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## I. INTRODUCTION

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This workplan represents the commitment of the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program to undertake work in fiscal year 1990 (September 1, 1989 - August 31, 1990). The Galveston Bay National Estuary Program (GBNEP) is composed of Galveston Bay Management Conference participants, EPA Region VI program staff, and the State Program Office. The purposes and structure of the GBNEP are fully documented in the Governor's Supplemental Nomination of Galveston Bay as an Estuary of National Significance (May 1988) and in the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program EPA/State Management Conference Agreement (Publication GBNEP-1, September 1989).

The GBNEP has been in a developmental phase, or planning initiative, corresponding to an initial EPA/State cooperative agreement for fiscal year 1989. During this planning initiative, numerous goals have been successfully pursued to establish the program on a solid foundation. These goals have included, to date:

- o Designation of Galveston Bay as an estuary of national significance and convening of the Galveston Bay Management Conference and acceptance of Governor Clements' Governor's Supplemental Nomination of Galveston Bay as an Estuary of National Significance in May 1988. This was greatly helped by congressional support for the program from Texas Legislators and by numerous concerned citizens and groups.
- o Award of a National Estuary Program grant to Texas of \$150,000 (based on state match of an additional \$77,318). The Texas Water Commission was recognized as lead agency in this one-year cooperative agreement of October 5, 1988, which was designed to develop and establish the GBNEP. A signing ceremony for the agreement was held in Galveston Bay aboard the tall ship Elissa on September 12, 1988, with signatories Robert E. Layton, Jr., Regional Administrator for EPA, and Allen Beinke, Executive Director, Texas Water Commission.
- o Appointment and convening of six committees composing the Management Conference, as described in the Governor's Nomination. The members of these committees, and key staff are listed in the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program Directory of Participants (Publication GBNEP-3, September 1989). Meetings of each committee to date have been approximately monthly.
- o Establishing of a State Program Office. A Program Manager was hired February 1989, a Public Participation Director in March 1989, with four more staff positions to be filled by Fall 1989. The office was initially located in Austin, Texas, and is now at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

- o Approval by the Management Conference on February 3, 1989 of a draft Priority Problems List for critical estuary concerns. The List was acknowledged as a starting point and guide for both public involvement and scientific and technical investigations, and is expected to further evolve as the program develops.
- o Organization of public involvement beginning with public meetings held in April 1989 and publication of the number 1 issue of Bayline, a quarterly newsletter. Activities already approved by the Citizen's Advisory Steering Committee include slide presentations, compilation of an extensive mailing list, additional regular public meetings, a "kick-off" ceremony, establishment of strong media relations, a speakers bureau, a brochure, educational video productions and a portable educational display explaining the GBNEP.
- o Drafting of a five-year EPA/State Management Conference Agreement (Publication GBNEP-1) reflecting public involvement and committee review. The agreement lays out the broad goals to be pursued throughout the Program, and was approved by the Policy Committee on April 28, 1989.

The achievement of these planning initiative goals, due to the hard work of numerous individuals, has now brought the program to the end of its developmental phase and the beginning of substantive work to solve the problems recognized for Galveston Bay. With the signing of a new cooperative agreement and award of FY 1990 monies, the Management Conference has, on September 1, 1989, begun a five-year process of both short-range management actions and long-range planning activities. These activities represent the best hope for Galveston Bay; the hope for a consensus of opinion that will integrate conservation and uses of the Bay in keeping with its significance as a national resource.

With the GBNEP now firmly established, its goals for FY 1990 correspond to the overall direction of the program as laid out in the Management Conference Agreement (Figure 1). These goals include ongoing formulation of the Priority Problems List, conducting and publishing a Program Inventory and Base Programs Action Plan, planning and implementing a Data Information and Management System, and initiating scientific and technical bay characterization studies. Accordingly, the projects proposed here for FY 1990 funding contribute directly to accomplishment of these goals which are described in detail in the Management Conference Agreement. The key activities undertaken to accomplish these goals are included in discussion of the projects themselves.

## Time Line for Completion of Galveston Bay National Estuary Program Tasks

