

RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Eligible Applicant Name: Gulf County, Florida

Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:

POC Name: Warren J. Yeager

POC Title: Restore Coordinator

POC Email: wyeager@gulfcounty-fl.gov

POC Phone: +1 (850) 227-2396

B. PROVIDE A BRIEF NARRATIVE THAT DEMONSTRATES:

1. The need, purpose, and objectives for each activity, including a detailed description of each activity.

Project 1: St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration

Need: The St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration project will mitigate shoreline erosion that has occurred since the construction of the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration Project in 2008-2009. Providing a wider beach will increase the level of storm protection to the upland structures and to State Road 30-E (located adjacent to the shoreline), which is the only ingress/egress route on the St. Joseph Peninsula and is a critical hurricane evacuation route for residents and visitors. An additional need is to protect and maintain beaches on the peninsula where sea turtle nesting occurs each year between May 1 and October 31 and provide foraging habitat for shorebirds.

Purpose: The goal of this project is to install sand along a 5.1 mile length of shoreline along St. Joseph Peninsula from Marker R 74.8 to 85.5 and 89.6 to 105.5. A wider, more stable beach will enhance and restore critical habitat, reduce storm-related damage to threatened and endangered species, protect public infrastructure and private property, and increase the time between beach restoration cycles, thereby reducing future public expenditures.

Description: This project consists of design, permitting, engineering, and construction for beach restoration along a 5.1 mile length of shoreline along St. Joseph Peninsula from Marker 74.8 to 85.5 and 89.6 to 105.5. A wider, more stable beach will enhance and restore critical habitat, reduce storm-related damage to threatened and endangered species, protect public infrastructure and private property, and increase the time between beach restoration cycles, thereby reducing future public expenditures. Project implementation is divided into four phases:

Phase I – Geotechnical (Sand Source) Investigation has been completed that identified over 6 million cubic yards of beach quality sand sufficient to supply the next 2 to 3 re-nourishment projects. The borrow areas are located just offshore of the project limits which will be a cost-effective source of sand.

Phase II – Design and permitting. The County has started on the permitting of the beach restoration (R-74.8 to R-105.5) project.

Phase III – Bidding and Construction of the 5.1 mile length between R-74.8 to 85.5 and 89.6 to R-105.5 is anticipated to commence in 2017.

Phase IV – Post-construction monitoring.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to complete the design, permitting, and construction of a 5.1 mile segment of shoreline utilizing 2,000,000 cubic yards of sand material located on St. Joseph Peninsula with the goal of mitigating shoreline erosion and providing habitat.

Project 2: Land Acquisition - Economic Development/Public Access

Need: Tourism is a major economic driver in Gulf County. Most visitors come to Gulf County to enjoy recreation in the County's many parks and beaches, and to experience the natural resources and natural beauty of St. Joseph Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. To fully accommodate visitors' needs and enhance tourism, Gulf County must create a destination where visitors can have quick and easy access to the bay, Gulf, and extensive Apalachicola and Chipola River systems. To create the optimal balance between recreation and economic development, the County seeks to purchase seven strategic parcels with proximity to both the waterfront and centers of growth and development in the county.

Purpose: This project will allow for the strategic acquisition of properties for public waterfront access and economic development to promote tourism in Gulf County.

Description: The County will seek to purchase the following parcels for the purpose of public waterfront access to promote tourism:

Site 1: Parcel ID 00012-000r –Property with access to the Brothers River and the Apalachicola River System.

Site 2: Parcel ID 00336-000r - Property with access to the Brothers River and Apalachicola River System.

Site 3: Parcel ID 01037-000r - Property with access to the Chipola River and Apalachicola River System.

Site 4: Parcel ID 06235-010r - This property includes an existing boat ramp on the St. Joe Bay.

Site 5: Parcel ID 06235-002r - An adjoining parcel to 06235-010r to provide public parking.

Site 6: Parcel ID 06271-050r - Property providing access to St. Joe Bay.

Site 7: Parcel ID 06314-003r - St. Joe Bay water front property that adjoins a county park and could provide for expansion.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to acquire key parcels of land in the County for the purposes of tourism/economic development and recreational fishing.

Project 3: City of Wewahitchka Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Need: Fecal bacteria and viruses are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks, exposing residents and tourists to harmful pathogens. Sewage effluent and wastewater are also a source of nutrient pollutants, such as nitrogen, that contribute to eutrophication and degradation of water quality. Additionally, these water quality impairments are a direct threat to many of the Bay's species of concern (Gulf sturgeon, sea turtles, and the West Indian manatee), as well as commercially and recreationally important seafood species. Sewer system extensions have been identified in numerous Comprehensive Plans, Watershed Management Plans, and Capital Improvement Plans as a priority public infrastructure project for improving water quality and protecting the health of residents and the surrounding natural resources. The proposed project addresses the need for improved community public health and safety of residents and tourists alike, by significantly reducing the threat of bacteria and pathogens from wastewater in the Apalachicola Watershed. In addition to improving water quality for residents, the perception of good water quality can have a dramatic impact on the economy of Gulf County by attracting tourism and associated trade and commerce.

Purpose: The proposed project includes abandoning septic tanks in the City of Wewahitchka's (City) utility franchise area and connecting residences to a sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. This will reduce fecal coliform, other bacteria and viruses, and high nutrient loads that are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks, improving public health and water quality.

Description: The City of Wewahitchka is proposing to abandon approximately 50 septic tanks and survey, design, permit, and construct an extension of their existing low pressure sewer system to service residences in northwestern Wewahitchka in the communities, adjacent to Highway 71 and Lake Drive/Mitchell Road. The project will include additional lift stations to pump the sewage to the existing treatment plant.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to complete the surveying, design, permitting, and construction of a sewer extension system for the neighborhoods adjacent to Highway 71 and Lake Drive/Mitchell Road near West arm of the Dead Lakes. Construction of the sewer extension will allow for the abandonment of failing septic tanks, thus protecting water quality, improving public safety, and enhancing aquatic habitat.

Project 4: Cape San Blas Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Need: Fecal coliform and other bacteria and viruses are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks along St. Joe Bay and Cape San Blas, potentially exposing residents, tourists, and wildlife to harmful pathogens. High nutrient loads from septic tanks also cause or contribute to potential algal blooms, which can threaten the Bay and Gulf's species of concern (Gulf sturgeon, sea turtles, and the West Indian manatee), as well as commercially and recreationally important seafood species, particularly bay scallops. Sewer system extension has been identified as a priority in numerous plans, including the Gulf County Comprehensive Plan, Watershed Management Plan, and Capital Improvement Plan, as a BMP for improving public infrastructure and water quality for the health of residents, tourists and the surrounding natural resources. Approximately 10 years ago, the City of St. Joe constructed several pump stations and force mains necessary to pump solid waste from Cape San Blas to the City's treatment plant in downtown Port St. Joe, but the remaining infrastructure was never constructed.

Purpose: This project will ultimately provide the residents of Cape San Blas and surrounding St. Joseph Bay with access to a safe, secure, and sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. It will also reduce fecal coliform, high nutrient loads, bacteria, and viruses that are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks, and improve water quality. The improved conditions to water quality, infrastructure, habitat, and public safety will inevitably contribute to the preservation of natural resources in Gulf County and increase revenue generated from positive business and visitor experience from tourism, trade, and commerce.

Description: In an effort to abandon septic tanks along St. Joseph Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, the City is proposing to survey, design, permit, and construct a collection system on side streets that will consist of small diameter mains and grinder stations typical of low pressure systems. Phase 1 will focus on replacing septic systems closest to the mainland and nearest to the existing Port St. Joe infrastructure, including the Villa Del Sol subdivision.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to complete the surveying, design, permitting, and construction of a sewer extension system for the eastern-most communities on Cape San Blas near the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve. Construction of the sewer extension will allow for the abandonment of failing septic tanks on the Cape, thus protecting water quality, improving public safety, and enhancing aquatic habitat.

Project 5: Gulf County Parks and Recreation, Phase 1

Need: Tourism is a major economic driver in Gulf County. The majority of Gulf County tourists are drawn to the County for its outdoor resources, access to the water, and its many boat ramps, campgrounds, and parks. In order to provide ongoing usage of these recreation sites, numerous upgrades are needed, particularly for dune walkovers and boardwalks that are currently constructed of wood. Dune walkovers provide safe access and protect natural resources that many tourists come to Gulf County to see and experience. Made of wood, existing structures have deteriorated and have become degraded from heavy use and natural wear and tear (storms, salt-water, wind-blown sand, etc.).

Purpose: The ultimate purpose of this project is to provide safe, easily accessible opportunities for tourists and residents to get outdoors and experience Gulf County's natural, scenic beauty. By updating this heavily used dune walkover with composite materials, this project will fortify the structures' long-term resiliency, reducing the time, manpower and expense for continual repairs.

Description: Phase 1 of this project will rebuild a heavily-used dune walkover with composite materials that will hold up to heavy use and natural wear and tear.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to complete upgrades to an existing dune walk-over structure with composite materials, thus maintaining public beach access in Gulf County.

Project 6: Highland View Boat Ramp

Need: Tourism is a major economic driver in Gulf County, with 30% of visitors bringing boats. The majority of Gulf County tourists are drawn to the County for its outdoor resources, access to the water, and its many boat ramps, campgrounds, and parks. Highland View Boat Ramp is a heavily used facility that was directly impacted by oil spill response efforts. The boat ramp suffered loss of use during the summer of 2010 when Vessels of Opportunity were being launched there. The Highland View Boat Ramp has been identified as a priority project for Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funding; however, the project requires additional funds for completion before its many public benefits can be achieved.

Purpose: This project will cover the funding gap between available NRDA funds and the total funding necessary for improvements to the existing Highland View Boat Ramp. Completion of the Highland View Boat Ramp will give visitors and locals improved public access to St. Joseph Bay and help to ensure a safe recreational experience.

Description: The Highland View Boat Ramp project will repair and enhance the existing boat ramp, replace existing access and termination piers, and improve the parking at the existing Highland View Boat Ramp. This project will provide additional funds to support efforts initiated through NRDA.

Objectives: The objective of the Highland View Boat Ramp Project is to complete construction renovation of the Highland View Boat Ramp. The completed boat ramp will provide public boat access to St. Joseph Bay.

Project 7: Gulf County Stormwater Management Plan, Phase 1

Need: Gulf County (the County) has recognized the need for stormwater management for many years. The County's Local Mitigation Strategy, Floodplain Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, 5-year Capital Improvements Schedule, Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Study, and the National Flood Insurance Program's Floodplain Management Study have all identified stormwater issues in Gulf County. The County is listed as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) by the State, meaning that it is a rural area with limited financial resources with which to evaluate and fund this type of project. As City (Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka) growth rates are steadily rising annually, and there is an increased interest of expanding existing and new business, inevitable infrastructure and development pressures will be placed on the insufficient stormwater collection and treatment systems. Thus, it is critical to determine the feasibility of implementing a county-wide Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and retrofitting and modernizing the stormwater infrastructure of the county to meet higher standards and accommodate present and future needs.

Purpose: Gulf County is seeking to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate a county-wide SWMP, including Program Plan and Management system; Operations and Maintenance; Capital Improvement Program; and Regulatory Compliance.

Description: Gulf County seeks to hire a contractor to complete a feasibility study in order to determine need, areas of focus, procedures/policies, operations/maintenance, and regulatory permitting/monitoring. Phase I will be the feasibility portion of the project. Planning and implementation will be sought in future phases of the project.

Objectives: The objective of Phase I is to complete a feasibility study for a county-wide Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). Phase 1 of the Gulf County SWMP is the first step in creating a plan that will assist Gulf County in protecting and preserving habitat and natural resources by evaluating and developing Best Management Practices (BMP) for soil erosion control, flood prevention, water protection and conservation, and stormwater management. These measures will result in reduced contamination, flooding, erosion, and runoff. This will ultimately enhance fresh and salt water environments for fish and wildlife, as well as local recreational and commercial fishing

in the area. By conducting a feasibility study, Gulf County aims to ensure that the implementation of a SWMP adequately addresses the County's major issues and focus areas, and includes policies, procedures, permitting, and monitoring criteria that suit Gulf County's unique hydrology and development needs.

Project 8: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - Bike Path Extension/Engineering - Phase II

Need: Currently, at any given time on Cape San Blas, there are 20 to 40 individuals using the existing bike path during daylight hours, however, the bike path does not connect to the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park (the Park). The two-lane road from the park entrance to the park gate has pedestrians, cyclists, and motor vehicles all sharing the same roadway and is too narrow to safely accommodate all of these uses. Pedestrians and cyclists are forced to leave the road for two-way road traffic. This extension not only provides for greater path usage, but also alleviates safety issues and provides more access for the Park's visitors to visit retail and tourism areas along Cape San Blas roads to Port St Joe.

Purpose: Phase II of this project will complete three essential surveys that must be carried out prior to construction of the Cape San Blas bike path extension. These surveys will characterize soils and identify existing drains, structures, utilities, and trees, as well as state and federally protected wetlands within the project area that will inform the design and construction. The path extension will ultimately encourage additional visitors, sales tax revenue, bed tax revenue, and local economic development by connecting Park visitors to the Cape and Cape visitors to the Park.

Description: Phase II of the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - Bike Path Extension/Engineering project includes:

- 1.) A topographical survey to identify existing cross drains, structures, utilities, trees, etc.;
- 2.) A wetlands delineation along the proposed bike path route; and
- 3.) A geotechnical soil sampling in areas of new timber bridge and gravity wall locations.

This is the second step in the multi-phased project extending the current Cape San Blas Road bike path an additional 1.8 miles. When complete, it will create a continuous path from the Cape San Blas Road/30A intersection to Eagle Harbor in the Park.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to complete three essential surveys that must precede the design and construction of the Cape San Blas bike path extension: a topographical survey, wetlands delineation, and geotechnical soil sampling.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of all meaningful input from the public.

"N/A" - to be provided after 45-day public comment period

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix is eligible for funding and meets all requirements under the RESTORE Act.

Project 1: St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration

The activities of this project are eligible under eligible activity VII: Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure, as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(i) of the RESTORE Act, by designing, permitting, and constructing a beach restoration project to mitigate shoreline erosion and offer protection to upland structures and State Road 30-E, which is the only ingress/egress route on the St. Joseph Peninsula, as well as a critical hurricane evacuation route for residents and visitors.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: Design, permitting, and construction of the beach restoration project will occur on St. Joseph Peninsula, adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico in Gulf County, Florida.

Project 2: Land Acquisition - Economic Development/Public Access

Primary Eligible Activity: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing.

This project will address eligible activity I: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(ii) of the RESTORE Act, by allowing Gulf County to acquire seven strategic parcels for the purpose of public waterfront access to promote tourism on the Apalachicola and Chipola River Systems, St. Joseph Bay, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: All strategic parcels that will be acquired for this project are within Gulf County, Florida, which borders the Gulf of Mexico.

Project 3: City of Wewahitchka Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Primary Eligible Activity: Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure. This project will address eligible activity VI: Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(i) of the RESTORE Act, by abandoning septic tanks in the City of Wewahitchka and connecting residences to a sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. The goal of this infrastructure project is to reduce fecal coliform, other bacteria and viruses, and high nutrient loads that are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks, thus protecting water quality, improving public safety, and enhancing aquatic habitat.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The surveying, design, permitting, and construction of this sewer extension system will occur in the City of Wewahitchka, Gulf County, Florida, which borders the Gulf of Mexico.

Project 4: Cape San Blas Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Primary Eligible Activity: Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure. This project will address eligible activity VI: Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(i) of the RESTORE Act, by abandoning septic tanks on Cape San Blas peninsula and connecting residences to a sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. The goal of this infrastructure project is to reduce fecal coliform, other bacteria and viruses, and high nutrient loads that are transmitted to surface and ground waters through many of the existing septic tanks, thus protecting water quality, improving public safety, and enhancing aquatic habitat.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The surveying, design, permitting, and construction of this sewer extension system will occur on Cape San Blas, Gulf County, Florida, which is a barrier peninsula that borders the Gulf of Mexico.

Project 5: Gulf County Parks and Recreation, Phase 1

Primary Eligible Activity: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing. This project will address eligible activity I: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(ii) of the RESTORE Act, by providing safe, easily accessible opportunities for tourists and residents to access the Gulf of Mexico by updating a deteriorated and heavily used dune walkover with composite materials.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The dune walkover to be upgraded provides access to the Gulf of Mexico and is located in Gulf County, Florida, which borders the Gulf.

Project 6: Highland View Boat Ramp

Primary Eligible Activity: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing. This project will address eligible activity I: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(ii) of the RESTORE Act, by completing the Highland View Boat Ramp, which provides public boat access to St. Joseph Bay.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The Highland View Boat Ramp is located in Gulf County, Florida, which borders the Gulf of Mexico. The Boat ramp is on St. Joseph Bay, an embayment of the Gulf.

Project 7: Gulf County Stormwater Management Plan, Phase 1

Primary Eligible Activity: Planning assistance. This project will address eligible activity VIII: Planning assistance, as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(i) of the RESTORE Act, by determining the feasibility of implementing county-wide Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) for Gulf County.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The feasibility study will take place in Gulf County, Florida, which borders the Gulf of Mexico. The information provided by this study will be used to develop a SWMP to address stormwater issues in Gulf County.

Project 8: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - Bike Path Extension/Engineering - Phase II

Primary Eligible Activity: Planning assistance. This project will address eligible activity VIII: Planning assistance, as per §1603 (3)(t)(1)(B)(i) of the RESTORE Act, by completing three essential surveys that must be carried out prior to construction and completion of the Cape San Blas bike path extension, connecting St. Joseph State Park with nearby residences and businesses, and vice versa.

Geographic requirement to be in Gulf Coast Region: The three essential surveys for this project will occur on St. Joseph Peninsula, in Gulf County, Florida, which is adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico. The Cape San Blas bike path extension that will be facilitated by these

surveys is also on St. Joseph Peninsula.

4. How the applicant will evaluate success of the activities included in the matrix.

Project 1: St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration

Successful completion of the St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration project will include the placement of 2,000,000 cubic yards of sand along the length of shoreline for an approximate 5.1 mile stretch.

Project 2: Land Acquisition - Economic Development/Public Access

Successful completion will include the purchase of seven parcels identified as strategic acquisitions by Gulf County.

Project 3: City of Wewahitchka Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Successful completion of the Wewahitchka Sewer expansion will result in approximately 50 septic tanks being replaced by sewer infrastructure. Milestones associated with this project will include a successful survey and design, permit approvals, and the extension construction (including additional lift stations). The target timeframe for this effort is six months for the survey, design, and permitting; and six months for construction (following permit approval).

Project 4: Cape San Blas Sewer Extension, Phase 1

Successful completion of Phase 1 of the Cape San Blas Sewer Extension project will be gauged by the total number of septic systems replaced by the sewer extension, which will require a site survey and sewer extension design, as well as the approval of all required permits and the construction of sewer extension near the Villa Del Sol subdivision.

Project 5: Gulf County Parks and Recreation, Phase 1

Successful completion of Phase 1 of the Gulf County Parks and Recreation project will include a fully-renovated park dune-walkover made of weather-resistant composite materials.

Project 6: Highland View Boat Ramp

Successful completion of the Highland View Boat Ramp project will include repairing and enhancing the existing Highland View Boat Ramp, replacing existing access and termination piers, and improving parking at the existing boat ramp.

Project 7: Gulf County Stormwater Management Plan, Phase 1

Phase 1 will be deemed successful upon completion of a Stormwater Management Plan feasibility study for Gulf County.

Project 8: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - Bike Path Extension/Engineering - Phase II

Successful completion of Phase II of the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park - Bike Path Extension/Engineering project will include three tasks: 1) Topographical survey to identify existing cross-drains, structures, utilities, trees, etc.; 2) Wetlands delineation along the proposed path route; and 3) Geotechnical soil sampling in areas of new timber bridge and gravity wall locations.

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and the criteria used to establish the priorities.

Gulf County established a Local RESTORE Advisory Committee (RAC) to help facilitate public involvement in the process and followed a five-step framework for developing project priorities to be included in the MYIP. This process included conducting a community needs assessment to determine issues most critical to the County, development of the project selection criteria and its supporting structure, acceptance of project submissions from stakeholders and local governments, ranking of projects which guided development of project priorities, and drafting of the MYIP. Gulf County solicited and received meaningful public input from a variety of stakeholders throughout the MYIP development process, through the implementation of their public outreach and engagement plan. As part of the Needs Assessment, the RAC elicited and received a variety of presentations from academics, professionals, industry and community leaders and citizen groups on the critical issues and needs to be addressed in the community. The Community Needs Assessment set the stage for identification of information gaps and development of the selection criteria by which proposed projects were evaluated. By taking a current inventory of critical community needs, the County focused its RESTORE efforts where they were needed most. The Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment document was ultimately used as a basis to evaluate the overall impact of proposed projects and align benefits with identified needs in the community. The final version of this document "Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment" adopted by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners on September 22nd, 2015 is attached in Appendix XX. The project selection criteria were derived specifically to align with the Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment for Gulf County. The RAC held two meetings and the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners held a public workshop to discuss the project selection criteria. A comprehensive list of selection criteria was developed using the information gathered in the public meetings, review of selection criteria developed by other counties and the Comprehensive Needs Assessment. The criteria were divided into six major categories: Programmatic Criteria, Environmental Criteria, Economic Criteria, Infrastructure Criteria, Community Criteria, and Bonus Criteria. Within each category, four to five individual criteria were developed by the County. Once a comprehensive list of selection criteria were developed, the RAC assigned point values to each criteria corresponding to its importance. Selection criteria such as water quality and port development that were emphasized throughout these discussions were assigned the highest point values. The final version of this document "Selection Criteria" adopted by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on September 22nd, 2015 is attached in the Appendix. Once the Community Needs Assessment and the Selection Criteria were in place,

the County accepted project proposals from community stakeholders. Once the Project Portal closed, the scoring and ranking of projects began. Gulf County followed an established objective process for prioritizing projects utilizing the selection criteria developed in step two. Technical numeric scores were provided for all 32 projects by a team of subject matter experts in their respective fields using the assigned criteria values developed in step two. Each project was evaluated for its eligibility for RESTORE funding and the degree to which it addressed the previously defined needs of Gulf County. Therefore, each project was scored against all criteria in each category. Projects received an overall score that was the accumulation of the points awarded. The numeric scores were then provided to County staff to determine the full range of benefits provided by the project and the feasibility to achieve the described results. Additional factors were applied to the prioritization of submitted projects including timing and complexity of the project. The raw technical scores and the project rankings were then provided to the RESTORE Advisory Committee at their March 15th, 2016 public meeting. There was considerable discussion at the RAC meeting, which ultimately led to consensus on suggested revisions to the project rankings and which projects to include in the MYIP. The RAC's recommendations were then brought to the Gulf County BOCC meeting on March 22, 2016. The BOCC reviewed, considered, and approved the recommendations of the RAC. On April 12, 2016, residents of Cape San Blas in Gulf County voted by county referendum for a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) to collect ad valorem taxes for the specific purpose of funding a significant portion of Project 1, St. Joseph Peninsula Beach Restoration. The resulting allocation from the MSTU for this project is approximately \$4,000,000.00, which covers about 1/3 of the funding needed for this project. The County was notified that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will provide 1/3 of the project funding; however, the remaining 1/3 of the funds must be identified and committed prior to July 2016. Therefore, on June 21, 2016, the BOCC held a regularly scheduled public meeting and discussed the funding options for Project 1 at length. Ultimately, the BOCC voted 3-2 to utilize \$2,800,000.00 in RESTORE Direct Component funds to help close the funding gap for Project 1. Due to the changes in scope and budget for Project 1, the MYIP was revised and made available for an additional public comment period from July 18, 2016 to September 1, 2016. The minutes of the March 15th, 2016 RAC meeting, the March 22nd, 2016 BOCC meeting, the May 3rd, 2016 RAC meeting, and the June 21st, 2016 BOCC meeting are attached in the appendices.

6. The relationship, if any, between the activities the applicant included in the multiyear plan matrix and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

There is no known relationship between any of the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, RESTORE Act Program, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.