



Houston-Galveston Area Council

To: Plans and Projects Review Committee
From: Rick Guerrero, Intergovernmental Relations Director
Subject: December Meeting
Date: December 10, 2019

RGJ

H-GAC's Plans and Projects Review Committee meets this month on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in H-GAC Conference Room B to review two items. The first is Harris County's HUD-required annual action plan, which specifies how the County will program their standard HUD community development funds. This item is not disaster recovery related.

The second item is the second edition of the Galveston Bay Plan. H-GAC has worked with the Galveston Bay Estuary Program since its inception and played a major role in leading the revision of the outreach, education, and conservation plan.

Please call me at 713-993-4598 or email me at rick.guerrero@h-gac.com if you have any questions about the agenda. I hope to see you at our December 17, 2019 meeting.

RG/sas
Enclosures



A G E N D A
HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL
PLANS AND PROJECTS REVIEW
COMMITTEE MEETING
December 17, 2019 9:30 a.m.
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor
Conference Room B
Houston, Texas 77027

1. Call to Order
2. Action Item
 - a. [HARRIS COUNTY PY2020 ACTION PLAN](#)
Request the Harris County PY2020 Draft Annual Action Plan be found consistent with the Houston-Galveston Area Council's plans, policies, and review criteria; including Our Great Region 2040, the Regional Plan for Economic Resilience, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. (Staff Contact: Joshua Owens)
 - b. [THE GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION](#)
Request approval of resolution in support of the Galveston Bay Estuary Plan, 2nd Edition. (Staff Contact: Kathy Janhsen)
3. Other Business
4. Adjournment

HARRIS COUNTY PY2020 ACTION PLAN

Background

Harris County Community Services Department is requesting a review of the County's PY2020 Draft Action Plan for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of Harris County's Annual Action Plan is to identify the objectives and outcomes for the Program Year 2020 funds for HUD's Community Development Block Grants, HOME funds, and Emergency Services Grants.

Current Situation

Harris County will receive \$18,663,136 for use towards community development activities during Program Year 2020 (PY2020), which begins March 1, 2020 and ends February 28, 2021. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) determines this allocation amount based on Harris County's Service Area population, poverty, housing overcrowding and age of housing.

For PY2020 Harris County plans to fund thirty-seven (37) projects utilizing \$13,197,131 of conditionally awarded Community Development Block Grants, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Services Grants, prior year and program income funds, an additional three (3) projects using \$3,183,560 to fund projects for administrative costs and three (3) projects for un-programmed funding totaling \$3,482,445. All projects combined makes a total of forty-three (43) projects utilizing \$19,891,836.

Funding Source

Community Development Block Grants: \$13,456,439
HOME Investment Partnerships Program: \$4,070,904
Emergency Services Grants: \$1,135,793

Budgeted

Need Area	Projects	Amount Allocated
Housing	6	\$4,913,521
Homelessness	10	\$1,504,116
Infrastructure	5	\$4,273,871
Public Facilities/Parks	1	\$914,057
Public Services	14	\$1,470,266
Other*	1	\$150,000
Total Allocations	37	\$13,225,831
Unprogrammed Funds		\$3,482,445
Administration		\$3,183,560
Total Funds		\$19,891,836

*Projects classified in the Other category include a demolition/nuisance abatement.

Action Requested

Request the Harris County PY2020 Draft Annual Action Plan be found consistent with the Houston-Galveston Area Council's plans, policies, and review criteria; including Our Great Region 2040, the Regional Plan for Economic Resilience, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. (Staff Contact: Joshua Owens)

THE GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION

Background

The Galveston Bay estuary is a natural resource of national significance, providing important environmental, economic and quality of life benefits to the H-GAC region. However, the Galveston Bay estuary, like many other estuaries in the country, faces significant natural and manmade challenges related to habitat loss, water quality, and species decline.

In 1995, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Galveston Bay Estuary Program developed the *Galveston Bay Plan* as a framework for coordination of the many federal and state agencies, local governments, and non-governmental organizations responsible for protecting and preserving this vital resource.

Current Situation

The Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition is the first revision to the 1995 plan. H-GAC provided staff support to this effort, which entailed significant engagement of more than 150 stakeholders over a two-year period. The results are a set of voluntary recommendations grouped under the following key priorities:

- Ensure Safe Human and Aquatic Life Use
- Protect and Sustain Living Resources
- Engage Communities
- Inform Science-Based Decision Making

This is not a regulatory document, but rather provides a roadmap for future voluntary actions by many entities. It was adopted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in 2019 and will go before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval in 2020. The Galveston Bay Estuary Program is currently seeking a resolution of support from the H-GAC Board.

Funding Source

N/A

Budgeted

N/A

Action Requested

Request approval of resolution in support of the Galveston Bay Estuary Plan, 2nd Edition. (Staff Contact: Kathy Janhsen)

REGIONAL MONITORING PLAN

The lower Galveston Bay Watershed is highly monitored with a network of more than 300 water quality stations actively maintained by partners in the Clean Rivers Program. Many additional environmental and socioeconomic indicators are monitored by GBEP federal and state partners. With so many data sources, it is important to use a unified approach to determine the efficacy of regional monitoring.

THE REGIONAL MONITORING PLAN RECOMMENDS BRINGING TOGETHER THE VARIOUS MONITORING DATA SOURCES TO HELP THE GBEP TRACK HOW EFFECTIVELY THE CCMP IMPLEMENTATION IS BEING MANAGED BY ANSWERING TWO QUESTIONS.

1

ARE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES SET FORTH IN THE GALVESTON BAY PLAN BEING MET?

IS THE HEALTH OF THE ECOSYSTEM IMPROVING?

2

THE GALVESTON BAY PLAN, 2ND EDITION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A SUMMARY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GALVESTON BAY ECOSYSTEM

FINANCE PLAN

The GBEP recognizes that successful implementation of the Actions identified in *GBP'18* are subject to potential changes in national funding levels, environmental and weather-related factors, the national economic climate, and other variables beyond its control.

The GBEP also recognizes that changes to the Objectives, Priority Issues, and Activities can be influenced by revisions to national U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance. Subsequently, the GBEP, in coordination with the Galveston Bay Council and its subcommittees, may

choose to re-evaluate and update Work Plans generated through *GBP'18* to adjust for such changing factors. This adaptive management approach enables the GBEP to make appropriate modifications.

The GBEP continues to seek funds to implement the Actions recommended by *GBP'18* from a variety of sources to avoid creating a disproportionate financial burden on any group and to aid partners pursuing additional funds for implementation of Actions wherever possible.

Go to gbep.texas.gov to download *GBP'18*.

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the Governor of Texas and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In 2009, the Galveston Bay Council – the 41-member advisory committee to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the GBEP – published *Charting the Course to 2015: Galveston Bay Strategic Action Plan*. It consolidated the 17 Priority Issues identified in *GBP'95* and new or emerging issues into three priority Focus Areas in a shorter, easier-to-read format. The Actions identified in *GBP'95* and the *Strategic Action Plan* led the GBEP and its partners for over two decades of significant conservation, restoration, and education work to protect the Galveston Bay estuary.

A revision to the CCMP, known as *GBP'18*, is now appropriate to continue protection and conservation of the estuary. Efforts focus on identifying new issues facing Galveston Bay that were not addressed by *GBP'95* or previous updates, and present them in an easily accessible format.

The CCMP was first published in 1995 and is known as *The Galveston Bay Plan (GBP'95)*. It was approved by

GBP'18 STRUCTURE

The technical heart of *GBP'18* is its Action Plans, nested within four technical components of the document, called Plan Priorities. The four Plan Priorities relate to the four subcommittees to the Galveston Bay Council.

Within each Action Plan are Actions. Actions are assigned a number that references the Action Plan under which it is housed. Each of the 38 Actions includes a short discussion, followed by a list of Activities, Timeframe and Outputs, Implementation Cost Estimates, Potential Implementers, Performance Measures, and References to previous plans. Due to the dynamic nature of Galveston Bay, some Actions in *GBP'18* are relevant to multiple Plan Priorities and Action Plans. Plan Priorities, Action Plans, and Actions are presented in *GBP'18* with numerical and alphabetical labels for organization and communication purposes but are not placed in any specific order based on their relative importance or priority.

A snapshot of the four Plan Priorities, ten Action Plans, and 38 Actions that comprise *GBP'18* can be found below (photo courtesy of Gene Fisseler).



ENSURE SAFE HUMAN AND AQUATIC LIFE USE

Galveston Bay is an economic driver for the Houston-Galveston region with frequent and varied use by residents, tourists, and commercial and trade interests. For people who live, work, and play, in and around Galveston Bay it is beneficial to take an active role in protecting it. *GBP'18* outlines the steps to be taken to ensure Galveston Bay is kept safer for human and aquatic life use. To ensure safe human and aquatic life use of Galveston Bay, three Action Plans and 12 Actions are identified.

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION ABATEMENT

- NPS-1 Support Watershed-based Plan Development and Implementation
- NPS-2 Support Nonpoint Source Education and Outreach Campaigns
- NPS-3 Implement Nonpoint Source Best Management Practices
- NPS-4 Host Nonpoint Source Workshops

POINT SOURCE POLLUTION ABATEMENT

- PS-1 Support Stormwater Education Programs
- PS-2 Achieve Sanitary Sewer System Capacity and Integrity
- PS-3 Increase Wastewater Treatment Facility Compliance

PUBLIC HEALTH AND AWARENESS

- PHA-1 Improve Seafood Advisory Awareness
- PHA-2 Improve Regional Contact Recreation Risk Awareness
- PHA-3 Improve Contact Recreation Safety Through Watershed-based Plans
- PHA-4 Improve Shellfish Consumption Safety Through Watershed-based Plans
- PHA-5 Improve Finfish Consumption Safety Through Watershed-based Plans

PROTECT AND SUSTAIN LIVING RESOURCES

The lower Galveston Bay watershed is composed of habitats that range from open water areas and estuarine wetlands to freshwater wetlands and upland coastal prairie. These habitats support plant, fish, and wildlife species that ensure the health and biological diversity of the estuarine system. *GBP'18* continues the ecosystem approach to living resource protection identified in *GBP'95* to ensure the existence of an optimal variety and distribution of coastal habitats. To protect and sustain the living resources of Galveston Bay, three Action Plans and eight Actions are identified.

HABITAT CONSERVATION

- HC-1 Land Acquisition
- HC-2 Habitat Restoration
- HC-3 Habitat Enhancement

SPECIES CONSERVATION

- SC-1 Native Species Management
- SC-2 Invasive Species Control

FRESHWATER INFLOWS

- FWI-1 Regional Planning for Freshwater Infloows
- FWI-2 Freshwater Inflows Research and Management
- FWI-3 Water Conservation and Education

ENGAGE COMMUNITIES

Nearly 5.4 million people call the five counties that surround Galveston Bay home, with millions more visiting the region each year (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, 2016). Residents and visitors affect the health of Galveston Bay through their daily actions, which makes engaging the people of Galveston Bay critical to its long-term successful management, and the sustainability of the bay and its resources. *GBP'18* continues and builds upon the comprehensive public participation and education work identified in *GBP'95*, with a renewed focus on connectivity, personal responsibility, and increasing environmental literacy. To fully engage the people who live, work, and play in Galveston Bay, two Action Plans and seven Actions are identified.

STAKEHOLDER AND PARTNER OUTREACH

- SPO-1 Stewardship Programs and Volunteer Opportunities
- SPO-2 Workshops and Events
- SPO-3 Support Regional Initiatives
- SPO-4 Local Government Outreach

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- PEA-1 Key Issue Engagement
- PEA-2 Adult Education
- PEA-3 Kindergarten to 12th Grade Education Efforts

INFORM SCIENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING

The health of the Galveston Bay estuary is dynamic, due to both human interactions and natural processes. These changes can affect the people, habitats, and species of Galveston Bay, making monitoring and research essential for the GBEP and its partners to manage, protect, and sustain Galveston Bay. *GBP'18* continues the approach identified in *GBP'95* with monitoring and research activities that focus on applied research and coordination to identify knowledge gaps and research needs and collection of data to address emerging issues, such as endocrine disrupters and personal care product contaminants. To ensure data used by the GBEP and its partners are accurate, defensible, and accessible, two Action Plans and 11 Actions are identified.

APPLIED RESEARCH AND MONITORING

- RES-1 Conduct Biological Stressor Monitoring and Research
- RES-2 Conduct Geochemical Stressor Monitoring and Research
- RES-3 Conduct Physical Stressor Monitoring and Research
- RES-4 Conduct Monitoring and Research to Address Limits to Contact Recreation
- RES-5 Conduct Monitoring and Research to Address Limits to Seafood Consumption
- RES-6 Evaluate Best Management Practice Projects
- RES-7 Conduct Research on Ecosystem Service and Economic Valuation of Bay Resources
- RES-8 Complete Coastal Resiliency and Acclimation Studies

ACCESS TO ECOSYSTEM INFORMATION

- ACS-1 Tracking Ecosystem Health Indicators
- ACS-2 Access to Monitoring and Research Data
- ACS-3 Track Galveston Bay Plan Implementation