

## CRC Infrastructure Sub-Committee

### Project Identification Template and Instructions

# Beach Re-nourishment and Restoration Trust Fund

## Project Identification Template

### I. What – Project Information/Basic Facts

1. Project Scope This project will provide sand to re-nourish and restore Gulf Coast beaches in unincorporated Baldwin County, Gulf Shores and Orange Beach (see attached figure). Consistent migration of sand due to wave currents causes long-term degradation of coastal beaches. Storm events such as hurricanes create massive losses of sand volume along the beaches. The re-nourishment and restoration trust fund would be used to provide funding for sand replacement on a continuous maintenance schedule and for losses due to large events such as hurricanes.
2. Project duration or schedule by phase and status of any work in progress: The project would have a yearly maintenance schedule and would be implemented after major storm events when the beaches lose large volumes of sand.
  - 2.1. Conceptual and Feasibility Planning, Engineering, Construction A long-term maintenance plan would be developed, including identifying source locations of sand and assigning potential contractors.
3. Estimated Cost (plus or minus 30%) \$200,000,000
  - 3.1. Indicate level of confidence in accuracy of these estimates The estimate is based upon past maintenance and beach restoration projects after hurricane Ivan and Katrina.

### II. Why – Project Description relative to Impact and Criteria

1. Identify what need, threat or opportunity that this project, study, or recommendation will address: The loss of sand volume of coastal beaches degrades the quality of the beach environment. Massive sand losses due to hurricanes have a negative impact on the area's vital

tourism industry. Providing a funding source for continuous maintenance and re-nourishment after a major event will allow the tourism industry to continue to promote the magnificent natural resources that are the Gulf Coast beaches. The volume of sand on the beach also aids in the protection of infrastructure from storm events. Degradation in the amount and quality of sand on the beaches would also negatively impact the tourism industry.

2. How does this project or recommendation address and impact the recommended evaluation criteria:

2.1.1. Coastal Recovery: The project will assist to maintain the current natural resources so vital to the economy of the Gulf Coast. Assurance that the beach is clean and filled with sugar white sand can lure tourism back to the beaches. The restoration project will allow coastal visitors to continue to enjoy the environment and improve the quality of life to both residents and tourists. Quality beaches can attract more users, whose economic impact directly benefits the area's small businesses and municipalities.

2.1.2. Resiliency: Having the fund in place to re-nourish and repair the beaches will provide a long term solution to an ongoing problem of supplying sand to the beaches. Continuous maintenance of the beach will lessen the impact of future storms by having more sand in place to protect infrastructure and allow for reduced recovery times after the storm if less sand is needed.

2.1.3. Transformational: Coastal Engineers have proven the sand migration phenomenon and that high volumes of sand can protect local infrastructure. Providing renourishment and continuous replenishment for the Gulf Coast beaches will provide consistent tourism revenue, protect infrastructure and provide natural habitats for marine life, including protected sea turtle nesting areas.

2.1.4. Regionalism: The Gulf Coast beaches are a natural resource enjoyed by thousands of travelers every year and provide substantial tax revenue for the entire state. Quality beaches are major destinations for conventions and business meetings. By having a replenishment program, the quality Gulf Coast beaches will be able to attract more meetings and tourists to support the Gulf Coast Convention Center. They also.

2.1.5. Economic Diversification: Maintaining the beaches will maintain the tourist population, which provides a continuous revenue stream to help stabilize the economy. A strong tourism industry can also provide a wealth of opportunities for individual entrepreneurs and small businesses.

3. Project Economics: Keeping well-maintained, beautiful beaches will help ensure that tourists will continue to visit and enjoy the Gulf Coast. The area's primary tourist attraction is the beach. As the single most important element of tourism in the area, the Gulf Coast Beaches generate the most dollars for the area's economy.
4. Identify Direct Project benefits to Coastal Alabama, including avoided costs, consequence of "No Build" alternative: Insufficient beach nourishment would have a devastating impact on the regional tourism business. The renourishment program would enable the area to sustain existing jobs, offer continuous economic growth, and improve the quality of the area's fragile natural environment.
  - 4.1. Impact on employment, job training and development, both short term and permanent: This project would have immediate short-term benefits for the local construction industry, but pristine beaches can help ensure that existing and new long-term jobs will remain in the area.
  - 4.2. Oil spill mitigation outside of claims process: Not applicable.
5. Identify Indirect benefits and costs
  - 5.1. Collateral Benefits to the objectives of Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy and Healthy Society (subjective responses allowed): Pristine beaches can help create a sustainable economy and high-quality tourism industry, which leads to a higher standard of living for both residents and tourists. Better healthcare, better housing and an improved public service can also be attributed to the beach-supported economy. Quality of life for local residents as well as residents of the State of Alabama and the region can be improved due to the enjoyment of the beach.
  - 5.2. Collateral Costs or impacts to the objectives of Healthy Environment, Economy and Healthy Society (subjective responses all): This project is of great benefit to the environment as it provides a natural habitat for a variety of animal and plant life, but it also directly enhances the quality of life for residents and tourists.
  - 5.3. Connectivity and Linkage to other projects or initiatives: Does this project complement or compete with other projects? What other projects would be precluded if this project is funded? This project will compliment the current CIAP program and does not compete with or prevent the completion of other projects.

### **III. Who/How – General Information**

1. Name and contact information for Entity, Collaboration or Person submitting project or recommendation nomination. **Baldwin County Commission, Frank Burt Commissioner, 312 Court House Square, Bay Minette, AL 36507 251-937-0264.**

*1.1. Entities and communities sharing a common threat or need are encouraged to collaborate for a joint/combined project submittal to raise the profile of the issue and solution to be addressed. Also please indicate the level of community support or resistance and hurdles to collaboration.*

**Baldwin County strongly supports this project as do the cities of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. The entire business industry is in strong support of the project.**

2. Identify Sponsoring Entity for oversight and accountability if different from above.
  - 2.1. Existing or to be created? Baldwin County Commission along with the Cities of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach will oversee the trust fund and contract the work required.
    - 2.1.1. If to be created, what parties or interests must be involved and what level of effort is required to do so? The Baldwin County Commission along with the Cities of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach will oversee the project.
  - 2.2. Describe governance, organizational capacity, availability of skills, experience of sponsoring entity to implement the Project: The Baldwin County Commission and the Cities of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach have substantial expertise to facilitate such a project and would coordinate with other local and state agencies for assistance.
  - 2.3. Project complexity: Hurdles and barriers to project implementation, completion and sustainability. Identify regulatory issues. A potential hurdle for the project is identifying and establishing locations of suitable fill sand for contractors to use in restoring the beaches.
3. Identify any known or anticipated administrative, regulatory, or legislative action that would be required at either the local, state, or federal governmental level. Environmental permits will be required for the renourishment and restoration projects. Such permits have been acquired in the past.
4. Requested funding from Coastal Recovery Fund (CRF) \$200,000,000
5. Identified potential funding sources other than the CRF After storm events, FEMA funds are traditionally available as potential funding sources.
  - 5.1. Leverage or multiplier on CRF investment: matching funds, public or private: It is not anticipated that matching funds will be available.

5.2. Public Private Opportunities, user fees, Federal funds, private foundation grants, bonding capacity, etc.: This project does not lend itself to the use of private investments.

6. Forecast of ongoing maintenance or operating costs and source of funding if not self sustaining: This project is intended to be self sustaining.