

ALABAMA STATE EXPENDITURE PLAN (SEP)

Project #14: Replacement of Substandard Facilities at the ADEM Coastal Office & Mobile Field Office

Project Description/Summary

- a) This project includes land acquisition, engineering and design, and construction of a new Coastal Office for the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). To effectively manage the statutory mandate to protect Alabama's air, land, and water resources, the agency desperately needs to combine their Coastal Program and Mobile Field Office into one location with updated facilities and equipment.

Activities also include the comprehensive administration of this grant, including, but not limited to, project development and oversight, contracting, and sub-recipient monitoring.

- a. **Need:** Currently, ADEM operates its Coastal Program and its Mobile Field Office in two separate and substandard facilities in Mobile. This arrangement creates logistical, communication, and technological issues leading to inefficiencies in operations. The anticipated influx of projects receiving RESTORE Act funds, which will require ADEM action in the form of construction permits, coastal consistency determinations, environmental modeling, and inspections, will significantly magnify these inefficiencies.

Operational cost savings from elimination of rapidly escalating repair and maintenance costs, duplicated communications, etc., as well as increased productivity from a single location, which includes the elimination of management travel time between separate facilities, will allow resources to be utilized more effectively.

Purpose: The purpose of the project is to allow ADEM to provide timely and effective environmental regulation and oversight of environmental projects in Coastal Alabama, including all RESTORE Act projects, by replacing the substandard facilities at the ADEM Coastal Office and Mobile Field Office.

Objectives: The primary objectives of this project are to:

- Acquire land suitable for the location of a new ADEM Coastal Office;
 - Develop engineering and design documents; and
 - Complete construction of a new ADEM facility to more efficiently and effectively serve constituents in coastal Alabama.
- b. This activity is located in the Gulf Coast region and will be carried out in the City of Mobile in Mobile County, Alabama
 - c. This project is anticipated to begin on 7/1/19 and end 6/30/2021 (2 years).
 - d. This project will be implemented by ADEM.

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- b) This project involves the construction of a facility that will house all ADEM projects, programs, and activities related to the protection, preservation, and restoration of Coastal Alabama environmental resources. ADEM activities impact all areas of the environment as well as every aspect of the coastal economy. Having an updated facility will ensure Alabama's environmental resources are protected and economic activity along the Gulf Coast will be supported.

Eligibility and Statutory Requirements

This activity is located in the Gulf Coast Region and is eligible for Spill Impact Component funding under Category #6 - Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure (primary). Secondary activities include Category #1 – Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region. Because the primary activity is classified as infrastructure, the 25% infrastructure cap is applicable.

Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives

This project is consistent with the following Comprehensive Plan goals:

- Goal 1: Restore and Conserve Habitat – Restore and conserve the health, diversity, and resilience of key coastal, estuarine, and marine habitats;
- Goal 2: Restore Water Quality and Quantity – Restore and protect water quality of the Gulf Coast region's fresh, estuarine, and marine water;
- Goal 3: Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources – Restore and protect healthy, diverse, and sustainable living coastal and marine resources;
- Goal 4: Enhance Community Resilience – Build upon and sustain communities with capacity to adapt to short- and long-term changes; and
- Goal 5: Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy – Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of the Gulf economy.

This project supports the following Comprehensive Plan objectives:

- Objective 1: Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats – Restore, enhance, and protect the extent, functionality, resiliency, and sustainability of coastal, freshwater, estuarine, wildlife, and marine habitats;
- Objective 2: Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Resources – Restore, improve, and protect the Gulf Coast region's fresh, estuarine, and marine water resources by reducing or treating nutrient and pollutant loading; and improving the management of freshwater flows, discharges to and withdrawals from critical systems;
- Objective 3: Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources – Restore and protect healthy, diverse, and sustainable living coastal and marine resources including finfish, shellfish, birds, mammals, reptiles, coral, and deep benthic communities;
- Objective 4: Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines – Restore and enhance ecosystem resilience, sustainability, and natural defenses through

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the restoration of natural coastal, estuarine, and riverine processes, and/or the restoration of natural shorelines; and

- Objective 5: Promote Community Resilience – Build and sustain Gulf Coast communities’ capacity to adapt to short- and long-term natural and man-made hazards, particularly increased flood risks associated with sea-level rise and environmental stressors. Promote ecosystem restoration that enhances community resilience through the re-establishment of non-structural, natural buffers against storms and flooding.

Major Milestones

- Milestone 1: Secure Contractor Services
- Milestone 2: Acquire Property
- Milestone 3: Secure Facility Design
- Milestone 4: Complete Construction
- Milestone 5: Complete Post-Construction Inspection

Success Criteria/Metrics/Outcomes

The anticipated outcome of the Replacement of Substandard ADEM Facilities project will be:

- Land acquisition, design, and construction of a new ADEM Coastal Office/Mobile Field Office

Table 15. Proposed Projects Success Criteria/Metrics/Outcomes

Activity	Anticipated Project Success Criteria/Metrics	Short-term outcome	Long-term outcome
Land acquisition, design, and construction of a new ADEM Coastal Office/Mobile Field Office	Acquire property Complete plans for engineering and design Construct one new facility	More efficient and effective services provided by ADEM	Ensure natural resource protection while supporting a strong economy

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Submission of due diligence on land acquisition to ADCNR
- Submission of final E&D to ADCNR for review and approval

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- c) Provide evidence to ADCNR that all required permits were obtained
- d) Submit results of bid process to ADCNR prior to awarding contracts
- e) ADCNR will conduct periodic onsite reviews during construction
- f) Submission of quarterly and final reports
- g) Post construction monitoring as required

Best Available Science

A Best Available Science (BAS) review is required for programs and activities designed to restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, and economy of the Gulf Coast. The primary focus of this project is to design and construct a new facility for the ADEM Coastal Office; therefore, BAS does not apply.

However, this proposed facility will be designed and constructed according to LID and LEED guidelines and will enable ADEM to more effectively and efficiently protect, preserve, and restore Coastal Alabama's environmental resources. ADEM plays an integral role in assuring effective restoration occurs along the Alabama coast, and implementation of this project ensures consistency with the values and recommendations set forth in the MBNEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan 2013-2018, available on the MBNEP [website](#), as well as those values included as part of the MBNEP's Watershed Management Planning (WMP) process.

A WMP is expected to conform to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's nine key elements for reducing pollution in receiving waters. These plans encompass the implementation of practices and measures of the Alabama Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program to enhance coastal waters. Each plan includes a watershed description that educates communities about the geography, geology, biology, ecology, and hydrology of the drainage area's land and water. It identifies causes and/or sources of pollution or impairment, identifies gaps in data related to watershed conditions, and estimates pollutant loads that enter the receiving waters. Each WMP sets pollution reduction goals and identifies potential solutions or management measures to achieve those goals. A WMP provides an implementation program that includes a project implementation schedule, interim milestones, ways to measure or monitor progress, an education/outreach plan, and identification of technical and financial resources needed to ensure implementation program success. Finally, it prescribes a monitoring program and potential adaptation measures that may be necessary.

Some significant funding sources, including State Clean Water Act Section 319 Grants, administered by ADEM, require that a WMP has been developed. These plans ensure restoration efforts are based on science and fit into an overall management program. Watershed planning represents a collaborative shift from traditional city planning, where geopolitical borders limit actions to improve the condition of receiving waters.

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Budget/Funding

- a) Estimated cost of the project and amount to be requested from Spill Impact Component Funds: \$6,038,599 (10-20% - Planning, 90-80% - Implementation). While it is noted that funding available under a grant award cannot exceed the amount described in the SEP for this project, the percentages listed in this section are estimated and will be more clearly cultivated in the grant application.

- b) No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

Partnerships/Collaboration (if applicable)

Not applicable at this time.

Leveraged Resources (if applicable)

Not applicable at this time.

Funds Used As Non-Federal Match (if applicable)

Not applicable at this time.

Other

Not applicable at this time.

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Figure 14. The Replacement of Substandard Facilities at the ADEM Coastal Office & Mobile Field Office project will be implemented in the City of Mobile, Alabama.