



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

This form is to be completed before the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) uses one or more Categorical Exclusions (CEs) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a specific action or group of actions, as appropriate. More information on the Council's NEPA compliance and use of CEs can be found in the Council's [NEPA Procedures](#).

Proposed Action Title:

Proposed Action Location: (*State, County/Parish*)

Proposed Action Description:

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

Council Use of Member Categorical Exclusion(s)

If the Categorical Exclusion(s) was established by a Federal agency Council member, complete the following. If not, leave this section blank and proceed to the segmentation section.

Member with Categorical Exclusion(s)

Has the member with CE(s) advised the Council in writing that use of the CE(s) would be appropriate for the specific action under consideration by the Council, including consideration of segmentation and extraordinary circumstances (as described below)?

Yes No

Segmentation

Has the proposed action been segmented to meet the definition of a Categorical Exclusion? (In making this determination, the Council should consider whether the action has independent utility.)

Yes No

Extraordinary Circumstances

In considering whether to use a Categorical Exclusion for a given action, agencies must review whether there may be extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant environmental effect and, therefore, warrant further review pursuant to NEPA. Guidance on the review of potential extraordinary circumstances can be found in Section 4(e) of the Council's NEPA Procedures. The potential extraordinary circumstances listed below are set forth in the Council's NEPA Procedures.

The Council, in cooperation with the sponsor of the activity, has considered the following potential extraordinary circumstances, where applicable, and has made the following determinations. (By checking the "No" box, the Council is indicating that the activity under review would not result in the corresponding potential extraordinary circumstance.)

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Yes | No | 1. Is there a reasonable likelihood of substantial scientific controversy regarding the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action? |
| Yes | No | 2. Are there Tribal concerns with actions that impact Tribal lands or resources that are sufficient to constitute an extraordinary circumstance? |
| Yes | No | 3. Is there a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting environmentally sensitive resources? Environmentally sensitive resources include but are not limited to: |

- a. Species that are federally listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, or their proposed or designated critical habitats; and
 - b. Properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Yes No 4. Is there a reasonable likelihood of impacts that are highly uncertain or involve unknown risks or is there a substantial scientific controversy over the effects?
- Yes No 5. Is there a reasonable likelihood of air pollution at levels of concern or otherwise requiring a formal conformity determination under the Clean Air Act?
- Yes No 6. Is there a reasonable likelihood of a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (see Executive Order 12898)?
- Yes No 7. Is there a reasonable likelihood of contributing to the introduction or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species or actions that may promote the introduction, or spread of such species (see Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?
- Yes No 8. Is there a reasonable likelihood of a release of petroleum, oils, or lubricants (except from a properly functioning engine or vehicle) or reportable releases of hazardous or toxic substances as specified in 40 CFR part 302 (Designation, Reportable Quantities, and Notification); or where the proposed action results in the requirement to develop or amend a Spill Prevention, Control, or Countermeasures Plan in accordance with the Oil Pollution Prevention regulation?

Supplemental Information

Where appropriate, the following table should be used to provide additional information regarding the review of potential extraordinary circumstances and compliance with other applicable laws. The purpose of this table is to ensure that there is adequate information for specific findings regarding potential extraordinary circumstances.

Supplemental information and documentation is not needed for each individual finding regarding the potential extraordinary circumstances listed above. Specifically, the nature of an activity under review may be such that a reasonable person could conclude that there is a very low potential for a particular type of extraordinary circumstance to exist. For example, it would be reasonable to conclude that the simple act of acquiring land for conservation purposes (where

(there are no other associated actions) does not present a reasonable likelihood of a release of petroleum, oils, lubricants, or hazardous or toxic substances.

For some types of activities, no supplemental information may be needed to support a finding that there are no extraordinary circumstances. For example, where the activity under review is solely planning (with no associated implementation activity), it may be reasonable to conclude that none of the extraordinary circumstances listed above would apply. In such cases, the table below would be left blank.

In other cases, it may be appropriate to include supplemental information to ensure that there is an adequate basis for a finding regarding a particular extraordinary circumstance. For example, it might be appropriate in some cases to document coordination and/or consultation with the appropriate agency regarding compliance with a potentially applicable law (such as the Endangered Species Act). In those cases, the table below should be used to provide the supplemental information.

Agency or Authority Consulted	Agency or Authority Representative: Name, Office & Phone	Date of Consultation	Notes: Topic discussed, relevant details, and conclusions. (This can include reference to other information on file and/or attached for the given action.)

Additional supplemental information may be attached, as appropriate. Indicate below whether additional supplemental information is attached.

Additional Information Attached: Yes No

If “Yes”, indicate the subject:

Determination by Responsible Official

Based on my review of the proposed action, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified Categorical Exclusion(s), the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby Categorically Excluded from further NEPA review.

Responsible Official (Name)

Justin R. Ehrenwerth

Responsible Official (Signature)**Date**

Dec 10, 2015



Facility Alteration or Construction Project
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review Form
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

I. General Information

Title of Project RESTORE Council - Beach Haven Joint Stormwater/Wastewater Improvement Project		Project Number FL_RESTORE_001_004_Cat2
Project Officer's Name Phil Coram, P.E. - Florida DEP	Project Officer's Title RESTORE Council Project Lead	Phone Number 850.245.2167
Project Location (street address/city/state/ZIP code) Beach Haven Subdivision - Escambia County, FL		Conducted on EPA Facility? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <small>(if yes, provide name of facility)</small>

Project Description (attach pages as needed)

See Attached

II. Responsible Official for NEPA Review

For projects funded and managed by the Architecture, Engineering, and Asset Management Branch (AEAMB), the Responsible Official is the Chief of AEAMB; otherwise, the Responsible Official is the individual who authorizes/funds and manages the project administratively at the Division, Regional, Program, or Facility level (e.g., Division Director, Laboratory Director).

Name Kimberley DePaul	Title Deputy Director, OECA/OFA	Phone Number 228.564.7128
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III. EPA Contact for Environmental Review on this Project (If different from Responsible Official)

Name John F. Bowie	Title RESTORE Program Manager	Phone Number 228.688.3888
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IV. Categorical Exclusion (CX)

Action is not eligible for CX. Check this box if the proposed action is not eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CX) either because the action involves significant new construction or is considered a major project (i.e., not minor); therefore, an EA or EIS is the appropriate level of review planned. If this box is checked, skip the remainder of Section IV and complete Section V.B, EA or EIS Determination. If this box is not checked, answer the following questions in Sections IV.A through IV.C to document the proposed action is eligible for a CX. After completion of Section IV, obtain the Responsible Official's Signature in Section V.

IV.A. CX Eligibility (Check YES or NO) If the answer to either of the following questions is YES and no Extraordinary Circumstances are identified (determined by completing Section IV.B. of this form), then the action is eligible for a CX pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1). If the answer to both of the following questions is NO, it is recommended the preparer reference the attached guidelines to determine whether the action falls into one of the categorical exclusions identified under 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(2).

YES NO

- a. Does the action involve routine facility maintenance, repair, and grounds-keeping; minor rehabilitation, restoration, renovation, or revitalization of existing facilities; functional replacement of equipment; acquisition and installation of equipment; or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities? (See 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(i)).
- b. Does the action involve: existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities? This category does not include actions that: involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water; will likely result in the substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water; will provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; are not supported by the state or other regional growth plan or strategy; or directly or indirectly involve or relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development. (See 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(ii)).

IV.B. Extraordinary Circumstances Evaluation (Check YES or NO) In selecting a response to the following questions, the preparer must have sufficient knowledge and/or data to support the answer with certainty. If the preparer is unsure of the answer to any of the following questions, an Environmental Professional should be consulted to conduct additional research.

YES NO

- a. Is the action known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
- b. Is the action known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low-income communities, or federally-recognized Indian tribal communities?
- c. Is the action known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat?
- d. Is the action known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with naturally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places?
- e. Is the action known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat?

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> f. Is the action known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> g. Is the action known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population, including altering the character of existing residential areas or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> h. Is the action known or expected to cause significant public controversy about potential environmental impacts of the proposed action?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> i. Is the action known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> j. Is the action known or expected to conflict with federal, state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations?

IV.C. Extraordinary Circumstances Statement (Check ONLY ONE box) If a **NO** response was recorded for each of the questions in Section IV.B., then no Extraordinary Circumstances are present pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(b) and one of the following statements should be selected. If a **YES** response was indicated for one or more Extraordinary Circumstance in Section IV.B., skip this section and proceed to Section V.

- a. To the best of my knowledge and with a strong level of certainty, **no extraordinary circumstances apply** to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). This statement is based on either past experience with similar actions at the **proposed action site** resulting in a CX and/or information gathered as part of previous NEPA or environmental due diligence review conducted at the **proposed action site**.
- b. A statement and supporting documentation is attached explaining why no extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b).

V. NEPA Review Determination and Responsible Official Signature

Sections I. through IV. must be completed to satisfy EPA's documentation requirements for CX eligibility. If completion of this form indicates that a CX does apply, the Responsible Official must sign under Section V.A. If completion of this form indicates that a CX does not apply, the Responsible Official must sign under Section V.B. below and indicate whether an EA or EIS is required. It is recommended that an Environmental Professional be retained or consulted to determine the appropriate level of NEPA review for the action under Section V.B.

V.A. Categorical Exclusion Determination As the Responsible Official, I have determined that this action **is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion** per the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 6.204. Section IV.C. of this form has been completed providing the required extraordinary circumstances statement.


Signature of Responsible Official

Deputy Director, OECA/OFA

August 3, 2015

Title

Date

V.B. EA or EIS Determination (Check the appropriate box below) This action is not eligible for a CX based on the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 6.204, therefore:

- As the Responsible Official, I have determined that this project is eligible for an **Environmental Assessment (EA)** as per the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 6.205.
- As the Responsible Official, I have determined that this project is eligible for an **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** as per the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 6.207.

Signature of Responsible Official

Title

Date

Beach Haven – Joint Stormwater & Wastewater Improvement Project

A brief description of the proposed action

The project includes construction of stormwater treatment facilities, wastewater collection system components, and the phase-out of septic tanks through the connection of residences to new central sewer infrastructure within the Bayou Chico watershed of Pensacola Bay. The Bayou Chico watershed is located in the southern coastal region of Escambia County, just east of Blue Angel Parkway and north of Bayou Grande (see Beach Haven Map 1).

It has a 10.36-square-mile drainage basin and a water surface area of approximately 0.39 square miles. Most lands surrounding Bayou Chico are urbanized and consist of well-established residential subdivisions, and industrial and commercial uses. The specific area where the stormwater improvements and septic tanks conversions will occur is the Beach Haven Subdivision Phase 1 and 2 areas shown on Beach Haven Map 1. RESTORE funds will be used for septic tank conversions in both the Phase I and II areas, and for stormwater improvements in the Phase II area. A National Fish and Wildlife grant will be used to install the stormwater improvements in the Phase I area. The wastewater infrastructure component of the project includes construction of approximately 6.4 miles of 8" gravity sewer main, 0.6 miles of 12" gravity main, and one lift station along with approximately 0.3 miles of 8" force main. The new collection system will provide wastewater service to approximately 760 properties. The entire project area lies in the service area of the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority existing Central Water Reclamation Facility (CWRF) located at 2980 Old Chemstrand Road in Cantonment, Florida, which provides reclaimed water to two industrial reuse partners. One hundred percent of the wastewater flows from the project area, estimated at approximately 228,000 GPD, will be processed at the CWRF, from which ECUA will provide the reclaimed water to its industrial reuse partners.

Both the RESTORE and NFWF stormwater improvements include the installation of seven wet detention ponds along the northern boundary of the Phase I area, a conversion of a ditch into a linear wet detention pond along the northern boundary of the Phase II area, and the installation of curb and gutter systems throughout the Phase I and II areas to collect the stormwater from the subdivision roads and route them to the new ponds.

Financial assistance is available for property owners to connect to the sewer system. The Escambia County Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has a matching 50% reimbursement grant that is available to all properties in the Warrington Community Redevelopment Area. Property owners who are income-constrained and cannot afford to connect to the sewer system may apply through Escambia County's Neighborhood Enterprise Division for income-based assistance. The ECUA, which is the sewer service provider, waives the sewer capacity impact fee (currently approximately \$1,600) when connection to the sewer system occurs within 365 days of the issuance of Notification of Sewer Availability. This impact fee waiver policy serves to encourage connection to the new central sewer system. The CRA

also has committed an additional \$215,000 to the proposed Beach Haven Project. The County Water Quality and Land Management Division has recently received a USEPA 319 Grant to contribute \$750,000 toward new stormwater treatment in Beach Haven. Escambia County Neighborhood Enterprise has committed \$318,000 from Community Development Block Grant funds in addition to already funding \$300,000 for the preliminary project design. In addition, ECUA has made extensive investments in its Sewer Expansion Program projects within the Bayou Chico watershed. Since 2001, the ECUA has provided approximately \$7.8 million in funding through its Capital Improvement Program for sewer expansion projects in the Bayou Chico basin, extending sewer to over 1,750 properties that were previously served by septic tanks. The subject project will reduce sediment and nutrient loadings to Bayou Chico, reduce BOD, reduce TSS, reduce turbidity, increase water clarity, and improve light penetration for photosynthesis to enable expansion of SAV and emergent marsh habitat. Additional benefits include reduction in bacteria and nutrients to assist in achievement of the TMDLs established for the Bayou. Expected pollutant load reductions include 1,206 pounds of nitrogen, 315 pounds of phosphorus, 7,082 pounds of BOD, and 28,683 pounds of sediment on an annual average basis.

A statement identifying the categorical exclusion that applies to the action

The categorical exclusion that applies is 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii), which provides

(ii) Actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities. This category does not include actions that: involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water; will likely result in the substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water; will provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; are not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

This project involves providing stormwater treatment to areas within an existing residential subdivision, along with construction of wastewater collection system infrastructure within the same subdivision to enable residences to phase out septic tanks and connect to the central sewer collection system.

The stormwater improvement components of the RESTORE and NFWF projects involve the construction of seven wet detention ponds along the northern boundary of the Phase I area and a conversion of a ditch into a linear wet detention pond along the northern boundary of the Phase II area. Currently stormwater collects in the roadways and flows generally northward in both the Phase I and II areas into ditches that discharge into Jones Swamp along the northern boundary of

the Phase I area. The wet detention ponds will provide treatment of the stormwater to reduce sediments, nitrogen, and phosphorus. In addition the ponds will attenuate peak stormwater run-off rate of flows. Curb and gutters systems will be installed to replace the roadside ditches that border many of the roads in the subdivision. While there may be a small increase in stormwater volume over a rainfall event with installation of a curb and gutter system (the current roadside ditches may infiltrate small volumes of stormwater run-off), installation of a wet detention pond system will decrease peak rates of stormwater run-off and reduce pollutant loadings. The stormwater ponds will be constructed in the area where existing man-made ditches discharge stormwater into Jones Swamp from the Phase I and II areas. The curb and gutter systems will be constructed in road rights of way and the stormwater ponds will be constructed on County owned property. (For a plan view stormwater system improvements see Beach Haven Map 6. Cross sections and details can be found in Beach Haven Maps 2-5).

The wastewater infrastructure component of the RESTORE project includes construction of approximately 6.4 miles of 8" gravity sewer main, 0.6 miles of 12" gravity main, and a new pumping station. The new collection system will provide wastewater service to approximately 760 properties. The gravity sewer mains will be constructed in existing road rights of way, and the pumping station will be constructed on County owned property. (See Beach Haven Maps 2-5). All the wastewater flows from the project area, estimated at approximately 228,000 GPD, will be processed at the CWRF, from which ECUA will provide the reclaimed water to its industrial reuse partners. The current capacity of the CWRF is 22.5 MGD. It does not involve an expansion of the treatment system capacity of the ECUA treatment plants. Furthermore, it does not involve a new or relocation of the ECUA treatment plant discharges. The project will not result in the substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to Bayou Chico, and is actually expected to reduce pollutant loadings as discussed above. The project will not provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population, as no expansion of ECUA wastewater treatment capacity is proposed. The wastewater flows from the project area represent about 1% of the CWRF treatment capacity.

The project does not directly or indirectly involve or relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development, as the project will allow the phase-out of existing septic tanks and provide stormwater treatment to a subdivision that has been in existence since the 1950s. The project supports both local and state plans for Bayou Chico, specifically the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Bayou Chico Watershed Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). The BMAP identifies dozens of actions to restore the six impaired waterbody segments in the Bayou Chico watershed, including sanitary sewer expansion, stormwater improvements, pet waste ordinance adoption, septic tank inspections and testing, neighborhood clean-sweep programs, barge and derelict vessel removals, Clean Marina and Boatyard Program implementation, and Bayou Chico channel dredging to improve flushing.

A statement explaining why no extraordinary circumstances apply to the proposed action

(1) The proposed action is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time.

The project is expected to have a positive environmental impact as it will reduce the current discharge of untreated stormwater and septic tank effluent into Bayou Chico thereby improving the water quality and recreational uses of Bayou Chico.

(2) The proposed action is known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low income communities, or federally-recognized Indian tribal communities.

The project will not disproportionately impact any community. The project is expected to have positive environmental effects through pollutant load reductions into Bayou Chico, and positive health effects as it will assist in meeting the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) restoration targets for bacteria. Certain areas of Bayou Chico do not currently meet the health based bacteriological water quality criteria. To lessen the economic impact to residents for connections to central sewer, the Escambia County CRA and Neighborhood Enterprise Division have programs to pay a 50:50 match for septic tank removal and sewer connection or pay 100% of those costs for low income residents. The ECUA, which is the sewer service provider, waives the sewer capacity impact fee (currently approximately \$1,600) when connection to the sewer system occurs within 365 days of the issuance of Notification of Sewer Availability. The Beach Haven subdivision is within the Warrington Community Redevelopment Area (WCRA). Minorities make up over 40% of the population within the WCRA. Over 50% of the households with the WCRA have annual incomes of less than \$35,000. (See attachment - Warrington CRA approximated.pdf)

(3) The proposed action is known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.

This project will have no effect on endangered species, therefore no significant impact on this natural resource. This is based upon (a) the statement in the USFWS IPac Report that there is no listed critical habitat in the work area; (b) construction of the wastewater and stormwater collection systems will occur within disturbed, inhabited, urbanized, developed areas (existing road ROW) in Beach Haven subdivision; (c) construction will not occur in any marine or estuarine areas which could contain the listed fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, or mollusks; and (d) habitats of the non-marine E/T species are along intertidal areas and tidal pools (Red Knot), in cypress swamps and marshes (Wood Stork), within mature pine forests (Red Cockaded Woodpecker), or located in South Florida(Eastern Indigo Snake), so they will not be found within the project area.

(4) The proposed action is known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archaeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Lisa Robertson (Florida DEP) spoke with Vincent “Chip” Birdsong, the GIS Supervisor in Florida’s State Historic Preservation Office on July 30th to determine if any cultural or historic sites are located within the project area. Their review indicated only one historic structure, circa 1920, is located within the Beach Haven project location; however as all of the work in the vicinity of the historic structure will occur in the existing road right-of way there will be no effect to this historic structure. Aside from this one structure there are no national natural landmarks or property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archaeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places exist within the Beach Haven subdivision. Again most proposed construction work will occur within the right-of-way of existing roads.

(5) The proposed action is known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat.

No significant agricultural lands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat exist within the Beach Haven subdivision. Most construction work will occur within the right-of-way of existing roads. Should any wetlands exist in the project area, ECUA will be required to obtain State and Federal permits for any such impacts. The permitting process will require avoidance and minimization of impacts, along with mitigation on any unavoidable wetland impacts. As the sewer collection pipes will be buried, any impacts to floodplains would not be significant. The stormwater management facilities will be located out of floodplains where practicable. State rules further require providing compensatory floodplain storage for projects located in the 100 –year floodplain.

(6) The proposed action is known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects.

While there will be minor additional electric needs associated for the sewer collection system, such as running of pump(s) at the new pumping station, the air impacts associated with this increased power use are considered negligible. During construction there will exhaust emissions from trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, etc., but these air emissions are expected to be de minimus. In addition there can be dust generated during earth moving or ground disturbing activities. Dust generation will be minimized through use of best management practices such as wetting of soils and use of covers on trucks hauling dirt.

(7) The proposed action is known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population including altering the character of existing residential areas, or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally- recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans.

The project does not involve an expansion of wastewater treatment plant capacity. The project is located in a built out subdivision that has been in existence since the 1950s. Therefore the project is not expected to result in changes in the patterns and types of land use in Southern Escambia County or growth and distribution of populations. The project is consistent with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Bayou Chico Watershed BMAP.

(8) The proposed action is known or expected to cause significant public controversy about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action.

The project is not expected to cause significant public controversy about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action. The project supports the Bayou Chico Watershed BMAP, a collaborative effort by Escambia County, Pensacola, ECUA, Florida Department of Transportation, Bayou Chico Association, U.S. Naval Air Station, the University of West Florida, the Bay Area Resources Council, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District. The BMAP identifies dozens of actions to restore the six impaired waterbody segments in the Bayou Chico watershed, including sanitary sewer expansion, stormwater improvements, pet waste ordinance adoption, septic tank inspections and testing, neighborhood clean-sweep programs, barge and derelict vessel removals, Clean Marina and Boatyard Program implementation, and Bayou Chico channel dredging to improve flushing. To date, Bayou Chico stakeholders have completed 52 projects at an estimated cost of \$25 million. Therefore expected public stakeholders will be supportive of the positive environmental impacts that will result from implementation of the project.

(9) The proposed action is known or expected to be associated with providing funding to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts.

The project does not provide providing funding to a federal agency. It would provide funding to the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority, which is an independent special district unit of local government.

(10) The proposed action is known or expected to conflict with federal, state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental, resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations.

The project is not expected to conflict with federal, state or local government, or federally- recognized Indian tribe environmental, resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations. The project supports the Bayou Chico Watershed BMAP, a collaborative effort by Escambia County,

Pensacola, ECUA, Florida Department of Transportation, Bayou Chico Association, U.S. Naval Air Station, the University of West Florida, the Bay Area Resources Council, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District. The BMAP identifies dozens of actions to restore the six impaired waterbody segments in the Bayou Chico watershed, including sanitary sewer expansion, stormwater improvements, pet waste ordinance adoption, septic tank inspections and testing, neighborhood clean-sweep programs, barge and derelict vessel removals, Clean Marina and Boatyard Program implementation, and Bayou Chico channel dredging to improve flushing.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Field Office

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August 5, 2015

Mr. John Ettinger
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
500 Poydras Street, Suite 1117
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Re: EPA – Beach Haven Joint
Stormwater/Wastewater Improvement
Project

Dear Mr. Ettinger:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Restore Act funding proposal titled “EPA – Beach Haven Joint Stormwater/Wastewater Improvement Project”. Our comments are in reference to compliance with the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project reduces nutrient and sediment loading to Bayou Chico in Pensacola Bay, Florida with the addition of new sewer lines and reduction of the number of septic tanks in the Beach Haven subdivision. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has determined that this action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment.

Based on the IPaC report generated by the Service for this proposed project, there are no threatened and endangered species, nor critical habitat within the action area.

The Service has determined the proposed project will “not likely to adversely affect” any federally listed species or critical habitat.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Channing St. Aubin of this office at extension 248 for additional information and coordination.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sean Blomquist
Ecological Services Chief