

# CRC Infrastructure Sub-Committee

## Project Identification Template and Instructions

### Mobile County Wastewater Treatment Facilities

#### Project Identification Template

**Instructions:** Please complete all of the information requested with the best information you have available. Limited attachments are acceptable if necessary to adequately describe the project but the **total length should be limited to 6 pages** one-sided (including attachments). This Identification Template is intended as a preliminary mechanism by which proposals and projects to improve the resiliency of Coastal Alabama are solicited and captured with some consistency of format, scope definition, and project benefits and impact. **This is only a first step: proposals and projects will not be funded based upon this submittal. Further information and details will be solicited at such time as the screening and funding process is more fully defined.**

Responses should be received by **November 26, 2010**, to be included in the appendix the Coastal Recovery Commission Report to the Governor to be submitted **December 15, 2010**. Submittals after that date will be accepted for consideration but will not be included in the Project Appendix.

Completed Templates may be submitted:

- Electronically (.pdf preferred) to: [crcalabama.templateresponse.com](mailto:crcalabama.templateresponse.com).
- By US mail to: Coastal Recovery Commission.

P.O. Box 881, Mobile, AL 36601-0881

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

1. Project Scope Construct technically advanced wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment infrastructure.
2. Project duration or schedule by phase and status of any work in progress The projects are in a conceptual phase. Estimated time for total completion is 5 to 10 years.
  - 2.1. Conceptual and Feasibility Planning, Engineering, Construction General site locating of treatment facilities has been considered as well as the service areas to be affected.

3. Estimated Cost (plus or minus 30%) \$85,000,000

3.1. Indicate level of confidence in accuracy of these estimates 70%

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

1. Identify what need, threat or opportunity that this project, study, or recommendation will address Many residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas of north and south Mobile County have no access to publicly owned wastewater facilities and rely upon individual on-site disposal systems for wastewater treatment and disposal. A large percentage of these individual on-site disposal systems are below Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and, therefore, pose a substantial health risk to area residents in the event of system malfunction or inundation by floodwaters. Due to south Mobile County's vulnerability to hurricanes, this project is a very important element of community resiliency. An additional need for this project concerns the protection of marshes and waterways surrounding Mobile County. These waters are prime fish and shrimp spawning areas, and the adjacent waters of Heron Bay and lower Mobile Bay host Alabama's best oyster reefs. The commercial and recreational seafood industry is supported by this valuable estuary system and is extremely sensitive to the adverse ecological effects of flooded and failing on-site disposal systems. Improving water quality in north Mobile County will support the health of the Mobile River Delta and therefore the region. This project would include the construction of collection, conveyance, and treatment infrastructure.
2. How does this project or recommendation address and impact the recommended evaluation criteria:
  - 2.1.1. Coastal Recovery These projects will provide for cleaner discharges to the environment of treated domestic wastewater. This will result in long term protection of the Mobile River Delta, Mobile Bay, and coastal marshlands. These sensitive areas provide recreation to residents and visitors and also serve as prime fish and shrimp spawning grounds for the seafood industry.
  - 2.1.2. Resiliency Since many of the septic systems in the areas to be served by these projects are below the Base Flood Elevation, the potential for contamination of environmentally sensitive receiving waters exist. Collecting, conveying, and treating domestic wastewater with the latest treatment technologies will build a more resilient environment and protect the natural resources of the seafood industry food chain.

2.1.3. Transformational The technically advanced, centralized wastewater treatment facilities in largely rural areas will also allow for more advanced commercial and economic development. Large areas of low-cost, developable properties would become available for potential economic development with the availability of wastewater treatment facilities.

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2.1.4. Regionalism The proposed wastewater collection, conveyance, and treatment facilities will serve large area of unincorporated Mobile County. Thousands of existing residents, and hundreds of local businesses will benefit from these projects. Commercial and industrial potential will also increase thereby the potential for job creation throughout the region will increase. These projects can serve as a catalyst for economic development as the plants will allow for industrial growth in these unincorporated areas. The cleaner wastewater discharges will result in a cleaner Mobile Bay which serves the entire region and ultimately all residents and visitors to the Gulf Coast.

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2.1.5. Economic Diversification The construction of these projects will help protect and promote the local seafood industry while at the same time providing potential for new commercial and industrial development. Developments which rely on advanced wastewater treatment will not be able to locate in these rural areas dependent on on-site sewage treatment facilities unless these facilities are provided.

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3. Project Economics The estimated cost of collection, conveyance, and treatment facilities for both North Mobile and South Mobile County totals \$85,000,000.

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4. Identify Direct Project benefits to Coastal Alabama, including avoided costs, consequence of “No Build” alternative. The construction of these projects will provide for cleaner treatment and discharge of wastewater to the Mobile River Delta, Mobile Bay, and Coastal Bay Marshes. This area provides recreation, sensitive habitat for the seafood industry, and is the signature that identifies this region to other parts of the State and Country. Enhancing this signature will preserve the identity of the region as a premiere place to live and visit. Not constructing these facilities will maintain the “status quo” of slow growth, expansion potential stifled, and the environment stressed.

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4.1. Impact on employment, job training and development, both short term and permanent Hundreds of construction jobs will be saved and created during the construction of the collection, conveyance, and treatment facilities. Permanent jobs will be created for the operation and maintenance of the facilities where the projects are in service. The potential exists for job expansion and creation in the areas proposed to be served as these areas will

now be able to attract commercial and industrial facilities which cannot locate now due to lack of sewage treatment facilities.

4.2. Oil spill mitigation outside of claims process Operation of these plants will minimize the release of pollutants to local waterways which have suffered significant stress from the oil spill allowing for a more rapid recovery.

5. Identify Indirect benefits and costs

5.1. Collateral Benefits to the objectives of Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy and Healthy Society (subjective responses allowed) The construction of these projects will provide a healthy environment through cleaner discharges to the Mobile River Delta, Mobile Bay coastal marshlands, and Mobile Bay. These waterways provide a source of recreation to the entire region in swimming, boating, and other nature related activities for all to enjoy. Cleaner waterways will provide a healthier environment for the entire food chain especially to the seafood industry. A clean Mobile Bay and associated waterways, also promotes this Region as a premium place to live and promotes tourism.

5.2. Collateral Costs or impacts to the objectives of Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy and Healthy Society ( subjective responses allowed) The installation of the collection and conveyance infrastructure will follow existing County rights-of-way and may pose temporary inconveniences to the traveling public during construction. The location of the proposed treatment plants may invite protests from neighboring property owners and the actual construction of the plants will require land disturbance BMP monitoring during construction. Education and cooperation with affected residents will be required as they are asked to retrofit their individual residences by disconnecting from their on-site sewage treatment system and connect to the new collection/conveyance infrastructure.

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 compliments any project which promotes regional wastewater collection and technically advanced treatment. This project will not have a negative impact on, or preclude any other known projects.

### III. Who/How - General Information

1. Name and contact information for Entity, Collaboration or Person submitting project or recommendation nomination. **Joe Ruffer, P.E., Mobile County Engineer, Mobile County Public Works, Mobile County Commission, 205 Government Street, Mobile, AL 36644-1600 (251) 574-8595 phone, (251) 574-4722 fax, [jruffer@mobilecounty.net](mailto:jruffer@mobilecounty.net)**

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. **This project is supported by the Mobile County Commission and local residents.***

2. Identify Sponsoring Entity for oversight and accountability if different from above.

2.1. Existing or to be created? Existing

2.1.1. If to be created, what parties or interests must be involved and what level of effort is required to do so? Not Applicable

2.2. Describe governance, organizational capacity, availability of skills, experience of sponsoring entity to implement the Project The Mobile County Commission, operating through the Mobile County Public Works Department will be responsible for the maintenance of the project following construction and acceptance. The Mobile County Commission has the financial capability, expertise, and support personnel to maintain the project to function as designed. The facilities will be maintained for continuous use by the public. The Mobile County Commission will budget the necessary funds to maintain and make repairs as required.

2.3. Project complexity: Hurdles and barriers to project implementation, completion and sustainability. Identify regulatory issues. Environmental permitting both for the construction of the facilities as well as the effluent discharges of each plant will require extensive effort. Finding and purchasing the land to locate the facilities will require a balance between logistical placement, and negative perceptions of the neighboring property owners. Educating and facilitating the public for retro-filtering each residence by disconnecting from their current septic tank and connecting to the collection infrastructure of this regional system will also require effort.

3. Identify any known or anticipated administrative, regulatory, or legislative action that would be required at either the local, state, or federal governmental level. Some local or legislative action may be required to encourage residents to connect to the new system.

4. Requested funding from Coastal Recovery Fund (CRF) \$85,000,000

5. Identified potential funding sources other than the CRF Bond issue; user fees

5.1. Leverage or multiplier on CRF investment: matching funds, public or private None at this time.

5.2. Public Private Opportunities, user fees, Federal funds, private foundation grants, bonding capacity, etc. User fees will be established to help pay down debt and provide system maintenance.

6. Forecast of ongoing maintenance or operating costs and source of funding if not self sustaining The user fees will be established to make the project self-sustaining.