

IV. Program Activities for Fiscal Year 1994

Summary

The Management Conference of the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program has identified the projects needed to complete the five-year program and development of the CCMP. These projects consist of Management Assessments related directly to the CCMP, Scientific/Technical Assessments needed to support management proposed under the CCMP, Public Participation projects related to citizen involvement with and review of the CCMP, and administrative activities necessary to support a Program Office and staff. These projects and the proposed budget allocations are summarized in Table 9, below. In the remaining portion of this section, these projects are described in greater detail.

Table 9. Fiscal Year 1994 Project Summary and Budget

Program Element	Project	Funding
MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENTS	CCMP Federal Consistency Survey	30,000
	CCMP Funding Strategy	40,000
	CCMP Implementation Strategy	100,000
	CCMP Final Draft Contract Support	140,000
	CCMP Participation by LGAC	20,000
	Program Office/Overhead	198,862
\$ 528,862		
SCIENTIFIC/ TECHNICAL	Regional Monitoring Methods Standardization	65,000
	Program Office/Overhead	43,085
\$ 108,085		
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	BayLine Newsletter	20,000
	Publication Series	163,220
	Speaker's Bureau	10,667
	Public Review of CCMP	50,000
	Portable Information Display	2,000
	Public Education and Outreach	38,000
	Media Relations	10,000
	Promotions	5,000
	Program Office/Overhead	146,572
\$ 445,459		
ADMINISTRATION	Management Conference Workshop	12,000
	Program Office/Overhead	220,994
\$ 232,994		
APDP	Pump-Out Facilities for Boaters	21,467
\$21,467		
TOTAL		1,336,867

Management Assessments

Management Assessments are those projects conducted under the direction of the Management Committee specifically related to Bay management issues (as opposed to ecological or public participation issues). In the past, projects have included inventories and effectiveness evaluations of existing agency programs, and projects related to development of CCMP management initiatives. This year, most projects proposed are tied to completion of the many components of the CCMP. Several other projects reflect guidance received from the Policy Committee for work in the final year of the program.

CCMP Federal Consistency Survey. (Element needed for the CCMP) This project would result in: (1) an inventory of federal programs relating to priority problems in the estuary (already completed under the Regulatory Survey); (2) an evaluation of inconsistencies between relevant federal programs and goals and objectives of the CCMP; (3) determination of remedies to solve inconsistencies; and (4) an explanation of how the Management Conference will review federal financial assistance programs and development projects to meet the requirements of the Water Quality Act. The Water Quality Act requires NEPs to "review all federal financial assistance programs and federal development programs in accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 12372, as in effect on September 17, 1983, to determine whether such assistance program of project would be consistent with and further the purposes and objectives of the [CCMP] prepared under this section." Executive Order 12372 affords state and local governments the opportunity to review proposed federal grants and cooperative agreements, and to direct federal development activities within their jurisdictions. This effort is intended to be closely coordinated with developing consistency determinations of the Coastal Management Program being administered by the General Land Office. The project would produce a consistency report and would be used directly to draft the consistency portion of the CCMP.

Funding Requirement 30 K

CCMP Funding Strategy. (Element needed for the CCMP) This project is the final step of four initiatives to finance CCMP implementation. These steps are: (1) compilation of a *Funding Source Inventory* to identify preliminary funding alternatives (complete); (2) CCMP action plan cost estimates to determine the magnitude of the funding need (to be completed August, 1993); (3) appointment and convening of a Financial Planning Committee to direct establishment of funding initiatives for the CCMP Funding Strategy (complete); and (4) drafting of the CCMP Funding Strategy itself, under the guidance of the Financial Planning Committee (this project). The CCMP Funding Strategy shall match action plan costs and cash flow needs to a suitable funding source and managing entity. This requires development of revenue projections for the various possible funding sources identified by the Management Conference, and therefore close coordination with the Financial Planning Committee, Management Committee, and Framework for Action Task Force. The CCMP Funding Source strategy shall also be closely coordinated with the CCMP Implementation Strategy (below).

Funding Requirement 40 K

CCMP Implementation Strategy. (Element needed for the CCMP) The Water Quality Act requires that NEPs "develop plans for the coordinated implementation of the [CCMP] by the states as well as federal and local agencies participating in the conference." The goal of the CCMP Implementation Strategy is to institutionalize the recommendations made in the CCMP. Elements of this strategy shall include: (1) matching the CCMP initiatives with the appropriate agencies according to deliberations of the Management Conference; (2) determination of which initiatives need enforceable policies, and drafting of these enforceable policies; (3) summary of mechanisms to be used to obtain agency commitments and establishment of any actual commitments involving memoranda of understanding or other agreements; (4) identification of the entity(s) which will oversee and manage funding for implementation, based on deliberation by the Management Conference; (5) identification of the roles of the various entities and public during implementation, including creation of strategies for assuring active and consistent involvement of the public in CCMP implementation; and (6) determination of legislative needs related to statutory gaps which would inhibit implementation at the state level, including recommendations concerning legislation that might be necessary during the 1995 legislative session to fulfill needs identified.

Funding Requirement 100 K

CCMP Final Draft Contract Support. Contract support was successfully utilized in FY 1993 to aid staff in the convening of CCMP task forces, compilation of task force deliberations, and incorporation of findings into the developing action plans for the CCMP. FY 1993 work corresponded to creation of the Draft CCMP, for review in Fall, 1993. This project is a continuation of this effort, corresponding to completion of the final CCMP during FY 1994. Work will specifically include compiling review comments, creation of task force briefing materials, convening of task force meetings, and incorporation of task force deliberations and review comments into the final action plans of the CCMP. Development of the CCMP into final form under this project is also expected to include development of technical details of action plans based on ideas developed by task force members and staff. This project will involve final compilation of sections of the CCMP other than action plans (relying on input from staff and GBNEP contractors) and completion of the final CCMP in an acceptable and publishable format for final distribution of the document.

Funding Requirement 140 K

CCMP Participation by Local Governments. Support for the LGAC to establishing strong local involvement in the development of the CCMP. This project will provide for LGAC committee meetings, projects, and activities. Moreover, the project is expected to encourage and establish maximum possible leadership and direct participation by local governments necessary for a successful implementation of the CCMP. The work is expected to be closely coordinated with current existing intergovernmental coordination occurring under the auspices of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and could include specific projects like convening of area local government conferences. This work is intended to

augment ongoing staff efforts to coordinate local government CCMP involvement.

Funding Requirement 20 K

Program Office/Overhead. Expenditures under this element support the Program Office and GBNEP Staff through salaries, related fringe and indirect costs, travel, capital items like computer software, and other items associated with work related to Management Assessments. The equivalent of 2.25 full time staff are allocated for this element.

Funding Requirement 198.9K

Scientific/Technical Assessments

Scientific/Technical Assessments are projects conducted under the auspices of the Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee of the GBNEP to acquire technical knowledge appropriate for use in estuarine management. Projects under this element have previously reflected the need for characterization of status, trends, and probable causes related to identified estuarine problems. Projects initiated in FY 1994 would be completed too late to contribute to drafting of the CCMP, therefore emphasis in the coming year is on further technical development of the regional monitoring initiative already identified for inclusion in the CCMP.

Regional Monitoring Methods Standardization This project will involve the development of a standardized monitoring methods manual to accompany the Bay-wide Monitoring Strategy. Currently, agencies that monitor the bay utilize different monitoring practices, consequently agencies cannot share data, thus creating inconsistencies and inaccuracies in data reporting and validity.

Funding Requirement 65 K

Program Office/Overhead. Expenditures in this category support the Program Office and GBNEP Staff through salaries, related fringe and indirect costs, travel, capital items like computer software, and other necessary expenditures. The equivalent of 1.25 full time staff are allocated to this element.

Funding Requirement 43.1 K

Public Participation

Public participation projects affect all work carried out by the GBNEP, and are initiatives of the Citizen's Advisory Steering Committee. In the final analysis, creation of public policies in the CCMP depends upon a high degree of awareness and involvement of citizens, particularly those whom the policy affects. Projects

proposed for the final year of the program are aimed at fostering this awareness and involvement with the CCMP, particularly related to legislative and funding needs and commitments for successful implementation. Many of the past public outreach projects carried out by the CASC still serve as an excellent framework for this purpose; therefore many of the projects proposed here are continuations of those previously successful approaches, adopted to the increased need for public support in the final year of the GBNEP.

BayLine Newsletter. *BayLine* is produced by the staff with articles contributed by a variety of organizations and individuals in the Bay area. *BayLine*, now with a circulation exceeding 9,000, has become the single best line of communication for public involvement with CCMP development. In the coming year, *BayLine* will include (in part) the following: updates on the development of the CCMP and opportunities for public involvement and for public review required by EPA guidance; summaries of published GBNEP reports which form the factual foundation for CCMP action plans; and requests for public involvement with CCMP initiatives that depend on volunteers. The main topics in each issue vary depending on the current stage of CCMP development. *BayLine* will be published on an as-needed basis with a minimum of four issues over the coming year. The Program will continue to expand the mail list and identify additional alternative distribution channels. The increased funding over the previous year reflects substantial growth in circulation.

Funding Requirement 20 K

Publication Series. Many of the GBNEP projects conceived to identify status, trends, and probable causes of priority problems will be completed in time to communicate findings to members of the public involved in CCMP review. Findings of these technical projects justify and shape CCMP initiatives and therefore contribute to informed public participation and review. A goal of the Program is communication of the "State of Galveston Bay" in publications that can be easily accessed and clearly understood by the general public. Since the local area includes some 3.5 million residents, publication and distribution of materials (even by making heavy use of regional libraries) requires substantial effort. Distribution channels will also be improved through publication placement in appropriate bookstores, nature centers and educational institutions to develop the maximum participation in CCMP development and general awareness of the need for management of this ecosystem. Publications include final reports from GBNEP projects (for projects described elsewhere in GBNEP work plans) and documents drafted by staff but not allocated specific project funding. These are described below:

Project Generated Publications:

- The final Characterization Report for Galveston Bay
- The Draft CCMP, to facilitate Management Conference and public review
- "Green cover" project reports (project results; work plans, directory)
- Reprints of various GBNEP publications, as demand requires
- Miscellaneous publications, to be determined as needed

Staff Generated Publications:

- *The State of the Bay* - a public summary of the Characterization Report
- Topical fact sheets targeted to specific audiences in non-technical language
- A poster (maps depicting wetlands losses are being considered)
- Translation of key CCMP information (Vietnamese; Spanish)
- Possible Draft CCMP Public Summary
- Possible CCMP brochure

Funding Requirement 163.2 K

Speaker's Bureau. This project represents a central element of public involvement with CCMP development. The primary thrust of this project will be in Speaker's Bureau development to take the program message to existing audiences associated with outside groups. This emphasis will be expanded to a "Focus Group" approach to CCMP review, in which specific organizations are given the opportunity to discuss specific relevant initiatives being developed in the CCMP. Funding will be used for speaker travel and to improve presentation resources available to staff and volunteers, including slide shows/maps/graphics, equipment maintenance, and other incidental costs.

Funding Requirement 10.7 K

Public Review of CCMP. Public meetings will continue to be utilized at key points in the Program, particularly for the CCMP public review prior to the final draft, an activity required by EPA guidance. The number of meetings is expected to be expanded from the "Issues and Alternatives" meetings. A substantial portion of the project cost will be for publicity related to this final round of public review meetings scheduled for early 1994. Related activity will include: use of postage-paid Public Forum feedback forms for audiences; maintenance of contact with targeted groups to ensure continuity of involvement with public meetings; and message development and target marketing for key themes related to meetings like release of the "State of the Bay" publication.

Funding Requirement 50 K

Portable Information Display. The display will be continually updated to reflect citizen involvement in GBNEP projects and CCMP development as needed. Consideration will be given to rotating elements of the exhibit to target the intended audience. Funding will be used for shipping, maintenance, photo print updates, and space rental.

Funding Requirement 2 K

Public Education and Outreach. Work will focus on enhancing public awareness of CCMP development, the need for public participation in developing and implementing a CCMP, and the education of the public about behavior

modification necessary to maintain a cleaner bay, that is, outreach related to specific initiatives in the CCMP. Key elements will include support of Bay Day educational activities related to the CCMP and a focused information/education program for shoreline landowners related to specific needs identified in the CCMP (not covered under other projects). Activities will be accomplished by providing supplementary materials for use with the Speaker's Bureau, public meetings, media relations and the portable information display.

Funding Requirement 38 K

Media Relations. The success of the GBNEP is directly related to the public support and enthusiasm generated by the program to ultimately lead to public support and funding for the CCMP. To this end, active media participation in all aspects of the GBNEP is invited and encouraged. This project addresses the need for the GBNEP to educate and work with the media in the Galveston Bay area for this purpose, and includes: reporting on the progress of CCMP development and soliciting public input (work done with outside contractors where appropriate); press tours and conferences; and possibly public service announcements. Coordination with existing media like agency, industry, and community newsletters is also a key activity related to improving support for the CCMP.

Funding Requirement 10 K

Promotions. Inexpensive give-away items are utilized to draw people to the GBNEP exhibit, enabling staff and volunteers to distribute educational materials about CCMP development. Similar items in previous years were a great benefit in increasing traffic at the GBNEP booth at special events, providing for "prizes" for special promotions, and for showing appreciation for many long hours contributed by volunteers in GBNEP activities.

Funding Requirement 5 K

Program Office/Overhead. Expenditures in this category support the Program Office and GBNEP Staff through salaries, related fringe and indirect costs, travel, capital items like computer software, and other items associated with Public Participation. A decision was made early in the Program to conduct most Public Participation projects from the Program Office, rather than via outside contract. Three full time staff are allocated to this element.

Funding Requirement 146.6 K

Program Administration

A Program Director and support staff will continue to guide the GBNEP toward completion of the CCMP. Roles of the Program Office continue to include staff support of committees, program planning, project contract procurement and coordination, interagency coordination and communication, and administrative

coordination with EPA. These activities have been refined throughout the first four years of the program.

Management Conference Workshop. Each year of the GBNEP Management Conference, a spring workshop has been convened involving all members of all committees. This Workshop has been highly successful in contributing to consensus-building, since it is the only occasion all members of the Management Conference meet in one place. The agenda, as in the past, will include individual committee meetings, each scheduled to allow members of other committees to sit in. In addition, plenary sessions with outside speakers are planned, and a final Policy Committee meeting to which the entire Management Conference is invited.

Funding Requirement 12 K

Program Office/Overhead. Expenditures in this category support the Program Office through salaries, related fringe and indirect costs, travel, capital items like computer software, and other routine items associated with work to administer the program. The equivalent of 1.5 half full time staff are allocated for this element. This element includes expenses related to office space, equipment repair, meeting room rental, telephone charges, and outside copy services. This element also includes the \$6,667 designated in EPA guidance as "National Outreach"

Funding Requirement 230 K

Action Plan Demonstration Project

Action plan demonstration funds were made available by the EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds in the amount of \$20,000 (federal) for FY 1994. These funds were approved by EPA for a project entitled "Pump-Out Facilities for Boaters in Galveston Bay". This effort is designed to encourage the use of pump-out facilities by boaters and ultimately reduce pathogen contamination in Galveston Bay Waters.

Pump-Out Facilities for Boaters in Galveston Bay. Discharge of untreated sewage is one of the causes of pathogen contamination in Galveston Bay water. The Galveston Bay system is home to over 9,000 recreational vessels, with Clear Lake having approximately 5,600 of those vessels, including almost 500 live-aboards. If each of these boats had a holding tank and were dumping it into the bay each month, there would be thousands of gallons of raw sewage going into the Galveston Bay system. Some, if not all, of the marina leases in Clear Lake have provisions requiring zero discharge within the marinas, but the marinas do not seem to enforce this provision. In fact, enforcement would be difficult, because they know the boat owners have few options for disposal of sewage. The specific goal of this project is to provide an example of how boaters and marinas in the Galveston Bay system can be educated and motivated to use pump-out facilities. The ultimate goal of this project would be to reduce pathogen contamination in Clear Lake from raw sewage from boats.