

**Council-Selected Restoration  
Component  
Proposal Submission and Evaluation  
Process Details**

August 2014

pg. 1 Plan

Step A pg.19 Plan

Step C pg.19 Plan

Step C pg.19 Plan

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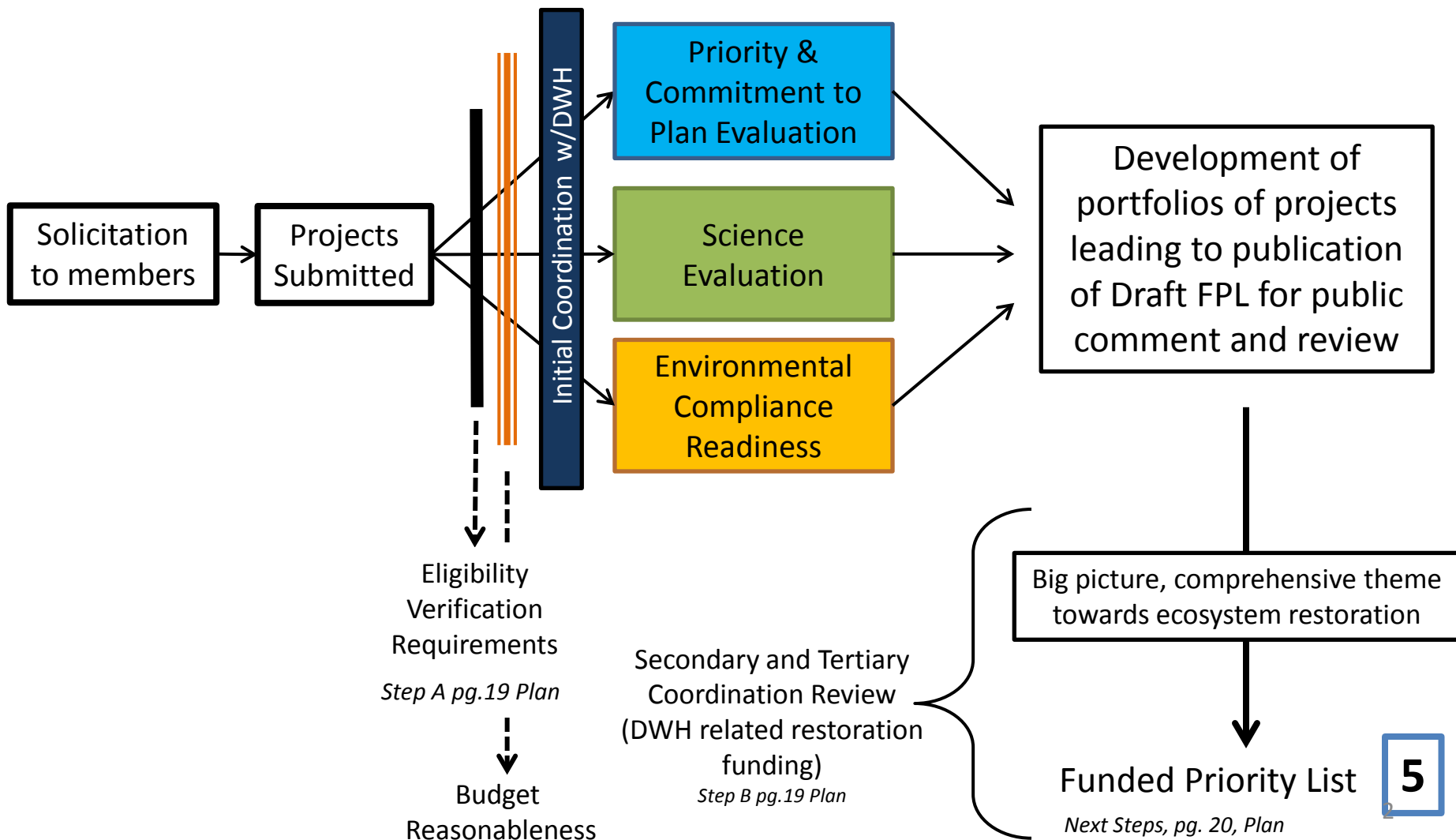
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Preparation

Collection

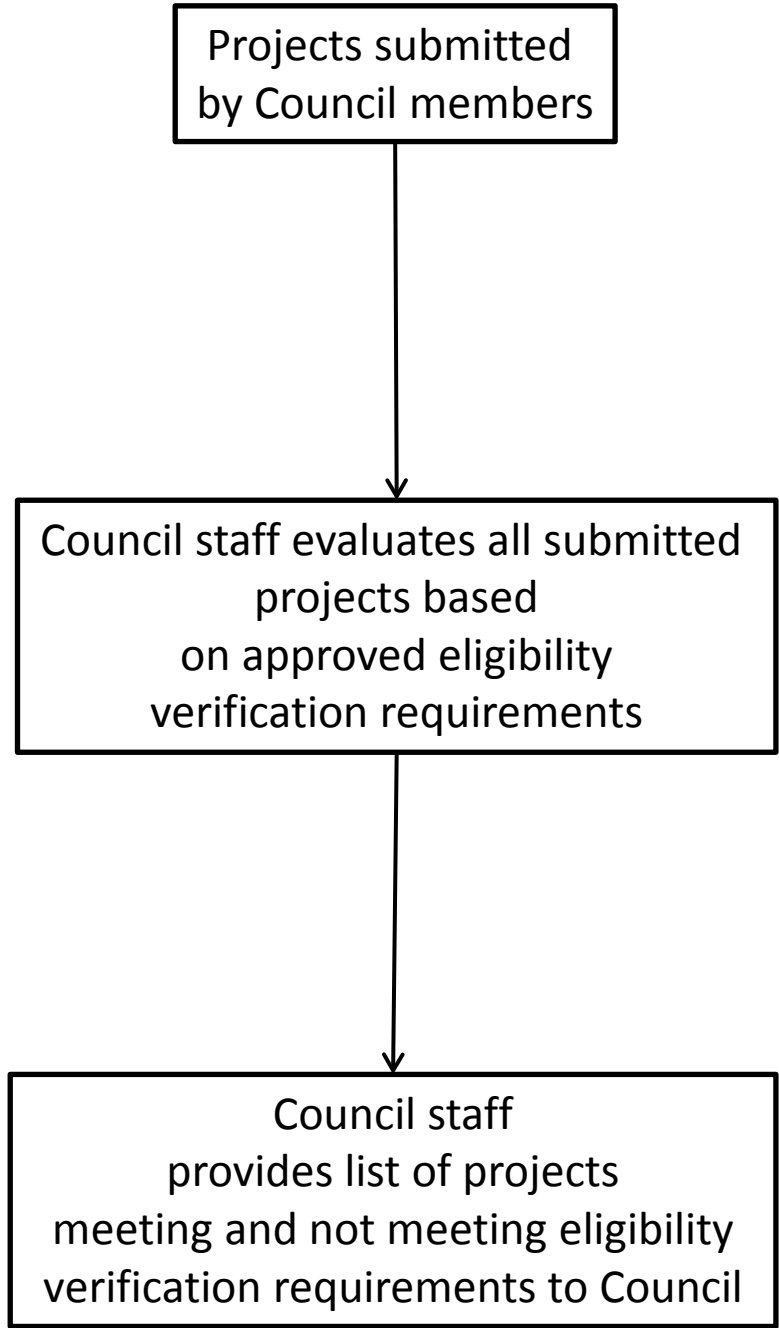
Vetting

Assessment and Compilation



# Preparation

Council member proposal submission guidelines will be released that calls for proposals to be submitted by the 11 Council members representing the Council. Window opens August 21, 2014 and will close no earlier than November 17, 2014.



**Eligibility Verification Requirements (pg. 19 of Plan; Step A):**

1. Is the project submission complete? *(under Eligibility verification Step A, pg.19)*
2. Does the project aim to restore and/or protect natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, and economy of Gulf Coast region? *(overarching Goal, pg. 2, paragraph 2 of Plan)*
3. Is the project within the Gulf Coast Region of the respective Gulf States? *(geographic scope pg. 7 of Plan)*

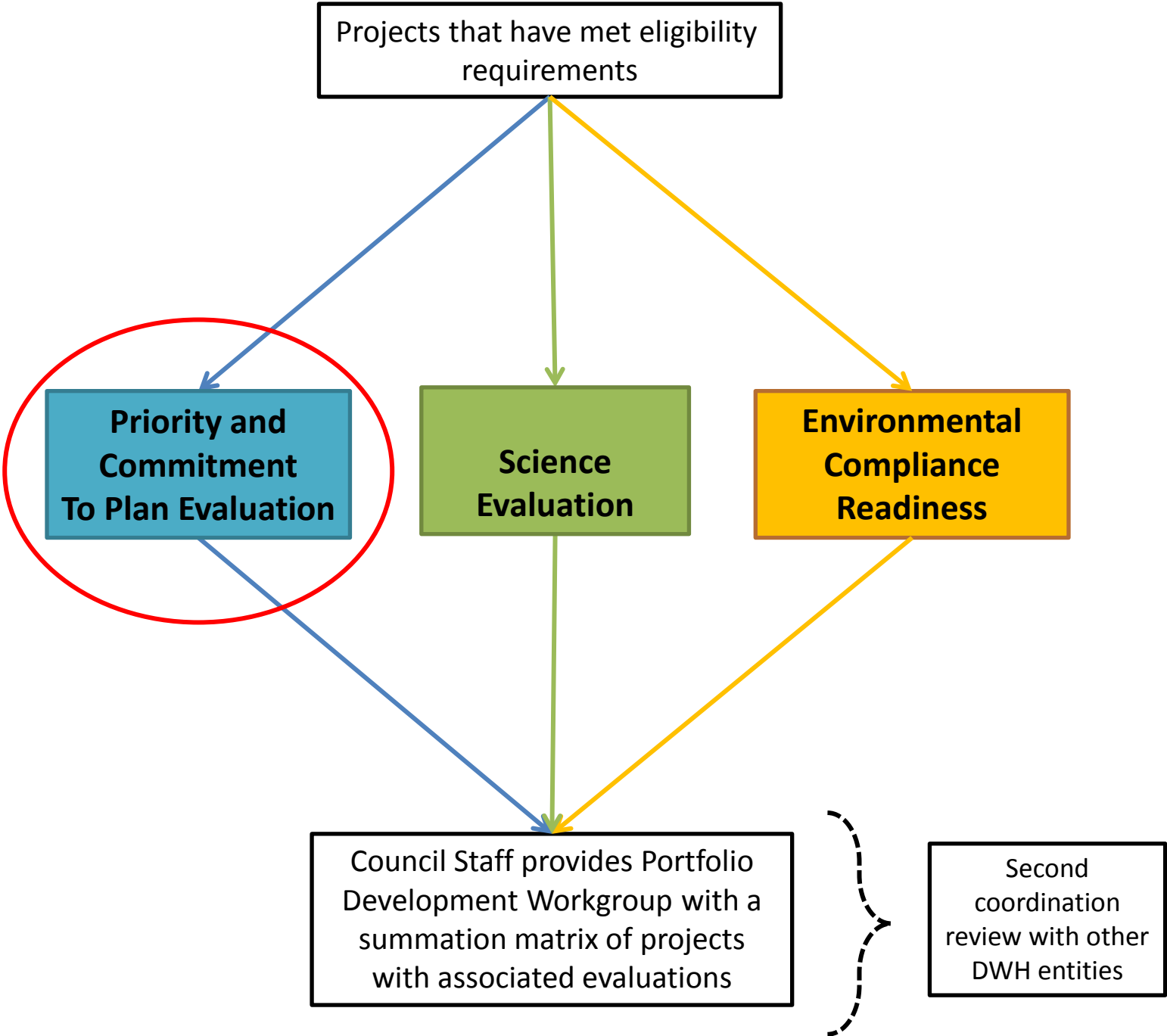
**Eligibility is a pass / fail gate.**

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- Initial coordination review with other DWH related activities
  - High level
  - cursory
  - Informal and consultative
- Priority, Commitment to Plan, Science and Environmental Compliance. Criteria have been approved by the Council. Each criteria vetting (priority, science, environmental compliance, and commitment to plan) will result in a report based on whether the project or program met the criteria (and specific details about each criteria filled in for auditing purposes).



**Priority Criteria (pg. 17 Plan)**

Does the project/program meet one or more of the following priority criteria as set forth in the RESTORE Act:

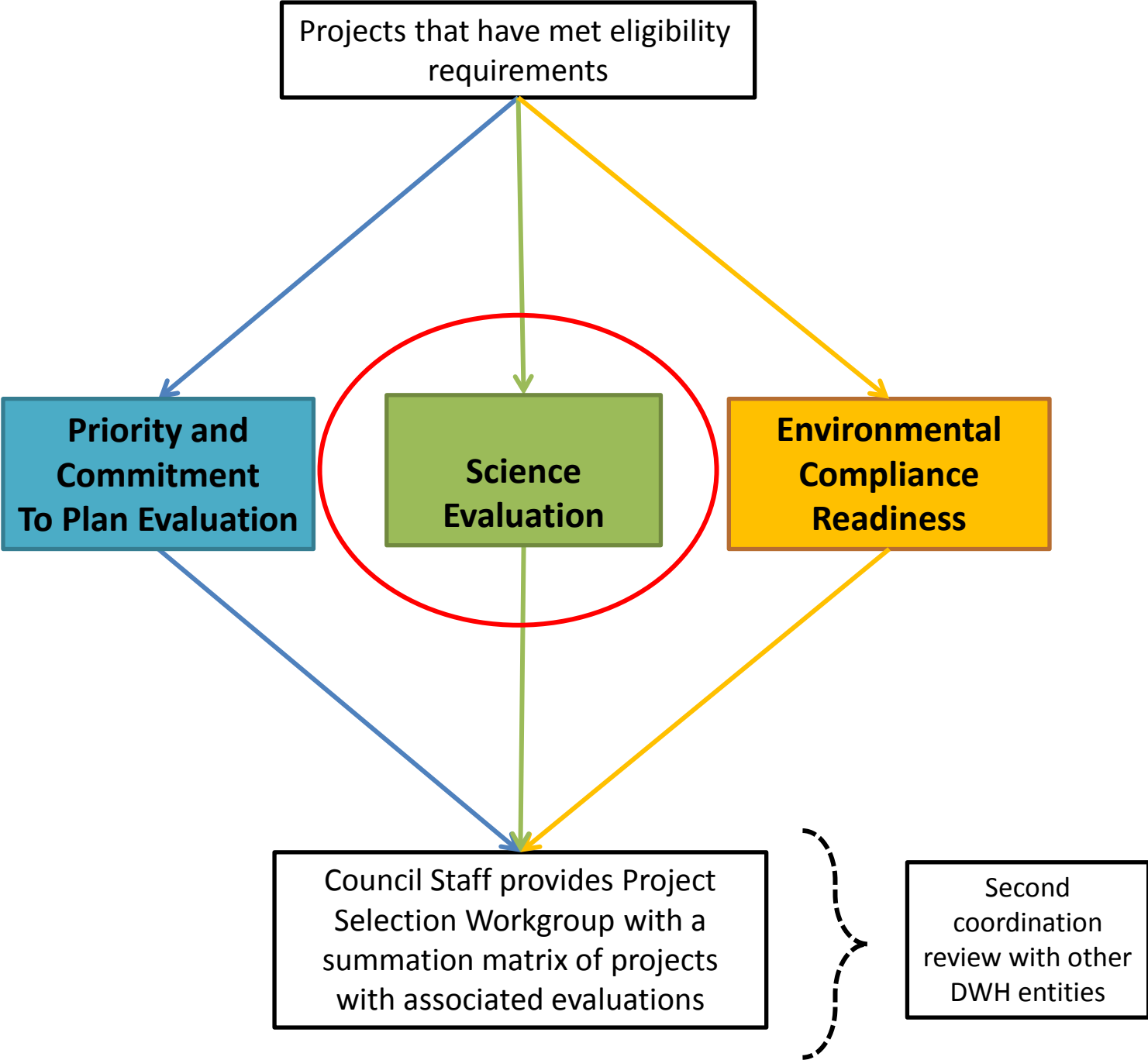
1. Projects that are projected to make the greatest contribution to restoring and protecting the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region, without regard to geographic location within the Gulf Coast region?
2. Large-scale projects and programs that are projected to substantially contribute to restoring and protecting the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast ecosystem?
3. Projects contained in existing Gulf Coast State comprehensive plans for the restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region?
4. Projects that restore long-term resiliency of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands most impacted by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill?

**Commitment of Plan Criteria (pg. 8&9 Step C of Plan)**

Does the project/program meet the following commitment criteria as established by the Council (pg. 8&9 of Plan):

1. Is the project/program collaborative in nature? (pg. 8 *Commitment to Engagement, Inclusion and Transparency of Plan, and Commitment to Leveraging Resources and Partnerships of Plan*)
2. Does the project/program leverage strategic partnerships to enhance restoration activities? (pg. 8 *Commitment to Engagement, Inclusion and Partnerships of Plan*)
3. Does the project/program leverage prior projects or resources? (pg. 9 *Commitment to Leveraging Resources and Partnerships of Plan*)
4. Does the project/program outline a method for capturing outcomes and impacts of restoration? (pg. 9 *Commitment to Delivering Results and Measuring Impacts of Plan*)
5. Does the project/program affect broad-regional ecosystem restoration efforts? (pg. 8 *Commitment to Regional Ecosystem-based Approach to Restoration*)
6. Does the proposal reflect participation and input from diverse stakeholders? (pg. 8 *Commitment to Engagement, Inclusion and Transparency*)





**Science Evaluation (pg. 19 of Plan Step C – evaluation):**

The Science evaluation engine evaluates how each proposal has:

1. Established the use of best available science
2. Articulated the scientific basis of the proposed activity

## Science Evaluation – Best Available Science:

RESTORE Act:

33 USC 1321 (a)(27): the term ‘best available science’ means science that- (A) maximizes the quality, objectivity, and integrity of information, including statistical information; (B) uses peer-reviewed and publicly available data; and (C) clearly documents and communicates risks and uncertainties in the scientific basis for such projects”

& according to the OMB Circular of guidelines for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of information.

## **Science Evaluation – 1. Best Available Science:**

These 6 factors/elements help frame the reviewers answers to A,B and C:

1. Have the proposal objectives, including methods used, been justified using peer reviewed and/or publicly available information?
2. If information supporting the proposal does not directly pertain to the Gulf Coast region, are applicant's methods reasonably supported and adaptable to that geographic area?
3. Are the literature sources used to support the proposal accurately and completely cited?
4. Are the literature sources represented in a fair and unbiased manner?
5. Does the proposal evaluate uncertainties and risks in the scientific basis for the proposal, including any identified by the public and Council members?
6. Does the proposal evaluate uncertainties and risks in achieving its objectives over time? (e.g., is there an uncertainty or risk that in 5-10 years the project/program will be obsolete or not function as planned given projections of sea level rise?)

## **Science Evaluation – Best Available Science:**

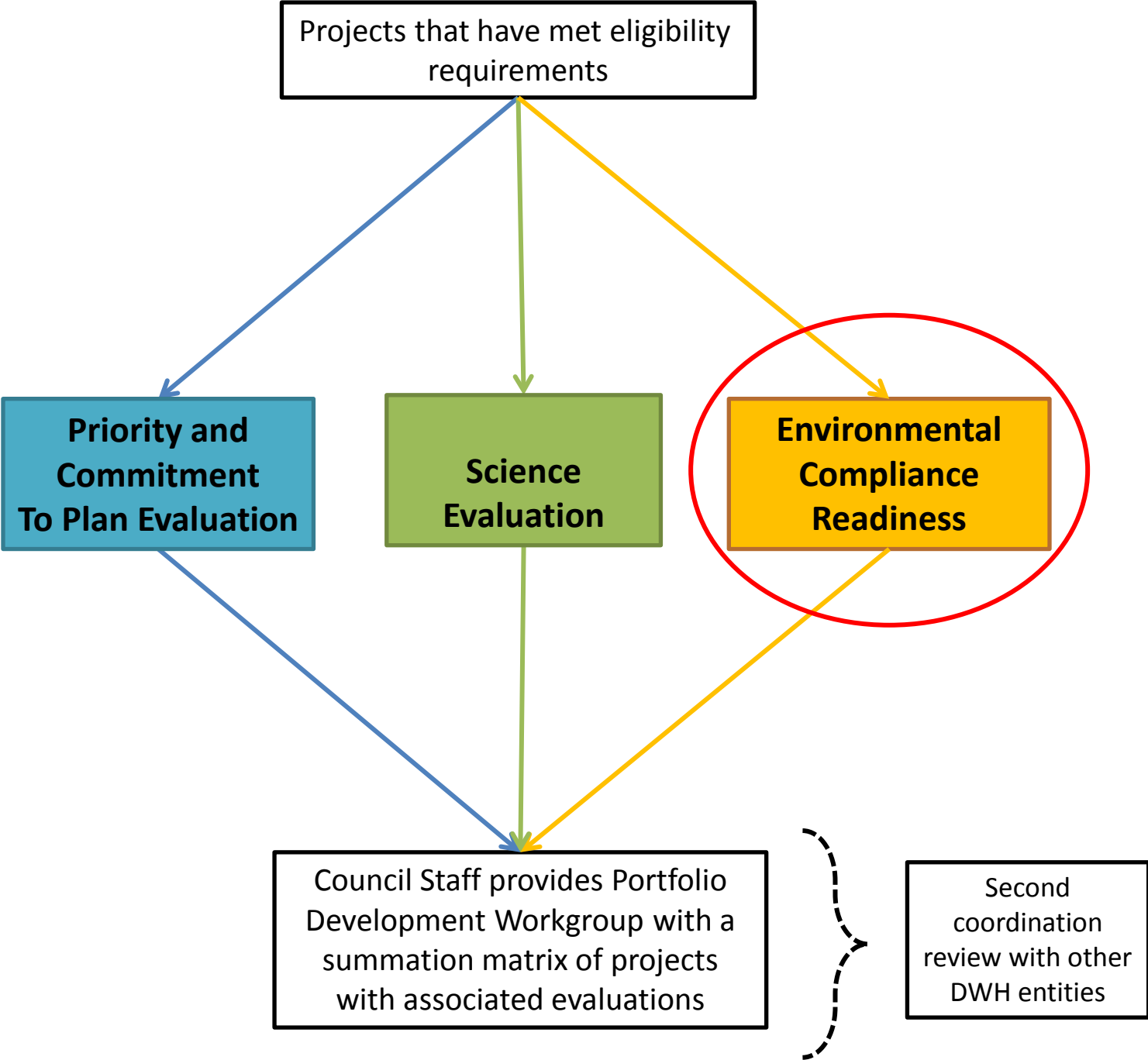
Based on the answers to the previous 6 questions, and giving deference to the sponsor to provide within reason the use of best available science the following three questions can be answered:

**(A) Has the applicant made a reasonable determination that the proposal is based on science that uses peer-reviewed and publicly available data?  
(Yes/No/Need More Information)**

**(B) Has the applicant made a reasonable determination that the proposal is based on science that maximizes the quality, objectivity, and integrity of information (including, as applicable, statistical information)?  
(Yes/No/Need More Information)**

**(C) Has the applicant made a reasonable determination that the proposal is based on science that clearly documents and communicates risks and uncertainties in the scientific basis for such projects?  
(Yes/No/Need More Information)**

- A. Have other methods been discussed and reasons provided to why the method is being selected (e.g., scientifically sound; cost-effectiveness)?
- B. Has your agency/vendor/project manager conducted a project/program like the one proposed?
- C. Is there a risk mitigation plan in place for project objectives? (*captures risk measures as defined under best available science by Act*)
- D. Does the project/program consider consequences with implementation? (*captures risk measures as defined under best available science by Act*)
- E. Does the project/program have clearly defined goals?
- F. Does the project/program have clearly defined objectives?
- G. Does the project/program have measures of success? (*captures statistical information requirement as defined by Act*)
- H. Is a monitoring program in place to determine project goals, success and help adaptive management (if applicable)? (*captures statistical information requirement as defined by Act*)
- I. Does the project/program consider recent and/or relevant information? (*captures statistical information requirement as defined by Act*)
- J. Has the project/program evaluated past successes and failures of similar efforts? (*captures the communication of risks and uncertainties in the scientific basis for such projects as defined by the Act*)

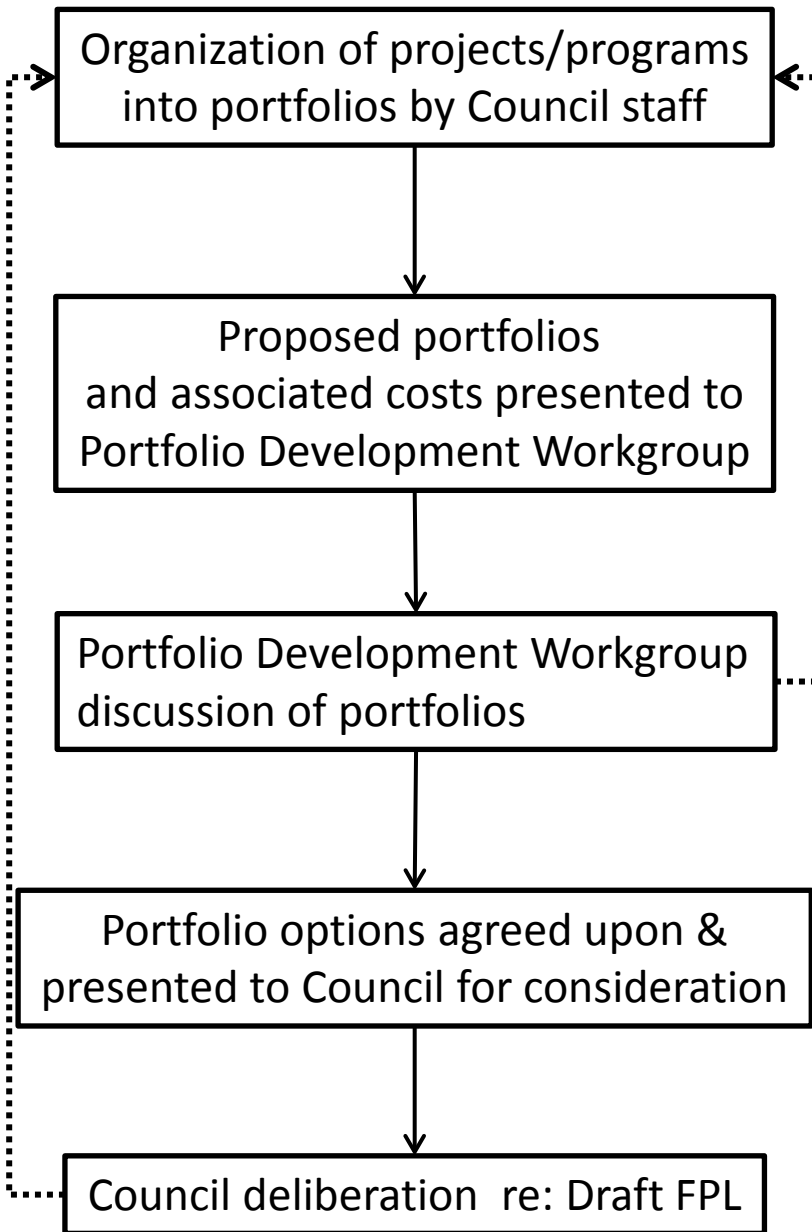


Council Staff describes projects based on environmental readiness. Readiness is assessed against a list of environmental compliance requirements supplied in the submission guidelines.

Questions to be asked for all projects:

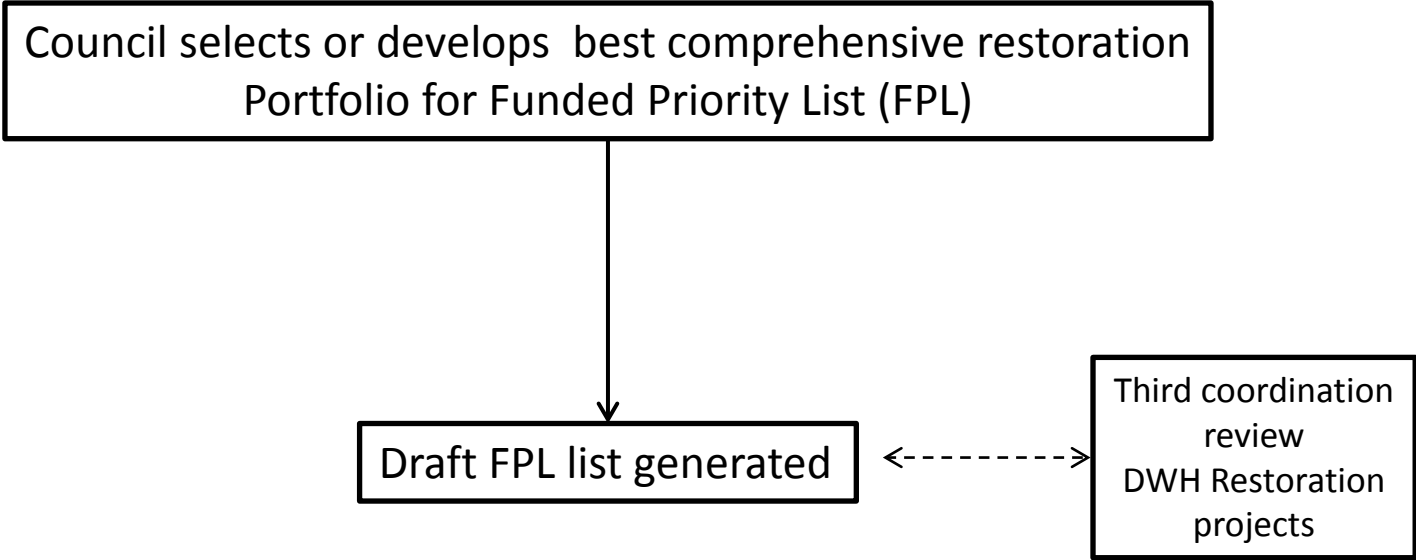
1. Has the project identified all environmental compliance and permitting requirements for the project from the appropriate authorities?
2. Has the proposal requested and/or been granted a Categorical Exclusion?
3. At what stage is the proposal in terms of compliance with NEPA and other applicable environmental requirements?



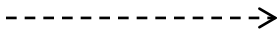


Portfolios returned to Council staff for re-organization

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Council Director of Environmental Compliance coordinates any final environmental compliance and NEPA documents for FPL on behalf of Council

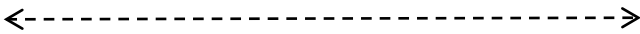


Projects with environmental compliance and NEPA concerns identified

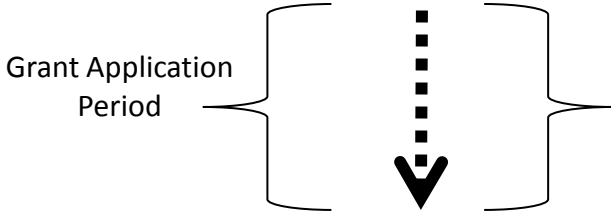
Council publishes FPL and is put out for at least 30 day public comment period

Public comments incorporated and addressed in FPL

Council votes to approve FPL



Final coordination review with other DWH restoration projects



Time period to issue grants is variable, based on the following factors:

- Completion of environmental compliance
- Completion of engineering feasibility study
- Addressing risk/uncertainty

Individual project grant awarded