

## Building Community Resilience in the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama

[A grant project proposed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with the support of multiple partners]

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

#### 1. National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) and Program



- Task – Outline steps for involvement in the CRS program
- Benefits – Provide discounts on flood insurance for homeowners

#### 2. Hazard Mitigation Plan



- Task – Identify and prioritize priority community hazard issues, such as flooding from stormwater and extreme tides, siltation issues and identification of potential hazard mitigation projects
- Benefits – Identified hazard mitigation projects will reduce risks and damages for citizens and property and may be eligible for future funding through Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs

#### 3. FORTIFIED Inspection



- Task – Conduct a FORTIFIED inspection on the Town Hall to determine structural upgrades needed for hazards protection
- Benefits – Use as example to inform citizens of opportunities and options available to homeowners; provide discounts on wind insurance for homeowners

#### 4. Coastal Resilience Index Community Assessment



- Task – Catalog current state of Town shoreline
- Benefits – Develop options to address shoreline erosion along creeks and bayfront for the Town and citizens

**VALUE:** \$92,390 (*grant involves NO matching funds and NO cost town or townspeople*)

- Firm will be contracted to help complete components
- Hiring will meet both EPA and TNC required procedures
- Town Council and citizens will be INVOLVED in identifying and prioritizing Scope of Work components for the contracted firm
- Meetings with contractor and TNC will be held with Town Council and citizens to review draft documents and progress

**GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS - 2013**  
**FULL PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Building Community Resilience in the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama

**PARTNERSHIPS:** The Town of Perdido Beach is located on a coastal peninsula in the central portion of Perdido Bay in Alabama and has experienced coastal hazards impacts first-hand. The Town was incorporated in 2009 and is home to a diverse group of residents who range from fixed-income retirees to part-time residents to working professionals. The Town has been collaborating with The Nature Conservancy, Weeks Bay Reserve, City of Orange Beach, MS-AL Sea Grant Consortium and others on cost-effective and nature-based strategies that will help reduce risks to the Town from future coastal hazards and enhance environmental and community resilience. The Town's newly adopted Comprehensive Plan (January 1, 2013) contains a list of recommendations and strategies to enhance the coastal, historic and rural characteristics of the community and its landscape, while ensuring the highest quality of life for its residents through preserving community values. Within this Plan, the Town has identified concerns with coastal hazards, emergency preparedness, flood protection for homes and infrastructure improvements.

The project involves working with the Town of Perdido Beach to develop a community resilience plan to provide guidance for implementation of recommendations identified in their Comprehensive Plan and by the community. By leveraging the existing resources and expertise with the proposed funds for this project, TNC will be successful in completing the following anticipated outputs in conjunction with our partners:

- National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) and Program – The steps for involvement in the CRS program will be outlined and the application process initiated given Town approval.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan – The Hazard Mitigation Plan will identify priority issues, including flooding from stormwater and extreme tides, siltation issues and identification of potential hazard mitigation projects. The identified hazard mitigation projects may be eligible for funding through Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs and would be completed with assistance from the Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Town of Perdido Beach Volunteer Fire Department and others. Plan components will be outlined and an initial plan will be developed.
- FORTIFY inspection – Through leading by example, a FORTIFY inspection will be conducted on the Town Hall to determine structural upgrades needed for hazards protection. The report and process will be used to inform citizens of opportunities and options available.
- Coastal Resilience Index Community Assessment – Actions to remedy challenges identified in the 2011 Coastal Resilience Index Community Assessment and by the community, including identifying living shorelines techniques that may be practicable for protection of waterfront owned by the Town of Perdido Beach and its residents and supporting the use of these living shorelines techniques for shoreline protection in accordance with the US Army Corp of Engineers General Permit for Alabama, ALG10-2011.

The primary partners and their roles are described below:

*The Nature Conservancy* – The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will be managing the project and providing expertise on each of the tasks to ensure that they are carried out successfully. TNC will assist with coordinating the partners' efforts for each of the proposed task, organizing meetings and workshops among the partners, working group and community members, selecting an engineer to provide services of developing a hazard mitigation plan and mapping the Town's waterfront. As the manager of this grant, TNC will be responsible for the administrative tasks of budgeting, producing cost expense reports and filing progress reports in a timely manner.

*Town of Perdido Beach* – The Town of Perdido Beach, Town Council, Planning Commission and community members will play a significant role in this project as they will bring their local knowledge to define resiliency improvement needs for the Town, prioritizing what is essential in sustaining their coastal livelihood and community. They will provide first-hand knowledge, access to resources and information, advising the NFIP Community Rating System application, commenting on the hazard mitigation plan, participating in the FORTIFY inspection of the Town Hall, and mapping the Town's waterfront perimeter. The Town will be actively engaged in each component of this project to provide input and feedback. Through this active involvement, awareness of the environment and its benefits for the people will be raised with the Town and residents, ultimately contributing to their quality of life.

*Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve* – Weeks Bay NERR brings their environmental knowledge of the system that surrounds Perdido Beach, as well their experience with conducting and facilitating community meetings. Weeks Bay NERR is a longtime partner of the Town and was involved with the Town of Perdido Beach's Sustainable Communities Leadership Program.

*The City of Orange Beach* – Having implemented coastal resilience strategies and worked to educate its community members of their importance, the City of Orange Beach serves as a nearby model community that can help guide the Town in achieving similar goals. They will participate in workshops and community meetings and provide feedback on the plan components.

*MS-AL SeaGrant* – The Coastal Storms Program is a growing program within the MS-AL SeaGrant Consortium that works with communities to develop strategies to build their coastal resilience and proactively plan for coastal hazards. They will participate in workshops and community meetings and provide feedback on the plan components.

*Smart Home America* – By educating legislators, elected officials and county and municipal employees on the benefits of stronger, more resilient building practices Smart Home America helps communities better prepare for natural disasters. A FORTIFY evaluation will be conducted to identify improvements and retrofits on Town Hall that will contribute to mandated insurance discounts, better protect and prepare the building for the next severe storm and add value by reducing the life-cycle costs of maintenance and insurance.

All of the above partners will be actively engaged in various components of the project to provide input and feedback. Letters of Support from the Town of Perdido Beach, Weeks Bay NERR and the City of Orange Beach for this project are provided in Attachment A. Recently the Mayor of the Town of Perdido Beach, Patsy Parker, was appointed to serve on President Obama's Task Force for Climate Preparedness and Resilience. Information from her participation on the President's Task Force will be used, as applicable, in this project and she will share information from this project with the Task Force, again as applicable.

**Leveraging Existing Funds and Resources:** Beyond the funds proposed for this project, TNC is working with the Town to leverage existing funds and resources that have guided the Town's efforts for community and coastal resilience thus far. The Town recently developed their Comprehensive Plan which highlighted several issues of concern that can enhance the community and its environmental resilience. While disasters cannot be prevented, their effects can be reduced or eliminated through a well-organized public education and awareness effort, preparedness and mitigation – components this project will help develop. With an already established Comprehensive Plan in place, the Town can move forward in delving deeper into the identified needs.

In addition to the Comprehensive Plan, the Town took valuable first steps in initiating resilience planning efforts through a grant from the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) (\$30,000) to participate in its peer-learning program called the Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy (SCLA). The ISC assists cities, towns and rural regions with meeting their economic, environmental and social goals through an integrated vision and coordinated efforts with focus on resource efficiency, governance and climate mitigation/adaptation strategies. While many places have made progress, communities still struggle to effectively integrate their goals, actions and investments in land-use, transportation, housing, energy, environment, economic development and equity. Through the SCLA, the Town of Perdido Beach was provided training and technical guidance in developing a community communication strategy for climate protection and sustainable development strategies catered to their local vicinity. Lessons learned from and information exchanged through this program will complement the resilience plan by providing key information and communication strategies that can help with outreach and engagement for this project.

The expertise and resources which will be provided by the core partners will be essential in completing this project and successfully producing its proposed outputs. Each partner brings a complementary skill set, network of professionals and wealth of knowledge to help develop coastal resilience strategies for the Town of Perdido Beach. It is the strength of the community and the partners which will provide the foundation for an effective plan.

While the modest funding for this project will not accommodate implementation of any natural solution options, the information gathered can be used to secure funds for those purposes. The solutions may also be identified as options in local planning documents. Coastal resilience projects are intentionally local, where most of the on-the-ground work of mitigation and

adaptation is accomplished. A pilot project, such as this, can provide a model for other local communities, as well as being applicable at both regional and national scales. This is even more applicable now that the Mayor of the Town of Perdido Beach is serving on President Obama's Task Force for Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

In addition to the partners already mentioned, the Conservancy has worked extensively with NOAA on coastal inundation issues, including sea level rise and storm surge, and has been a core partner in Digital Coast since its inception. We have worked collaboratively to design and implement the coastal inundation and coastal wetlands online toolkits, help local communities understand hazard issues, better plan for flood scenarios and consider natural solutions as alternatives to traditional shoreline protection to add cost-effective and lasting new first lines of defense against coastal hazards. By developing an inventory of the Town's natural habitats in relation to its development and infrastructure, the Town's residents will be able to make informed decisions that may substantially increase their environmental and community resilience, while also improving their future quality of life following implementation of solutions.

With the proposed funds in place and resources available, TNC will be able to assist the Town in producing the following anticipated outputs for this project:

- Outline the steps for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) and Program and initiate the application process given Town approval.
- Identify and prioritize priority issues for the Hazard Mitigation Plan, including flooding from stormwater and extreme tides, siltation issues and identification of potential hazard mitigation projects, among others. Develop initial plan for priority components to help provide options for enhancements for the community, adjacent ecosystems and local economies to become more resilient to coastal hazards and catastrophes, complementing the local Comprehensive Plan.
- Demonstrate FORTIFY evaluations and produce a fact sheet to inform citizens of opportunities and options available.
- Track number of meetings and individuals engaged in planning for coastal and community resiliency components.
- Complete Progress Reports and a Final Project Report.

The following outcomes are anticipated for this project:

- Nature-based alternatives are identified as options for coastal / shoreline protection and are considered as viable options by waterfront landowners.
- Expand the distribution and use of resiliency tool options for coastal communities and decision makers.
- Improve environmental awareness and engagement of coastal landowners in community and coastal resilience.

**BUDGET SUMMARY:**

<b>Town of Perdido Beach Resilience Study Project</b>		
<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Primary Associated Task(s)</b>
Salaries and Benefits	\$17,610	project management, including, but not limited to, securing firm(s), organizing and developing plan components, coordinating with Town and residents, managing finances, and writing progress and final reports
Travel	\$2,687	local project travel, community meetings, one conference/workshop
Supplies	\$2,500	office and field supplies, community meetings and outreach
Equipment	\$0	n/a
Contractual Services	\$55,000	resilience plan; FORTIFY evaluation and improvements
Communications	\$500	printing, postage, internet, phone
Total Direct Charges	\$78,297	
Indirect (est. 18%)	\$14,093	based on federally negotiated rate
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$92,390</b>	

**BUDGET DETAIL:**

**Salaries and Benefits [\$17,610]** – Marine and Freshwater Programs Director-0.05 (FTE), Coastal Projects Manager-0.10 (FTE) and Coastal Conservation Specialist-0.10 (FTE). Benefits are calculated at 40% of salaries and include costs for Social Security, Workers Compensation, and other employer expenses, health, life, disability and other group insurance, paid time off, and savings and retirement plans.

**Travel [\$2,687]** - Travel one conference = \$1,500. Local travel to Town and meetings = \$1,187.

**Supplies [\$2,500]** - Supplies for office and field work = \$500. Community meetings and outreach = \$2,000.

**Equipment [\$0]** – No equipment will be purchased for this project.

**Contractual [\$55,000]** – Development of a resilience plan = \$50,000. FORTIFY analysis and improvements = \$5,000.

**Communication [\$500]** - Printing, postage, internet and phone costs.

**Indirect [\$14,093]** - Indirect costs budgeted at estimated rate of 18%. The actual rate charged will be adjusted annually at the beginning of each fiscal year and is based on approved NICRA.

**PROJECT TIMELINE:**

Project Timeline						
Task	2014			2015		
	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Secure contractor for study and plan development	X					
Conduct pre-study meeting with Town and residents	X					
Conduct FORTIFY workshop with Town and residents		X				
Conduct FORTIFY assessment of Town Hall			X			
Conduct mid-study meeting with Town and residents				X		
Conduct draft plan meeting with Town and residents						X
Finalize Plan with recommendations and next steps						X
Complete interim and final reports				X		X

**PROJECT TIMELINE DETAILS:**

1. TNC will secure an engineer/contractor within the first three months of the grant period to start off project in timely manner.
2. A minimum of 3 community meetings will be held, roughly at the beginning, middle and end of the project to solicit input, provide information and disseminate final outcomes.
3. A FORTIFY analysis for the Town Hall will be presented to residents and posted on the Town's website for accessibility after being conducted in the first half of the grant period.
4. The project plan will be accessible for residents and others via the Town's website after review by the Town and its residents.

A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will be developed if the project is awarded and will require a minor part of the staff time already allocated in the budget detail.

For the grant period of 18 months, this budget is sufficient in development of plan components for future implementation, as well as being cost-effective and highlighting cost-saving solutions. Since the Town of Perdido Beach has a limited budget available to address the issues and proposed suggestions listed within its Comprehensive Plan, this project will help the Town make progress in achieving those goals intended to increase its sustainability and coastal livelihood.

## **PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE**

### **Grant History:**

- 2013. Restoration Planning. Tennessee Valley Authority (\$97,750); Agreement #7941
- 2012. Strategic Habitat Unit (SHU) Watershed Assessment: US Fish and Wildlife Service (\$40,000); Agreement #F13AC00086
- 2011. Non-Point Source Pollution: US Environmental Protection Agency/ADEM (\$344,972); Agreement #C10595081
- 2011. Oyster Reef/Living Shoreline Restoration: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (\$605,500); Agreement #2011-0106-000
- 2010. Community/Sea Level Rise Planning: US Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Partnerships Program (\$198,721); Agreement #MX-95463410

**Reporting History:** For the above listed grant agreements and others not listed, TNC has reported in a timely manner for all expected outputs and outcomes, as well as submitting timely progress and final technical reports and financial reports. In certain cases when changes in scope of work were necessary, grantors were notified in advance by TNC, appropriate documents were filed in an expedited fashion and work proceeded following grantor approval.

**Organizational Experience:** The Nature Conservancy, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. We're proud of what we've accomplished since our founding in 1951:

- Protected more than 119 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide
- Operate more than 100 marine conservation projects globally
- Have more than 1 million members
- Work in all 50 states and more than 30 countries
- Address threats to conservation involving climate change, fire, fresh water, forests, invasive species and marine ecosystems

Founded as a chapter of the international organization in 1989, The Nature Conservancy of Alabama has safeguarded more than 156,000 acres that protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species of plants and animals, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth. The Alabama Chapter has worked to acquire critical coastal land, restore seagrass beds, reestablish oyster reef habitats and expand the extent of marsh communities for several decades through projects ranging from \$25,000 to \$2.9M in size. We have a proven track record of working closely with partners and communities to develop plans and implement effective restoration projects, not only in Alabama, but around the world.

The Conservancy has worked on several planning projects with local governments and communities to examine the impacts of different sea level rise scenarios, develop conservation action plans, and define restoration needs and priorities. Staff then work with partners to secure funds and implement the actions defined through the planning process.



Administrative responsibility for the project will reside with The Nature Conservancy, specifically with the Coastal Program in Alabama. Coastal Program staff will be responsible for the day to day project activities; development, oversight, and management of all project permits, contracts and reporting requirements; and fostering and coordinating with landowners and other project partners. TNC's grants specialist in AL will be responsible for oversight and management of financial aspects of the project, working with the project manager.

**Staff Experience:**

JUDY L. HANER, *Marine and Freshwater Programs Director, The Nature Conservancy in Alabama*  
Ms. Haner joined the Conservancy in 2010, just months before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and helped conceptualize and initiate the "100-1000: Restore Coastal Alabama" project to build 100 miles of oyster reefs and enhance 1,000 acres of coastal marsh and seagrass. Ms. Haner has worked for 20 years with state agencies from Puerto Rico to Florida to Alaska in partnership with NOAA, linking watershed activities with estuarine health to implement long-term coastal, estuarine and marine restoration. From managing the 375,000 acre Kachemak Bay Research Reserve to developing restoration plans and leading outreach efforts for Everglades Restoration, Ms. Haner has secured more than \$11M in competitive grants to implement coastal planning and restoration projects that link science and management with on-the-ground actions.

MARY KATE BROWN, *Coastal Conservation Specialist, The Nature Conservancy in Alabama*  
Mrs. Brown joined the Conservancy in 2010, the fall after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, where she was brought on board to develop and secure permits for "100-1000: Restore Coastal Alabama" project to build 100 miles of oyster reefs and enhance 1,000 acres of coastal marsh and seagrass beds. Mrs. Brown completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Science and Biology from the University of Alabama. Her Masters in Marine Affairs was completed at the University of Rhode Island. Mrs. Brown has been involved in the coastal and marine resources field for 8 years including experience working as a private ecologist with an extensive permitting background with marine policy and coastal restoration knowledge. Her primary responsibilities involve securing permits, collecting field monitoring data, and utilizing GIS in planning decisions of restoration activities for TNC, including the 100-1000: Restore Coastal Alabama project.

TBD, *Coastal Projects Manager, The Nature Conservancy in Alabama*

This position handles project oversight, contract and subaward development, and partner coordination. The position was recently vacated and will be refilled given available funding through this and other pending projects. In its absence, any duties typically managed by this position will be handled by Ms. Haner and Mrs. Brown.



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
STATE LANDS DIVISION, COASTAL SECTION

ROBERT BENTLEY  
GOVERNOR  
  
N. GUNTER GUY, JR.  
COMMISSIONER  
CURTIS JONES  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

**5 Rivers ~ Alabama's Delta Resource Center**  
31115 - 5 Rivers Boulevard  
Spanish Fort, Alabama 36527  
(251) 621-1216  
(251) 621-1331 Fax

PATRICIA J. POWELL  
DIRECTOR  
STATE LANDS DIVISION  
  
PHILLIP E. HINESLEY  
COASTAL SECTION CHIEF

January 22, 2014

Ms. Judy Haner  
Marine and Freshwater Program Director  
Alabama Nature Conservancy  
56 Saint Joseph Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36602

RE: Town of Perdido Beach

Dear Ms. Haner:

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) fully supports the grant proposal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Gulf of Mexico Regional Partnership Program. ADCNR, through the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program, provided funding for the Town of Perdido Beach to develop its first comprehensive plan. We support the Town of Perdido Beach in the development of a community resilience plan. We understand the importance of developing a plan that will identify priority issues and hazards from wind, flooding, stormwater, extreme tides, siltation issues and identification of potential hazard mitigation projects.

We have, in the past, supported the Town's effort in comprehensive planning and will continue to support the Town as it plans for future hazards and works toward solutions to plan for a more resilience community.

Sincerely,

Phillip Hinesley  
Coastal Section Chief



January 28, 2014

Ms. Gerry Martin  
EPA Gulf of Mexico Program  
Building 1100  
Room 232  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39564

Re: GOM Regional Partnerships 2013  
Building Community Resilience in the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama

Dear Ms. Martin,

The Institute for Sustainable Communities had the pleasure of working with the Town of Perdido Beach and Mayor Patsy Parker through our Gulf Coast Resilient Communities Program, from February to December of 2013. The program brought together six communities, including the Town of Perdido Beach, to build local capacity to implement practical resilience measures. The program included two peer-learning workshops (one in April, 2013, and one in November, 2013), and technical assistance over the summer and fall of 2013.

Mayor Parker assembled a notable cross-sector, cross-jurisdictional team to participate in the program. They took active steps toward the development of a resilience communications plan and a natural resources management plan. ISC worked closely with Mayor Parker to conduct stakeholder interviews in the Town, and to help organize a Town meeting to discuss resilience issues. The Mayor demonstrated a high degree of effectiveness in advancing a resilience agenda in the Town, and a passion for the issue.

The Institute for Sustainable Communities fully supports the request for funding to further the coastal resilience plan for the Town of Perdido Beach. We believe that Mayor Parker, the citizens, and partners of Perdido Beach represent to resilience in the Gulf Coast.

Sincerely,

Michael Crowley  
Senior Program Officer  
Institute for Sustainable Communities

what's possible

HEADQUARTERS 535 Stone Cutters Way, Montpelier, VT 05602 T 802 229 2900 F 802 229 2919 W [iscvt.org](http://iscvt.org)  
WASHINGTON, DC 808 17th Street NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20006 T 202 772 2575 F 202 772 2677

City of  
**Orange Beach**  
A L A B A M A  
*Life is better here*



January 22, 2014

Ms. Gerry Martin  
EPA - Gulf of Mexico Program  
Bldg. 1100 – Room 232  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39564

Re: GOM Regional Partnerships 2013  
Building Community Resilience in the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama

Dear Ms. Martin:

The City of Orange Beach has had the pleasure of working with the Town of Perdido Beach in their resilience plan development by participating as a Perdido Beach team member at the 2013 Institute for Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy (SCLA) Peer Learning Workshop and subsequent town hall meetings. The peer-learning workshops focused on prioritization of coastal community risks and hazards, the development of associated resilience plans, and strategies for effective communication of hazards, risks and the need for growth management and hazard mitigation planning.

The Mayor of Perdido Beach has taken great strides in the development of the town's resilience plan by harnessing outside expertise to provide the town residents general information on climate change/adaptation and sustainable development strategies. The community was asked to prioritize their concerns with regard to the town's vulnerability associated with coastal climate change and provide input on growth management, hazard mitigation and preferred communication/outreach methods. Funding for this initiative will allow the town to incorporate public input into a newly developed Hazard Mitigation Plan, provide important coastal hazard mitigation information to property owners, and allow for ongoing community engagement in the resilience plan development process.

I fully support the request for funding to further the coastal resilience plan initiative of the Town of Perdido Beach. Mayor Patsy Parker, with her limited workforce, has worked diligently to effectively address the threat of natural and human-induced storm related disasters and funding would further this worthwhile endeavor to the betterment of the health and welfare of the Perdido Beach community.

If you require additional information, or would like to speak to me personally, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Kit Alexander  
Director



ROBERT BENTLEY  
GOVERNOR

N. GUNTER GUY, Jr.  
COMMISSIONER

CURTIS JONES  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

Weeks Bay Reserve  
Coastal Section  
Alabama State Lands  
Division

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



PATRICIA J. POWELL, DIRECTOR  
STATE LANDS DIVISION

L.G. ADAMS  
RESERVE MANAGER

January 27, 2014

Gerry Martin  
EPA-Gulf of Mexico Program  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39564

Re: GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS - 2013  
Building Community Resilience in the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama

Dear Ms. Martin:

I am writing to express my support for the full proposal submission for the GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS - 2013 entitled: *Building Community Resilience in the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama*. I have had the pleasure of working with the Town of Perdido Beach (TOPB) on resilience issues for several years. I served on the team that conducted the Coastal Community Resilience Index in 2011. Also, I continue to work with TOPB, The Nature Conservancy and other partners on increasing sustainability in the town. A component of process has been improving resilience.

The efforts proposed in this project mesh perfectly with the resilience work conducted so far in TOPB and represent very logical and necessary next steps. TOPB and Mayor Patsy Parker are committed to increasing resilience of the town and its citizens. Speaking for myself as a member of the willing partners who have been working with TOPB, I want to be part of continuing the assistance. I support the request for funding *Building Community Resilience in the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama* and will participate in the project in the capacity outlined in the full proposal submission.

If you need any additional information regarding my support for this submission, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Michael Shelton  
Watershed/Training Program Coordinator





**OFFICERS:**

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January 28, 2014

Ms. Gerry Martin  
EPA Gulf of Mexico Program  
Bldg. 1100  
Room 232  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39564

Re: GOM Regional Partnerships 2013  
Building Community Resilience in the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama

Dear Ms. Martin,

Mobile Baykeeper has had the opportunity to work with the Town of Perdido Beach and Mayor Patsy Parker throughout the recovery process following the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster. Most recently, Mayor Parker and the Town of Perdido Beach participated as a partner in the 100-1000: Restore Coastal Alabama, a Partnership Mobile Baykeeper helps manage, seeks to improve the ecological and economic resilience of Alabama's coastal communities through the implementation of living shorelines.

Mayor Parker and the Town of Perdido Beach has taken vital steps toward developing a resilience plan for her community. Funding this initiative will allow the town to incorporate the public input that has already been collected into a Hazard Mitigation Plan that would greatly benefit property owners and residents. This initiative will also enable Perdido Beach to broadly share hazard mitigation information, and encourage continued public involvement in the development of a resilience plan that could serve as a model for other coastal communities.

Mobile Baykeeper fully supports the request for funding to further the coastal resilience plan initiative of the Town of Perdido Beach. We look forward to future opportunities to partner with Mayor Parker and her community to work for the health and safety of Alabama's Gulf Coast.

If I can answer any other questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Sincerely,

Casi (kc) Callaway  
Executive Director & Baykeeper  
Mobile Baykeeper



# MOBILE BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

January 28, 2014

Ms. Gerry Martin  
EPA Gulf of Mexico Program  
Bldg. 1100- Room232  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39564

RE: Building Community Resilience in the Town of  
Perdido Beach, Alabama

Dear Ms. Martin,

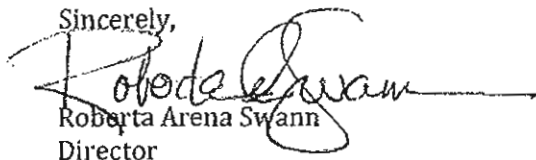
I am writing on behalf of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) to convey my support for the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program proposal titled "Building Community Resilience in the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama."

The MBNEP is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) which is based on what people value most about living in coastal Alabama: access, beaches and shorelines, fish and wildlife, environmental health and resiliency, heritage, and water quality. Currently these values are being threatened by intensifying storms, sea level rise, and most predominantly, land conversion resulting from community growth. The proposed project will support the environmental health and resilience and fish values of the CCMP by providing a valuable demonstration of how a community can incorporate and institutionalize hazard mitigation and resiliency measures within traditional planning practices.

MBNEP values a long established partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to improve community understanding of the different factors putting stress on coastal resources and ability to make informed and sustainable land and water management decisions. As co-chair of the MBNEP Project Implementation Committee, TNC is leading the development of restoration strategies for the next five years for coastal Alabama which includes increasing the amount of living shorelines and other habitats that create greater community resiliency.

The mission of the MBNEP is to promote the wise stewardship of the water quality and living resources of Alabama's estuaries. This project will further stewardship efforts and for this reason, MBNEP wholeheartedly supports "Building Community Resilience in the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama".

Sincerely,

  
Roberta Arena Swann  
Director

