

POTENTIAL DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL RESTORATION PROJECTS:

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO ASSIST WITH PROJECT ASSESSMENT

To help you propose projects to the State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we developed this project submission form. You are not required to complete this form to submit a project. However, completion of the form will help DEP gather the information required to completely and accurately evaluate a project against the selection and evaluation criteria. Where appropriate in the form, please provide references to any additional supporting information.

Project Name: *(Include project number from DEP's existing list of submitted projects, if applicable.)*

Gary Smith Honda Stormwater Retrofit (new project – not previously submitted)

Location for Project Implementation: *(For example, city and county, GIS coordinates if known.)*

Stormwater Retrofit along Coral Court SW and U.S. Highway 98 in the City of Fort Walton Beach in front of 225 Miracle Strip Parkway SW (Gary Smith Honda). This infrastructure directly discharges into Santa Rosa Sound and eventually Choctawhatchee Bay in Okaloosa County, Florida.

Brief Project Narrative: *(Describe what the project will do.)*

The existing stormwater system along Coral Court SW, in front of 225 Miracle Strip Parkway SW, and into Santa Rosa Sound is failing. These failures mainly involve the deterioration of corrugated metal piping. Pipes that separate and rust through allow soil, pollutants, and debris to enter the stormwater system. Stormwater exiting these outfalls carry harmful pollutants including: nitrogen, phosphorous, hydrocarbons, floating and suspended debris, and sediments. These constituents accelerate the degradation of Santa Rosa Sound and Choctawhatchee Bay, thereby threatening the recreational and economic use of the resource.

If funding is obtained, the City intends to install new piping to stop the system from further polluting Santa Rosa Sound and Choctawhatchee Bay and prevent these pollutants from entering receiving waters.

Estimated Project Costs: *(Describe the costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations and maintenance. Identify other available funding sources such as matching funds, in kind contributions or state or federal dollars. If possible, attach a schedule of anticipated costs, by year, over the anticipated project life.)*

The City intends to install new 42-inch and 48-inch stormwater pipes starting at Rose Marie Lane SW in the Seabreeze Subdivision, traversing south along Coral Court SW through an easement between Tim Smith Acura (219 Miracle Strip Parkway SW) and Gary Smith Honda (225 Miracle Strip Parkway SW), then west along U.S. Highway 98 and eventually ending at the outfall to Santa Rosa Sound to reduce continued pollutant loading. The City has sufficient easements or rights-of-way in place to allow installation of the proposed infrastructure.

A typical purchase price for Class III reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) is approximately \$150 per foot. With an estimated 1,800 feet of pipe to be replaced, including asphalt, sod, and other items, the estimated materials cost will be \$300,000. Staff estimates that the cost of the program including engineering, design, permitting, and construction will be approximately \$1,000,000.

The City of Fort Walton Beach implemented a Stormwater Utility in October 2008 that brings in annual revenues of \$600,000, a portion of which could be dedicated to this project along with in-kind services for design and permitting. If approved for funding, the project would be included in the City's CIP program with 100% of the project completed the first year. The funding request is for \$1,300,000, which is sufficient to cover engineering design, permitting, construction, and contingencies.

The City has an existing Stormwater Division with experienced personnel to install portions of the pipe. The portion along U.S. Highway 98 will be installed by a contractor procured through the competitive bidding process. Maintenance of the system will be by the Stormwater Division. This effort will be augmented with mechanized equipment in future years as equipment is procured through the budget process.

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Screening Criteria

S1. Technically and administratively feasible: *(Briefly describe the critical technologies involved and any relevant past experience with similar projects.)*

Stormwater pipes are commercially manufactured in various configurations by a number of different companies throughout the country. The use of reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) is popular for stormwater applications. The RCP is manufactured in various shapes, including round, elliptical, and arch. RCP is a smooth-walled pipe, which improves stormwater flow and hydraulic capacity.

City staff has experience working with similar installations in areas in and around Choctawhatchee Bay and the Santa Rosa Sound. Over the past two years, the City's Stormwater Division has installed new RCP to replace failed corrugated metal pipes up to 48 inches in diameter.

S2. Provides environmental benefits: *(Briefly describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project and any potential environmental costs associated with implementing or maintaining the project, e.g., loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation.)*

No habitat loss is to be experienced through the implementation of this program. In contrast, natural habitat will be restored through the reduction of pollutants entering estuarine areas near shore. The environmental impact of this program will be experienced over time as pollutant loads are reduced and sediments common with stormwater transport are reduced.

S3. Does not conflict with any ongoing or planned response or remediation work: *(Briefly describe ongoing response activities in the project implementation area, if any, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work.)*

There are no on-going responses or remediation efforts taking place within the Choctawhatchee Bay and Santa Rosa Sound watersheds.

S4. Complies with applicable and relevant federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations: *(No information is needed for this screening criteria.)*

The City will comply with all permitting and site requirements applicable to this program as administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Northwest Florida Water Management District, along with any local and County ordinances.

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Evaluation Criteria

E1. Will restore, rehabilitate, or replace a natural resource or service¹ believed/demonstrated to have been injured as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill or associated response activities: *(Briefly describe the nature of any relationship between the new/improved resources or services and those adversely impacted by the oil spill.)*

The City of Fort Walton Beach experienced significant “loss of use” of our inland water resources as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This project, upon completion, will aide in improving water quality within the entire Choctawhatchee Bay watershed. The improved water quality will result in improved recreational and shellfish fishery habitat, thereby increasing opportunities for utilization of the coastal water resources for City residents and visitors.

E2. Is located in, or nearby, resources or services injured by the deepwater horizon spill: *(Briefly describe where the project would be implemented with respect to past/ongoing remediation work.)*

Okaloosa County did experience impacts to its coastal shoreline and inland waters as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The County had documented incidents of product washing on shore, as well as floating product observed in the East Pass area of Choctawhatchee Bay. The City of Fort Walton Beach is located in south Okaloosa County.

¹ In this form, “Services” (or “natural resource services”) refers to the functions performed by a natural resource for the benefit of another natural resource and/or the public. Services can be “ecological services” – physical, chemical or biological functions that one natural resource provides for another (such as provision of food) – or “human services” – the use of natural resources used by humans that provide value to the public (such as hunting and fishing).

E3. Is ready for implementation, e.g., design, permitting, and necessary impacts assessments have been completed:

(Briefly describe where in the permitting process the project stands along with an estimated date of when the project can be implemented if it is not currently ready.)

The portion of the project along U.S. Highway 98 has been designed and construction drawings are complete. The remainder of the project would require the development of final design and construction drawings and permitting, which would be expedited if funding is made available. Most manufacturers have a ready supply of the size and type of pipe for this particular project. Permitting for installation will be managed through the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWMD) which has been briefed about this project. In previous meetings on this subject, NFWMD staff expressed a willingness to work with the City to expedite permits for this program.

E4. Is cost effective: *(Briefly describe why you think the project is cost effective. Discuss whether this project is more cost effective than alternative projects which would provide similar resource or service benefits.)*

Currently, no technology exists for pollutant removal in stormwater systems with the exception of conventional wastewater treatment systems and retention/detention facilities. Wastewater treatment systems for control of stormwater pollutants are not cost feasible given the enormous capital expense and on-going operating expense common with these types of systems. Stormwater retention/detention facilities require suitable upland areas for construction which would not be feasible given the site constraints in this subdivision. For these reasons, stormwater pipe retrofit is the most cost feasible option for reducing pollutants entering Santa Rosa Sound and subsequently Choctawhatchee Bay.

E5. Has a high potential for long-term success as demonstrated by incorporating established/reliable methods and technologies: *(Briefly describe if/how critical methods and technologies that will be used to implement the project could be considered reliable or proven.)*

Developments in the pipe production industry have changed the quality and flow characteristics of stormwater pipes dramatically for the better part of the past decade. The pipes we intend to use for this project are made of reinforced concrete, which is reliable and has an indefinite service life.

City staff has experience working with similar installations in areas in and around Choctawhatchee Bay and the Santa Rosa Sound. Over the past two years, the City's Stormwater Division has installed new RCP to replace failed corrugated metal pipes up to 48 inches in diameter.

E6. Is likely to provide benefits rapidly following implementation: *(Briefly describe the anticipated change in benefits anticipated over time.)*

Immediately following installation of the new pipes, the flow of pollutants will cease. This should continue throughout the indefinite service life of the pipes.

E7. Has a high likelihood of public acceptance: *(Briefly describe evidence to support the given answer based on surveys or results and assessments from past projects. Known or likely opposition to a project should be recognized.)*

Minor inconvenience to the public is to be expected during the initial construction phase. Generally, the public has been very supportive of efforts to improve water quality and the overall health of Choctawhatchee Bay.

All of the stormwater infrastructures are contained within rights-of-way or easement areas owned by the City. For this reason, little to no public opposition is expected.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Submit this form via email to Rebecca Wintering at Rebecca.Wintering@dep.state.fl.us . If you have any questions or concerns about the process for submitting a project, please contact Rebecca Wintering at:

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A current summary of projects is accessible through the Florida DEP's website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/projects.htm> (click on "View the list of restoration project ideas").