

Florida Gulf of Mexico Restoration
Project Submittal Form

Project Name:

Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan

Contact Information

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Project Location (include map, if possible, and the city, county, long/lat, and watershed)

The *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan* includes 22 nutrient and Dissolved Oxygen management projects to manage nutrient loading and improve dissolved oxygen in coastal waterbodies and watersheds, located in 11 counties stretching from Levy County south to Collier County on Florida's west coast. Project locations are shown on the attached map (Attachment 1) and are included in the Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan (SWFRERP). Information on the location of individual projects included in the *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan* (with city/county, latitude and longitude) is included in the individual project descriptions from the SWFRERP in the FDEP database.

Project Description (describe all aspects of the project)

The *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan* directly addresses the State's Priority Area 1 (Stormwater/Wastewater Infrastructure projects) and Priority Area 3 (water quality projects).

The *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan* includes 22 projects (listed in Attachment 2). Projects include:

- Conversion of septic systems to central sewer

- Replacement of aging forcemain and wastewater collections systems
- Removal of WWTP surface water discharge to deep well injection
- Enhanced and expanded reclaimed water systems, reducing WWTP direct discharge to surface waters

Estimated Project Costs (describe the estimated costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations/maintenance. Identify other secured funding sources such as matching funds, in-kind contributions or state/federal dollars. In addition, if possible, complete and submit the Cost Appendix Sheet associated with this form):

Estimated needed total project costs for the 22 nutrient and DO management projects included in the *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan* is **\$1,341,775,254** (see page 31 of the SWFRERP). Individual project descriptions include estimates of matching funds and other contributions.

Other funding (indicate if the project is submitted for any potential funding or if it may be used to leverage additional funding, of so please describe the funding source (e.g. State/Federal Grants):

Additional funding from grants, municipalities and other funding sources is shown in the individual project descriptions included in the FDEP database from the SWFRERP.

Technical feasibility (describe the technologies involved and any relevant past experience or proven success with similar projects):

Individual project descriptions include technical approach (see database descriptions). Nutrient management techniques have been refined and adjusted over many years in Southwest Florida by the counties and cities implementing such projects, and nutrient management benefits are expected to meet or exceed estimated values.

Environmental Benefits (Describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project. If possible, describe potential environmental performance measures [e.g. pollutant reduction]. Please address any potential environmental impacts associated with implementing or maintaining the project [e.g., loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation]).

Environmental benefits resulting from the *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan* exceeds 630 tons of TN reduced per year (see Attachment 2). Individual project descriptions include nutrients reduced and additional information on each (see FDEP database for individual project descriptions).

Economic and Social Benefits (describe the economic and social benefits including those related to the project's improved ecosystem services and any estimates on jobs created or preserved).

Jobs created or preserved by the 22 *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan* equals more than **100 direct jobs**, with an estimated 9,500 additional jobs preserved due to improvements in water quality resulting from the implementation of the *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan* .

Community Resilience (describe if the project assists Florida's ability to anticipate, withstand, or recover from hazards or threats [e.g. hurricane preparedness, establishing living shorelines]).

Improved and replaced wastewater collection infrastructure will increase resilience to hurricanes and storm surge. In addition, replacing septic systems vulnerable to rising sea levels and storm surge will increase community resilience (see Attachment 2 and more detailed accounts in the FDEP database).

Conflicts or Complements to Existing Efforts (describe any ongoing activities in the project implementation area, if the project is part of another plan, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work. Please consider how the project may complement existing local, regional, and state efforts/plans/objectives).

Nutrient management projects in the *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan* which occur within one or more of the National Estuary Program boundaries (see Map 5 of the SWFRERP, page 34) can assist in implementing the NEPs federally-approved Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans. The two Water Management Districts develop Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plans, of which many of the projects would assist in implementing. In addition, all of these projects are elements of the Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan, adopted on March 8, 2013.

Complies with Federal, State, Local and Tribal Laws/Regulations (describe any concerns or potential conflicts).

No concerns have been noted.

Readiness for Implementation (describe if the project has had any design or permitting work started or completed [attach permits or design work]. Please address any issues that may delay start or finish of the project).

One project in the *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan* has completed permits as of July 2012, but has not yet been fully implemented (page 30 in the SWFRERP). In addition, several other projects are in design and permitting phases (see individual project descriptions in the FDEP database). After rules are provided by the Treasury Department regarding RESTORE Act funding, more will be understood regarding definitions of

‘previously authorized projects’. At that point, the southwest Florida NEPs can assist the State in identifying such projects within the *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan*.

Public Acceptance (describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project).

All projects contained in the Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan, including the 22 included in this *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan*, were reviewed and ranked through publicly-noticed meetings of a Work Group (January 28-29 and February 11, 2013), followed by a Joint NEP Management Board on Feb 20, 2013. The Joint NEP Policy Board, consisting of 39 elected officials, Water Management Governing Board members, and agency leads (listed on page 8 of the SWFRERP) approved the process and resulting plan on March 8, 2013. All meetings were noticed (1) in the Florida Administrative Register; (2) through direct notice to the three National Estuary Program Board members and all applicants; and (3) on the websites of the three NEPs.

Additional Information you may wish to provide (Please include any maps, designs, drawings, photos, or background resources that may assist in completely and accurately understanding the project):

Two documents are attached:

- Attachment 1- Map showing locations of the 22 projects included in the *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan*.
- Attachment 2- SWF Regional Nutrient DO Plan- A listing of the 22 projects included in the *Southwest Florida Regional Nutrient/Dissolved Oxygen Management Plan* and the pollutant reduction benefits provided by each project.

The Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan (SWFRERP), approved by the Joint NEP Policy Board members on March 8, 2013 has been previously provided to FDEP.