

**Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council  
Funded Priorities List Amendment Summary  
Coastal Alabama Regional Water Quality Program:  
City of Fairhope Sanitary Sewer Overflow Mitigation Project**

On August 2, 2023, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) voted to approve an amendment to its Funded Priorities List 3b (FPL 3b). Specifically, the Council approved:

- \$820,100 in implementation funding for the City of Fairhope Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Mitigation Project under the Coastal Alabama Regional Water Quality Program.

On June 8, 2023, the Council published a notice on its website seeking public comment on the proposal to approve implementation funding for this project. The Council also informed stakeholders who have [subscribed to receive automatic updates](#) about public comment periods via an email. The public comment period closed at 11:59 pm on July 7, 2023. The Council received no comments on the proposed funding approval.

**City of Fairhope SSO Mitigation Project**

On August 2, 2023, the Council approved \$820,100 in implementation funding for the City of Fairhope SSO Mitigation Project, which is part of the Coastal Alabama Regional Water Quality Program. The sponsor of this project is the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). These implementation funds were budgeted in Category 2 of the Council's FPL 3b. ADCNR has since collaborated with other Council members to complete the environmental compliance necessary for a Council vote to approve implementation funding for this project.

Since 2010, the City of Fairhope has seen a population growth of nearly 47% percent. This added stress to the wastewater system maintained by Fairhope Public Utilities has caused severe capacity constraints resulting in situations where sewer overflows can and do occur during unpredictable storm seasons and rainfall events that cause power outages to lift stations. Internal system-wide studies have shown that the biggest threat to lift stations is the loss of power causing the already taxed lift stations to become exceedingly overwhelmed quickly. The City of Fairhope SSO Mitigation Project will install generators on 22 key lift stations throughout the City of Fairhope that will mitigate sanitary sewer overflows that occur during the loss of power to the systems. This project will outfit nearly 30% of the system's 79 lift stations with properly sized generators to meet the mitigation needs. The project includes the purchase and installation of generators as well as the construction of the pads on which these will sit. This project was identified as a priority project through the prioritization and project selection process that ADCNR undertook, which included external reviews of the environmental benefits, best available science, and risks associated with the project. This project is designed to reduce the pollutant loading and improve discharges to Mobile Bay, by reducing the number and frequency of sanitary sewer overflows that occur.

To comply with the NEPA, the Council is utilizing a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Categorical Exclusion which covers activities such as the proposed project. ADCNR has also completed additional environmental compliance coordination for the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alabama Historical Commission. To ensure compliance with relevant environmental laws, the Council requires that the sponsor of the project adhere to all applicable conditions listed in the associated [environmental compliance documentation](#).

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