RESTORE Act Ecosystem Restoration Project Proposals

for consideration in the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Comprehensive Plan 2012

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<tr><td colspan="5">Contact Information: Stephanie T. Powers, Staff Environmental Scientist, Southwest Florida Water Management District
Stephanie.Powers@swfwmd.state.fl.us</td><td colspan="3">Date of Submittal:
10/11/2012</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Name of Project: Hillsborough River Water Quality Improvement Project in Tampa, Florida</td><td colspan="3">Org and Rank:
TBEP</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Project Description: This project consists of the hydrologic and habitat restoration of impacted wetland and upland habitat along the Hillsborough River on property owned and managed by the City of Tampa (City). The project area is approximately 150 acres within the boundaries of an active municipal golf course. Proposed water quality improvements include deepening existing water features on the site and incorporating littoral shelves within the course's water features, which will increase residence time and thus decrease the nitrogen load discharging into the Hillsborough River. Within the site's upland habitats, extensive turf and exotic plant species removal is anticipated to improve habitat quality on the site and to decrease the amount of fertilizer and irrigation needed to maintain the golf course grounds.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Project Location: Hillsborough County, 150-acre parcel owned by the City of Tampa, part of the City's Park System</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Responsible Party: SWFWMD</td><td colspan="4">Partners: This project has support from SWFWMD and the City of Tampa</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">NEP: TBEP</td><td colspan="3">Project Cost: $1,250,000</td><td colspan="3">Dollars Needed: $1,000,000</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Start: December 2012</td><td colspan="4">Completion: December 2015</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Status of Project Design and Permitting: This project is in the initial design and permitting phase. Exotic removal areas have already been identified and restoration efforts in these areas could begin immediately. The remaining components will be ready to construct in ~12 months.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: December 2013</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)</td></tr>
<tr><td>FY</td><td>Previous</td><td>12/13</td><td>13/14</td><td>14/15</td><td>15/16</td><td>16/17</td><td>Total</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>$0</td><td>$250,000</td><td>$1,000,000</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>$1,250,000</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): The value of ecosystems service improvements has not been estimated yet.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: 19</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">How much Habitat will be restored and conserved?: 50 acres</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Quantify pollutant reductions: This phase will provide significant pollutant load reductions, though they have not yet been quantified.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much?: Arthropod and fish abundance and diversity will be improved with resulting increase in bird abundance and diversity.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">How will community resilience be enhanced?</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Additional Justification: Since 1950, about 50 percent of the bay's natural shoreline and 40 percent of its seagrass acreage were lost as a result of physical destruction and water quality impairment. This resulted in a decline in the aesthetic, recreational, and commercial value of the bay, as well as a loss of habitat for native plants and animals. The SWIM Plan for Tampa Bay outlines goals to restore habitat</td></tr>
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and reduce pollutants entering Tampa Bay. The objectives of this project are consistent with these goals. Funding for the overall project design and permitting has been included in the District's budget for the past four years. The District does not have sufficient funds to complete construction. This project is estimated to cost $1.25 million.

Add any photos or maps that explain the project: