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## II. Introduction

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### Purpose

The financing strategy for *The Galveston Bay Plan* has been developed to aid the Galveston Bay National Estuary Management Conference in determining the most likely sources of funding for implementation of *The Galveston Bay Plan*, a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan developed under the National Estuary Program.

This document is also intended for use by the staff of the proposed Galveston Bay Program of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) during the development and implementation of the program.

### Scope

The scope of the financial strategy is comprehensive, and has been focused during development by the decisions of the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program Management Conference, an appointed body of about 100 individuals representing agencies, stakeholders, and the public. Funding of the Galveston Bay Program, as well as of implementation of the actions by local governments, districts, and state agencies has been considered. Funding mechanisms have been matched with activities focused on the priority goals developed by the Management Conference. Because the use of fee and grant revenues is tied to expenditures on specific activities, and restricted to expenditures by eligible actors, each mechanism has been analyzed for its potential use on specific activities. No one source will fund implementation of *The Galveston Bay Plan*.

### Methodology

Funding mechanisms being used in Texas and the Galveston Bay region, by other National Estuary Programs, and by communities and states testing innovative methods of funding environmental protection were researched, catalogued, and analyzed for their applicability to *The Galveston Bay Plan*. This research was performed using information from the Texas State Comptroller's data base on state assistance programs, the federal 1993 Catalog of Domestic Assistance Programs, literature reviews, and interviews with key individuals with extensive knowledge of federal, state, private, and local finance. Information collected on each funding mechanism included:

- Activities funded;
- Organizations funded;
- Revenues collected;
- Use of revenues; and

- Implementation feasibility.

Funding mechanisms were then matched to specific actions in *The Galveston Bay Plan*. To facilitate the analysis, source descriptions and matrices were developed matching federal, state, and local mechanisms to each of the actions in the plan.

## Reader's Guide

Sections I through IV of this document constitutes the funding strategy for the Galveston Bay Program and for the Action Plans of *The Galveston Bay Plan*. Sections V and VI contain supporting analyses used in development of the strategies. The *Grants, Loans, Technical Assistance and Partnerships* section describes and explains how grant programs are administered. The *User Fees, Taxes, and Alternative Funding Mechanisms* section describes some of the alternatives available for funding estuary program implementation. It contains an analysis of state and local fees and taxes that are already administered in the Galveston Bay region, and an evaluation of their potential use in contributing to the funding of specific actions in the plan.

The strategy begins with a description of the Galveston Bay Program, which will coordinate implementation and funding. This is followed by the funding strategy for each Action Plan of *The Galveston Bay Plan*. The Galveston Bay National Estuary Program has ranked environmental problems facing the Bay in terms of their management priorities. This strategy is organized according to these problems, which are listed in this report on pages \* and \*. The action plan funding strategies are presented in the order of the top priorities that they address (the order therefore differs from the order in *The Galveston Bay Plan* itself).

The action plans are presented in the following order:

1. Habitat Protection
2. Non-Point Sources of Pollution
3. Point Sources of Pollution
4. Freshwater Inflow and Bay Circulation
5. Water and Sediment Quality
6. Species Population Protection
7. Shoreline Management
8. Spills and Dumping
9. Public Health Protection
10. Research
11. Public Participation and Education

The funding strategy for each action plan focuses on the top priority that the plan addresses, and also lower ranked priorities addressed within the plans. The funding strategies for the *Research* and *Public Participation and Education* Action Plans, which support the first nine action plans, are presented directly after the funding strategies for those plans.

Each strategy is meant to stand alone, hence programs that can be used to fund more than one action are described fully for each action plan. This causes some redundancy in the presentation, but eliminates the need to read the entire document from front to back and allows the reader can concentrate on action plans of interest.

A brief discussion of financial support for the Regional Monitoring Program is included in this report, following the discussion of financial support for the Public Participation and Education Action Plan. Funding for monitoring activities is also addressed throughout this report within the context of the discussion of each action plan in which monitoring is a component.

***How to use the Appendices of this Report.*** The funding options being presented for CCMP action implementation include grant and assistance programs from federal and state agencies, and private foundations. Many of these programs already provide assistance to efforts being implemented by existing agencies in the Galveston Bay region. The assistance programs have been identified, described, and catalogued in Appendices A, B, C, and D of this report. Appendix E includes matrices organized by federal and state agencies, as well as by local funding mechanisms, matching each action to each assistance program or funding mechanism for which the action qualifies. The appendices are summarized below:

*Appendix A: Federal Assistance Program Descriptions with potentially Eligible Actions for Each Program* describes federal assistance programs, the range and average of financial assistance available from each federal assistance program, and the CCMP actions which may qualify for each program.

*Appendix B: State Administered Assistance Program Descriptions with Eligible Actions for Each Program* presents the range and average of financial assistance available from each relevant state administered assistance program listed in the Texas Comptroller's Data Base, as well as all *Galveston Bay Plan* actions that qualify for each program. The numbers listed under each state administered assistance program correspond to the program's identification number in the Texas Comptroller's data base. In cases where the state administered program is derived from a federal program, the federal program's name and the page number of this report where its description can be found is provided so that the reader can refer to Appendix A for information on the program.

*Appendix C: Foundation and Non-Profit Source Descriptions* can be consulted for information on Foundations that offer grants for conservation efforts like those recommended in *The Galveston Bay Plan*.

*Appendix D: Glossary and Guide to the Matrices* can be used to identify the program acronyms and abbreviations used in the Federal and State Matrices.

*Appendix E* contains the *Federal State, and Local Matrices*, which can be used to quickly identify actions that are eligible for specific assistance programs and local

funding mechanisms. Actions are listed vertically along the left side of each page. Programs and mechanisms are listed horizontally across each page.

*Appendix F* contains local tax information related to the analysis in Part Two of this Report.