping Banana Bay Marina with pumping out our guest's boats while our system was being repaired. You saved us from disaster. You offer a great service to the boating community and we are very appreciative.

Thanks again!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Flint Firestone".

Flint Firestone

Dockmaster

Banana Bay Resort & Marina

4590 Overseas Highway | Marathon, FL 33050 Mile Marker 49.5

Hotel: 305 743 3500 | Reservations: 888 662 4683

www.BananaBay.com



Office of the City Manager

4200 Indian Bayou Trail | Destin, FL 32541 | Phone: 850-837-4242 | Fax: 850-650-9250 | www.cityofdestin.com

March 28, 2018

RE: Direct Component Application for the "*Gulf Coast Enhancement Project*"

To Whom It May Concern,

At the March 19, 2018 Destin City Council meeting, the *Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project* was presented to the City Council along with a request to support the project through an "in-kind" partnership. The City Council voted unanimously to direct staff to bring back a formal letter of support and the necessary changes to the Code of Ordinances to allow PumpOut USA to utilize the City's pump out station at Joe's Bayou and to dock both pump out boats overnight at Joe's Bayou's during the life of the grant. Both of these items will be on the Destin City Council's April 16, 2018 meeting for formal approval.

During the presentation at the March 19th meeting, the City Council was very impressed with the project and made numerous positive comments about the benefits to our residents, visitors, economy and the environmental protection of our local waterways. I can state with all confidence that the City of Destin supports this project and we look forward to our partnership with the Northwest Florida State College and CBA.

Please accept this letter of support for the *Gulf Coast Economy Enhancement Project* in the interim, and when the City Council formalizes their support at the April 16th meeting, I will immediately provide you with the official letter signed by Mayor Jarvis.

You may contact me directly via my email address clejeune@cityofdestin.com or call me at (850) 837-4242 if you have any questions.

On behalf of the Destin City Council,

Carisse LeJeune
City Manager

