

## Exhibit 1

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS

**Project description:** Brazoria County shall provide assistance to low income homeowners to repair or replace failing or inadequately designed On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) within the county. Many of the OSSFs currently in operation in Brazoria County are substandard and result in the release of sewage in residential areas, public rights-of-way, and waterways.

Brazoria County shall use SEP funds to pay for contractors for direct costs that the homeowners would have been responsible for, such as:

- Design and specifications;
- Engineering costs;
- Contractor expenses related to installing the OSSFs or interconnecting the homes to a central OSSF; and
- Contractor expenses related to demolishing and removing the existing failing OSSF.

Brazoria County shall use its own funds to pre-screen residents for eligibility for the program, to issue permits for the system modifications, to provide educational materials and training to participants, and to perform construction and final inspections.

Brazoria County shall not charge homeowners for any portion of the cost of the project paid for by SEP funds.

**Environmental benefit:** This SEP will provide a discernable environmental benefit by preventing the continued release of raw sewage into the environment, which will protect ground, surface, and drinking water sources, and wildlife from contamination from sewage. Important aquatic areas in the Brazoria County area that are likely impacted by the release of sewage include the Brazos River Basin, Christmas Bay, Galveston Bay, Chocolate Bayou, and Bastrop Bayou.

Raw sewage can carry bacteria, viruses, protozoa (parasitic organisms), helminths (intestinal worms), and bioaerosols (inhalable molds and fungi). The diseases they may cause range in severity from mild gastroenteritis (causing stomach cramps and diarrhea) to life-threatening ailments such as cholera, dysentery, infectious hepatitis, and severe gastroenteritis.

People can be exposed through:

- Sewage in drinking water sources;
- Direct contact in areas of public access such as in lawns, streets, or waters used for recreation;
- Shellfish harvested from areas contaminated by raw sewage; or
- Inhalation and skin absorption.

Sewage overflows may cause damage to the environment. A key concern with sewage overflows is the effect on rivers, lakes, streams, or aquifer systems. In addition to potential spread of disease, sewage in the environment contributes excess nutrients, metals, and toxic pollutants that

contaminate water quality, cause excess algae blooms, and kill fish and other organisms in aquatic habitats.

**Eligible Counties:** Brazoria

**Project Maximum:** \$112,000

**Minimum Contribution:** \$1,000