



# **GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL**

## **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

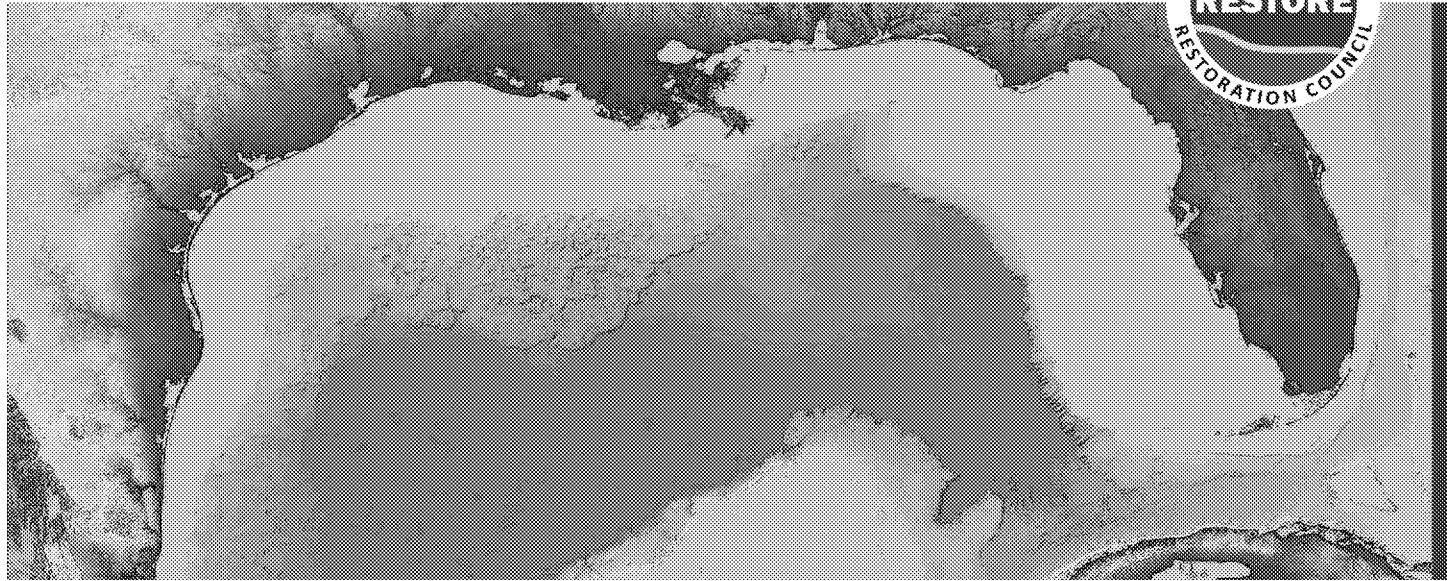
**April 24-25, 2018**

**EPA Gulf Breeze Laboratory**

**Gulf Breeze, Florida**

**April 24/25, 2018, Steering Committee Meeting  
Agenda and Presentation Materials  
Table of Contents**

<u>Slides/topics:</u>	<u>Page</u>
FPL3 and Funding Strategy Updating Workflow and Timeline	1
FPL3 and Funding Strategy Path Forward	8
FPL3 Submission Guidelines and Review Process Update	12
FPL Environmental Compliance Review	19
Education and Transparency	25
CPS Year-4 Evaluation Process	42
Potential FPL Budget Shortfalls Overview	46



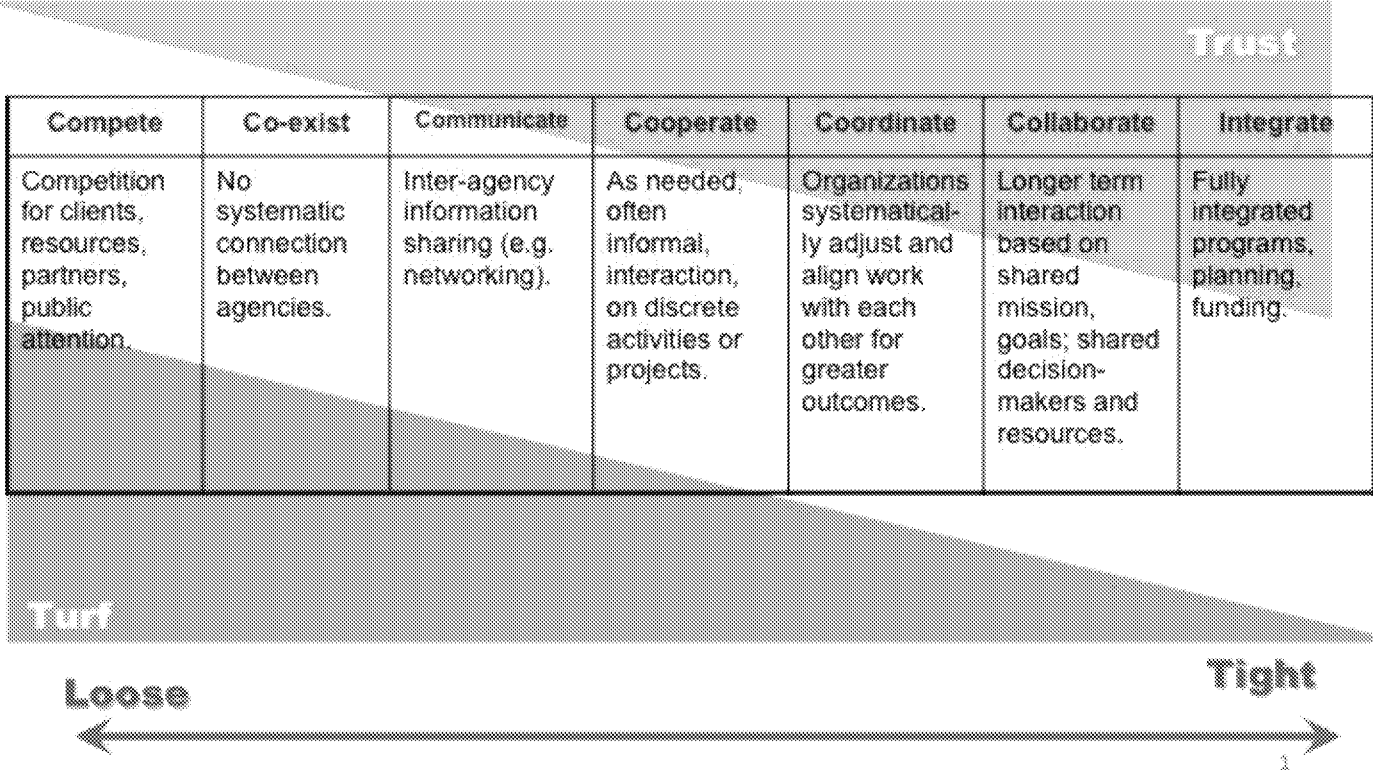
## **Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council**

**FPL 3 and 10-Year Funding Strategy  
Updating Workflow and Timing**

**April 2018 Steering Committee Meeting**

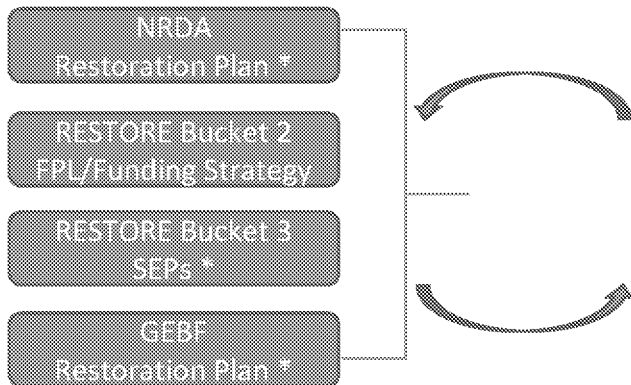
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Staff Work Product – Subject to Council Approval

# The Collaboration Continuum



<http://www.collaborationforimpact.com/collaborative-approaches/ca-subpage-2/>

# Collaboration: Vision to Implementation and Back Again



**\* Stakeholder and Public input/output  
included in these steps**

**Watershed/Type "Vision" \***

- Goals & Objectives
- Metrics
- Targets



**Projects Concepts \***

- Priorities
- Sequencing
- Funding Mechanism(s)



**Implement Project(s)**

- Planning
- E&D
- Construction



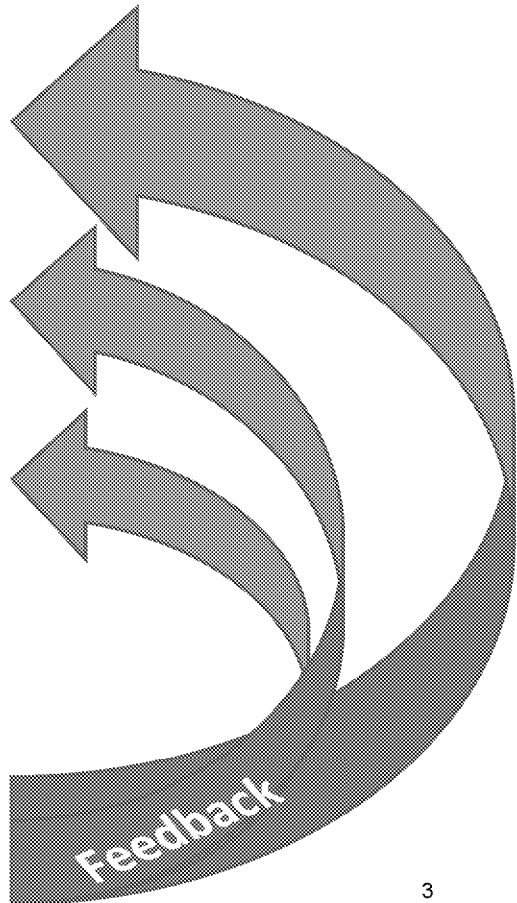
**Monitor**

- Project metrics
- Watershed metrics

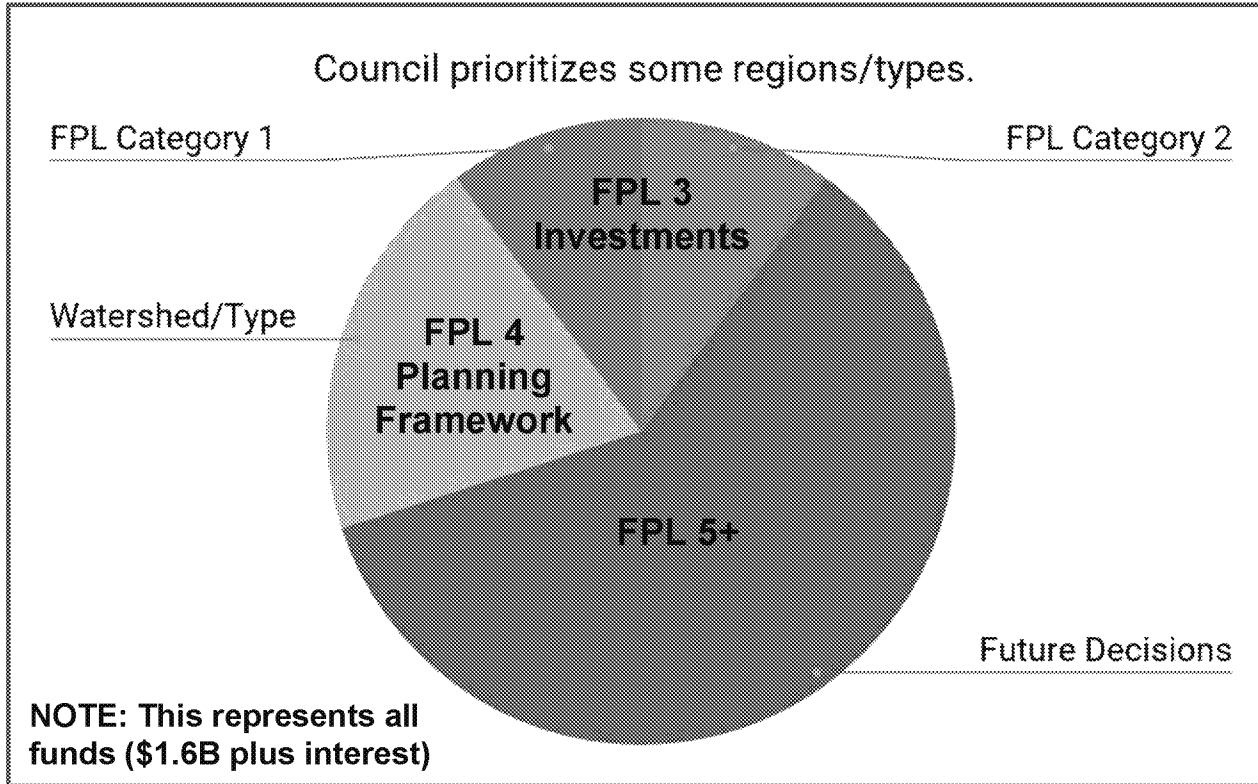


**Evaluate**

- Project
- Project Technique
- Watershed



# FPL/10-Year Funding Strategy



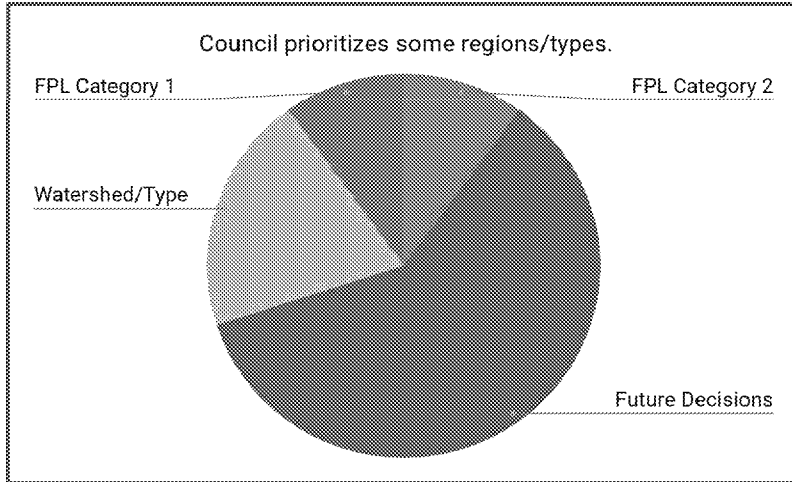
## Examples of Planning Framework Options:

**Framework 1:** Focus on key watersheds/estuaries

**Framework 2:** Focus on key resources (e.g., oysters, wetlands)

**Framework 3:** Mix of frameworks 1 and 2

# Filling FPL 3/Funding Strategy Information Gap



## Issue:

- Priority watersheds/restoration types (i.e. “Planning Framework”) have not been identified for **FPL 3**

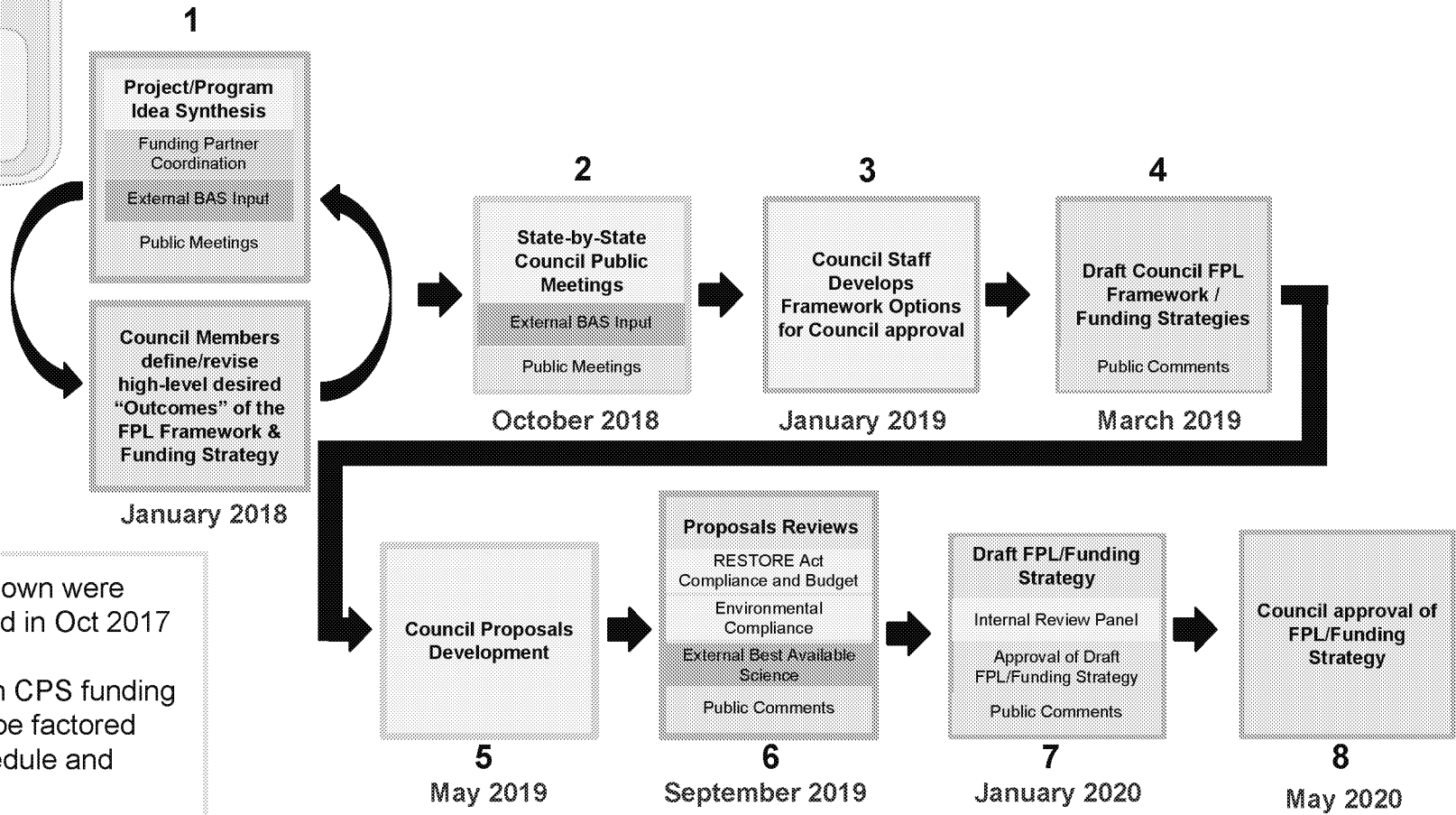
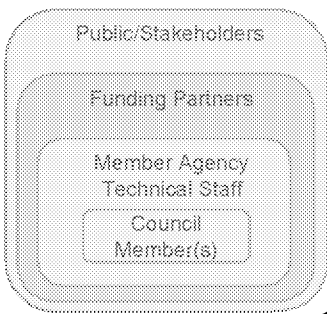
## Solution:

- Member-led Collaboration meetings provide foundation for development of the Council’s FPL3 “Planning Framework”

## Purpose:

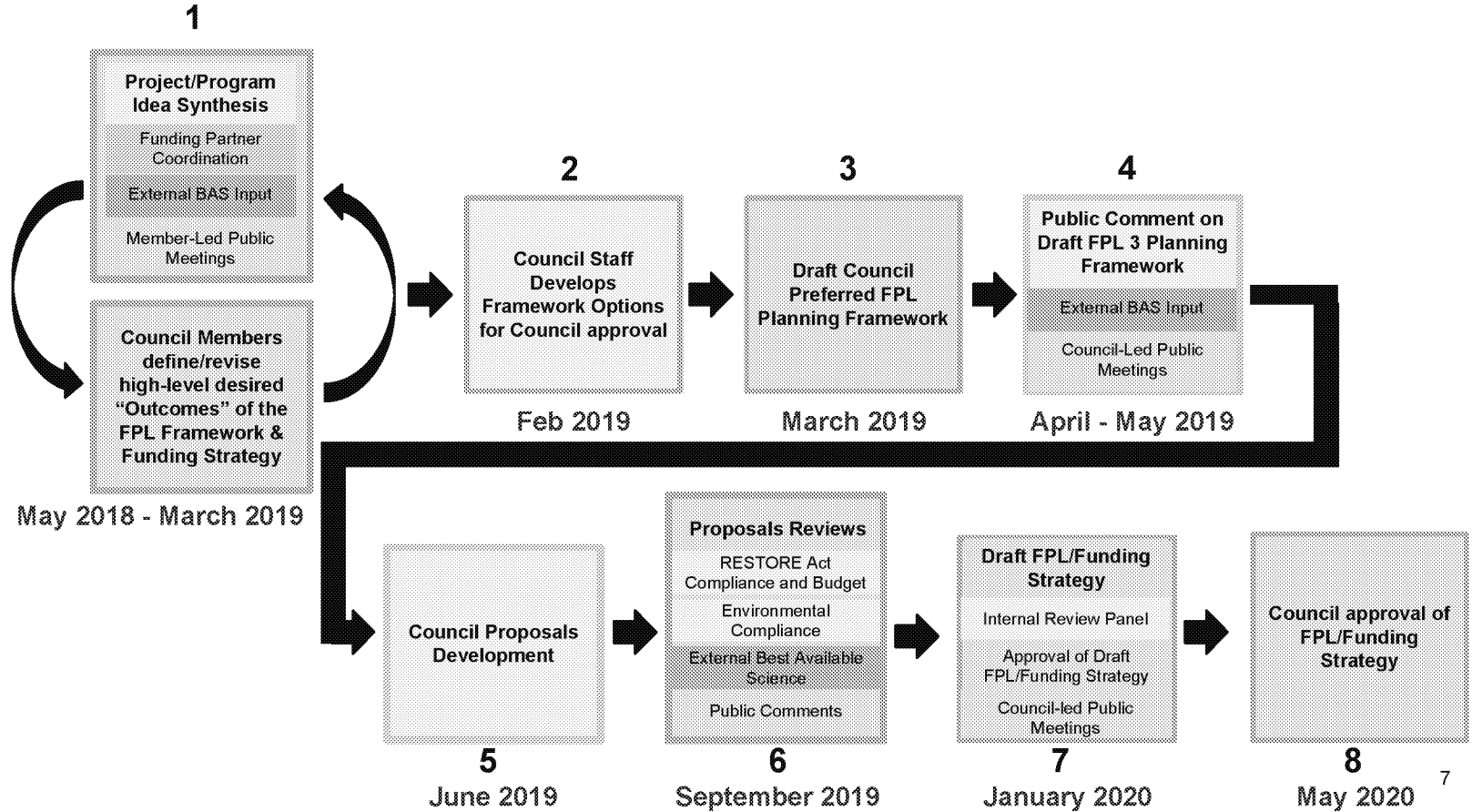
- Signal Council’s FPL3 priorities to the public, stakeholders, potential funding partners
- Seek Public feedback prior to proceeding with proposals development

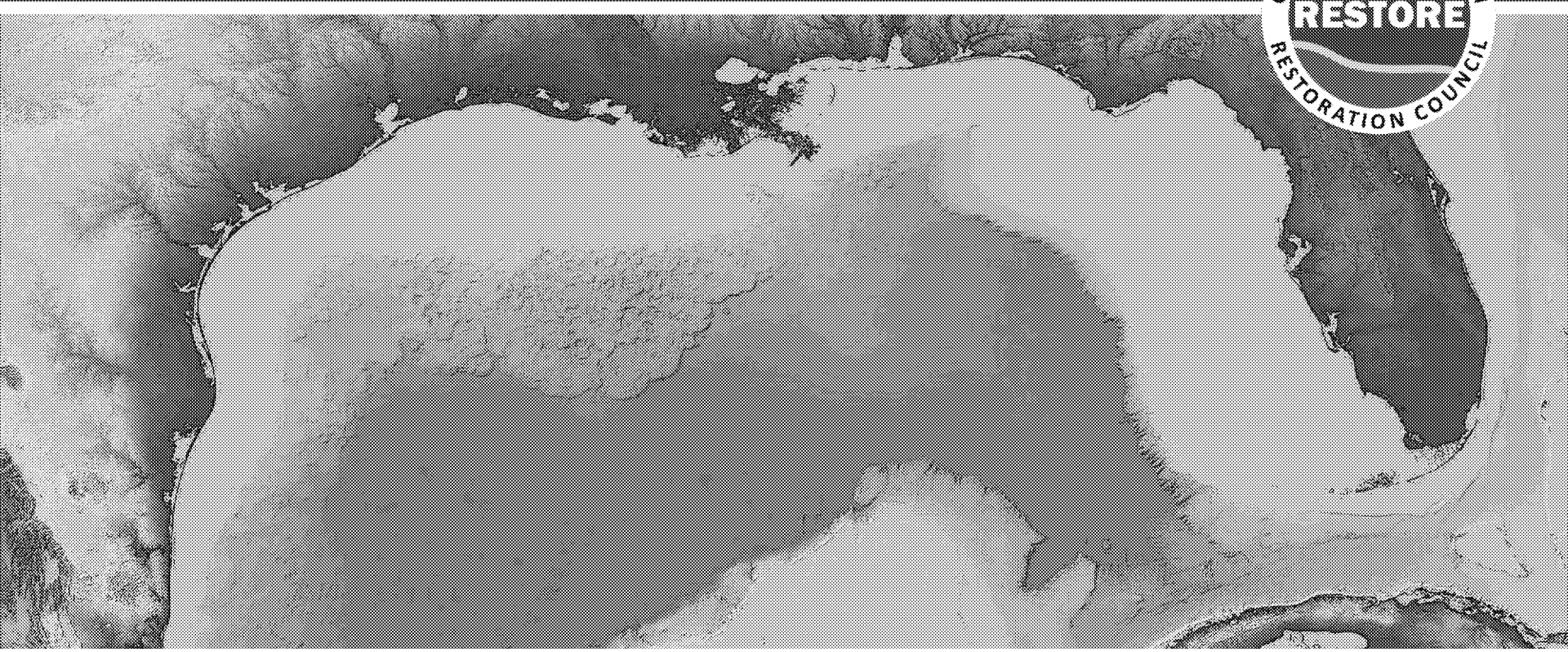
# Proposed FPL/10-Year Funding Strategy Timeline



- Dates shown were discussed in Oct 2017 meeting
- Delays in CPS funding need to be factored into schedule and workflow

# Revised Proposed FPL/10-Year Funding Strategy Timeline





# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

## FPL 3 / Funding Strategy Path Forward

April 2018 Steering Committee Meeting

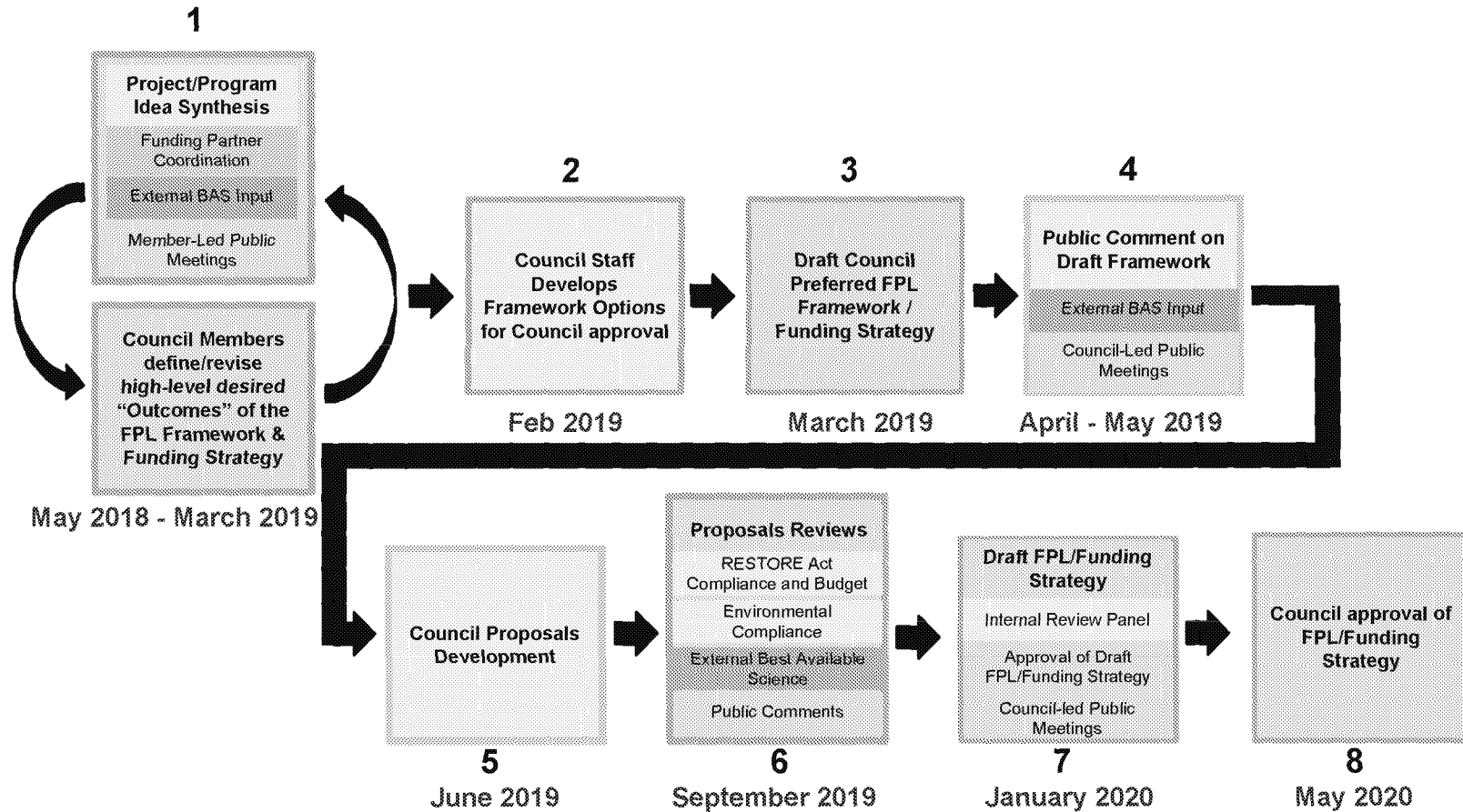
Gulf Breeze, FL

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8



# FPL3/Funding Strategy Workflow & Timeline





## FPL3/Funding Strategy Path Forward

### Tasks to Support Achievement of Milestones:

- **Member-led collaboration activities** (*Spring 2018 - Spring 2019*)
  - Technical/Funding Partners/Stakeholder/Public/Funding meetings and workshops to develop concepts
  - Steering Committee Meetings to report out/discuss member-by-member progress
  
- **Increasing Public Transparency** (*Spring 2018 - ...*)
  - On-going Public Engagement Workgroup coordination
  - RESTORE Education Opportunities
  
- **Submissions & reviews updates** (*Spring 2018 - Spring 2019*)
  - Submission guidelines
  - Proposals submission platform (i.e. RAAMS replacement)
  - Science review process
  - Submissions review process



# Steering Committee Meetings & Milestones

## Mississippi

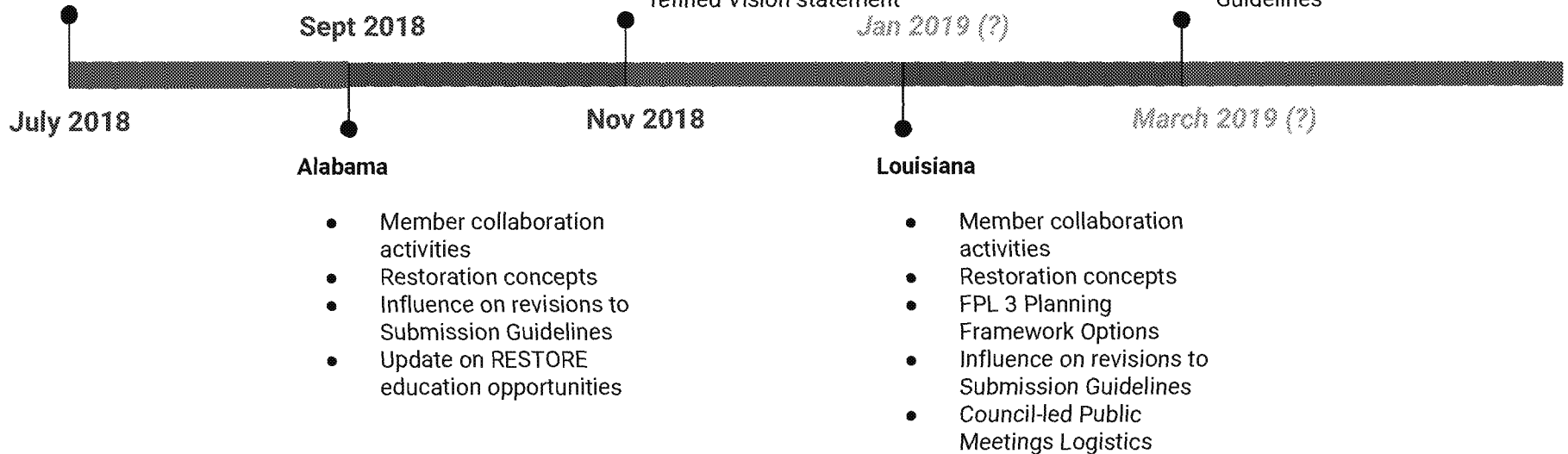
- Member collaboration activities
- Restoration concepts
- Influence on revisions to Submission Guidelines
- Discuss Public Webinar - FPL3 process

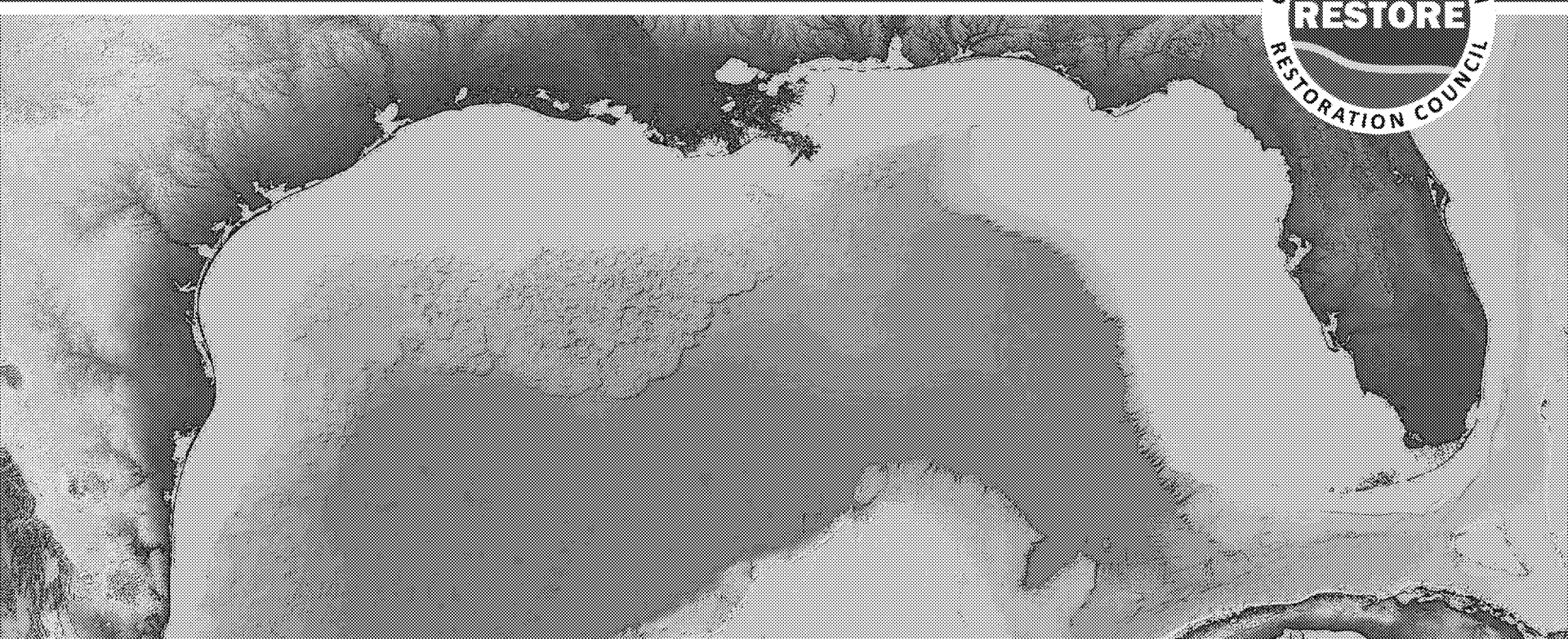
## Texas

- Member collaboration activities
- Restoration concepts
- Influence on revisions to Submission Guidelines
- Science review updates
- Council "Outcomes"/ refined Vision statement

## Florida

- Member collaboration activities
- Restoration concepts
- Approve draft FPL 3 Planning Framework
- Public Meetings Presentation
- Discuss draft Submission Guidelines





# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

## FPL3 Submission Guidelines and Review Process Update

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Staff Work Product – Subject to Council Approval



## FPL3 Submission Process & Collaboration

- **FPL3 process is built on collaboration**
  - Can improve both the efficiency of the FPL submission development and review process
  
- **Update of FPL submission guidelines and review process will incorporate:**
  - Lessons learned from Initial FPL and
  - Developments from FPL3 collaboration process
    - e.g., collaboration may lead to fewer, more integrated submissions, which in turn could facilitate submission review process



# FPL3 Submission Guidelines and Review Process

## **FPL Submission Guidelines - Guide members in the development of FPL submissions by describing:**

- Eligible activities
- Submission evaluation criteria
- Contents of submission packages
- Other info/requirements for effective submissions

## **FPL Submission Review Process - Describes how submissions will be reviewed by Council:**

- Consistency with Act, Comp Plan, including other Council priorities (e.g., FPL framework)
- Best Available Science review
- Environmental compliance “readiness” review



# Submission Guidelines and Review Process Update

## Purpose of Updates:

- Enhance efficiency and effectiveness of FPL process
- Incorporate lessons learned from Initial FPL
  - e.g., FPL funding categories, budgets, milestones...
- Address the Comprehensive Plan Update commitments
  - e.g., Collaboration, BAS, public engagement...
  - Incorporate future CMAWG monitoring and data management recommendations
  - Incorporate future PE Workgroup recommendations
- Account for BP settlement and future funding



## FPL3 Submission Guidelines Update

### Proposed Path Forward:

- Council staff drafts submission guidelines and review process updates
- Members review updates
  - Council staff addresses member comments
- Steering Committee approves updates
- Final submission guidelines and review process updates posted on Council website

### Proposed Completion Target: Spring 2019



## FPL Science Review Process Update

### 2016 Comp Plan Update Science Commitments:

- Updating the science review process questions
- Continued use of external reviewers for future FPL reviews
- Exploring the use of one or more science review panels

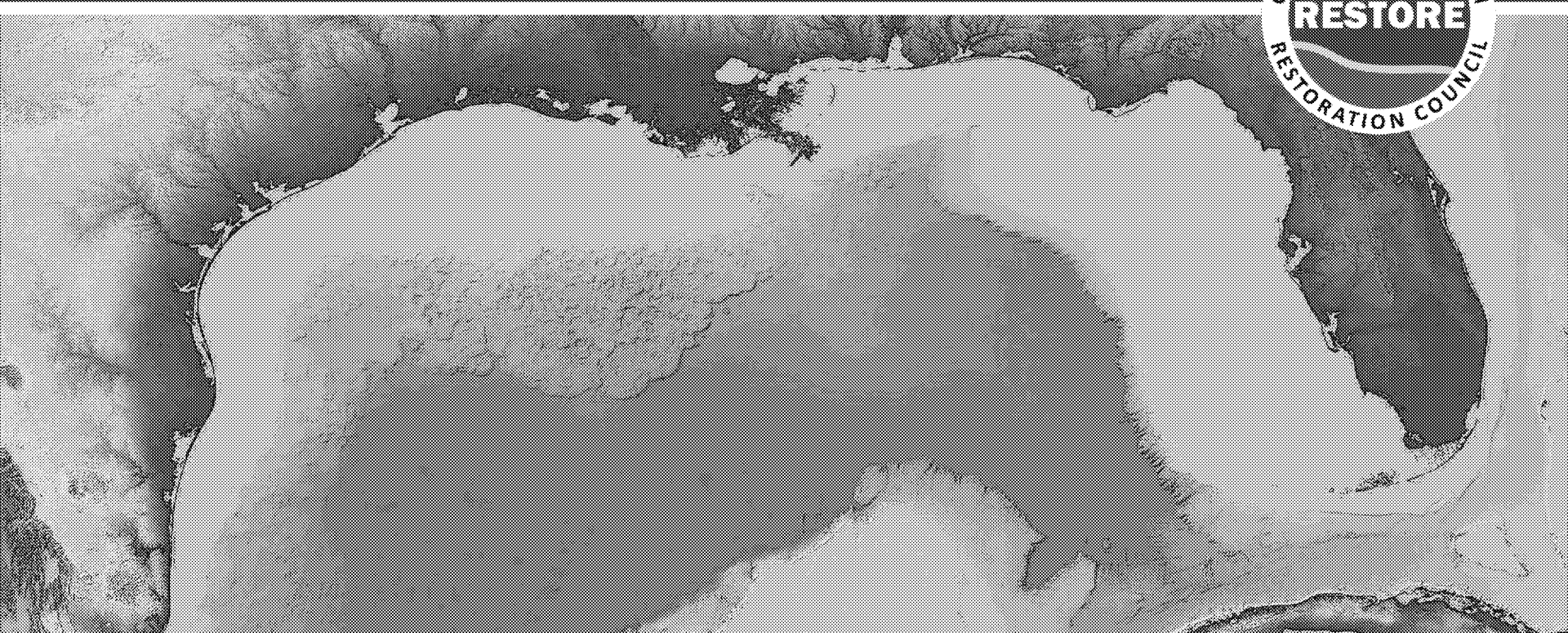


# FPL Science Review Process Update

## Proposed Path Forward:

- Council staff evaluate science review processes used by other restoration programs
- Members review approaches provided by Council staff
  - Council staff addresses member comments
- Steering Committee approves science review process update
- Final science review process updates posted on Council website

## Proposed Completion Target: Early 2019



# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

## FPL 3 Environmental Compliance Review

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Staff Work Product – Subject to Council Approval

19



## FPL Environmental Compliance

### Objectives:

- Review laws applicable to Bucket 2 funding approval
- Discuss opportunities for collaboration and efficiency in advance of FPL 3



## FPL Environmental Compliance: Background

- **FPL funding approval is a federal action**
- **Applicable laws (at funding approval stage):**
  - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
  - Endangered Species Act (ESA)
  - Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA)
  - National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
  - Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FCWA)
- **Apply to FPL implementation activities with environmental impacts**
  - ...as opposed to planning only
- **Other laws may apply at grant and/or implementation stage**
  - Often it is most efficient to address laws concurrently



## FPL Environmental Compliance: Background (cont.)

- **FPL submissions for implementation funds must include:**
  - NEPA documentation
  - Demonstration of compliance with other applicable laws (e.g., ESA, NHPA, MSA...)
- **To approve implementation funding:**
  - Council could adopt NEPA documentation (or use member Categorical Exclusion)
  - Ensure compliance with other applicable laws
- **Implementation activities not ready for funding approval can be placed in FPL Category 2**



## FPL Environmental Compliance: Examples

- **Example 1: FPL submission with existing Clean Water Act Section 404 permit**
  - As appropriate, Council could:
    - Adopt associated NEPA documentation, and
    - Include award condition requiring compliance with permit conditions (e.g., ESA, MSA, NHPA...)
  
- **Example 2: FPL submission for habitat conservation activity**
  - As appropriate, Council could:
    - Use member NEPA Categorical Exclusion (CE), and
    - Coordinate with members to ensure compliance with other potentially applicable laws
  
- **Example 3: FPL submission for planning only**
  - Council would use its planning CE



## FPL3 Environmental Compliance: Collaboration

- **Collaboration can improve FPL submissions and increase environmental compliance efficiency**
  - Incorporate interagency feedback and technical guidance at earliest opportunity
  - Determine if existing NEPA documentation, general permits, or consultations are applicable
    - e.g., existing member CE, PEIS, or NWP...
  - Determine what additional compliance needs must be met prior to submission
  - Leverage expertise of regulatory agencies
  - Ensure planning proposals have sufficient budget for future regulatory needs
- **CPS can be used for presubmission environmental compliance coordination**

*Please contact with Council staff with any questions.*



# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

## Education and Transparency

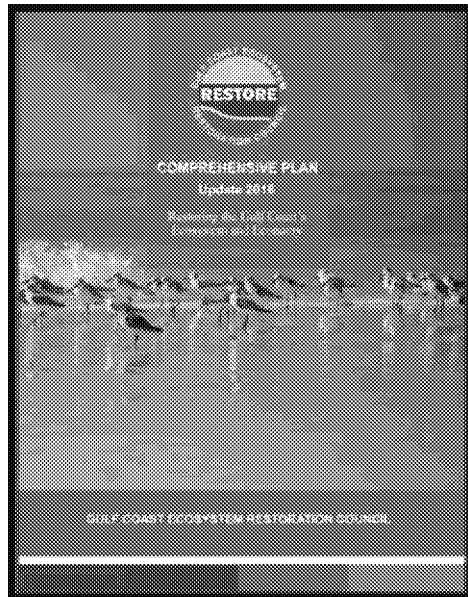
### April 24, 2018



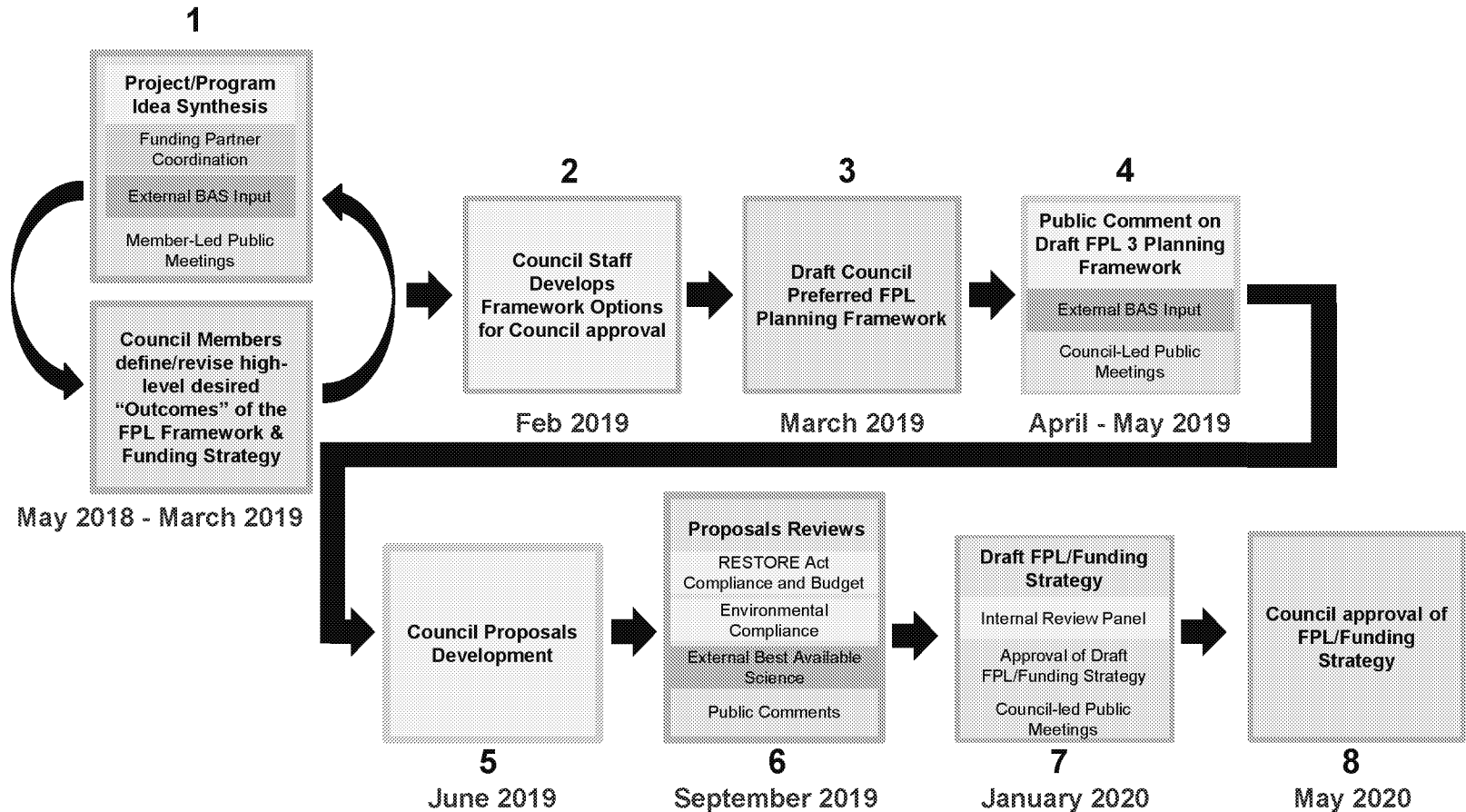
# Comprehensive Plan Update

## Commitment to Engagement, Inclusion, and Transparency

- Committed to setting and maintaining the highest standard for public engagement and transparency
- Seek broad participation and input from the diverse stakeholders who live, work, and play in the Gulf Coast region
- Support engagement with all stakeholders, including under-represented communities and federally-recognized Tribes
- Continue offering public engagement opportunities & ensure public participation
- Refine process for considering public input



# Revised Proposed FPL/10-Year Funding Strategy Timeline





# Public Engagement Roles & Responsibilities

- Educating stakeholders
- Coordinating with PE Workgroup
- Identifying outreach opportunities
  - Meetings/Conferences
  - Webinars
- Public Engagement Casework



# Stakeholders

- Develops cooperative relationships with stakeholders
  - Internal Stakeholders
    - Council Members/Steering Committee & Staff
    - Council Staff
  - External Stakeholders
    - Congressional Members/Staff
    - Federally recognized Tribes
    - Intergovernmental
    - Non Governmental Organizations
    - Media
    - General Public (including but not limited to limited English proficient and underserved/underrepresented communities)



# Effective Public Engagement

- Builds trust and improves communication between stakeholders and decision makers
- Creates new opportunities for transparency and stakeholders involvement in problem solving and decision making
  - Builds common understanding
  - Helps stakeholders weigh a variety of perspectives and listen to each other's views
  - Manages differences and establishes path forward on tough issues



# RESTORE eB

Secure | <https://www.restorethegulf.gov>



## RESTORETHEGULF.GOV

The official website of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

**MS State Expenditure Plan  
Amendment Recommended for  
Approval**

**Council Approves 2017 Annual  
Report to Congress**

**Council Approves 2017 Funded  
Priorities List (CPS FPL)**

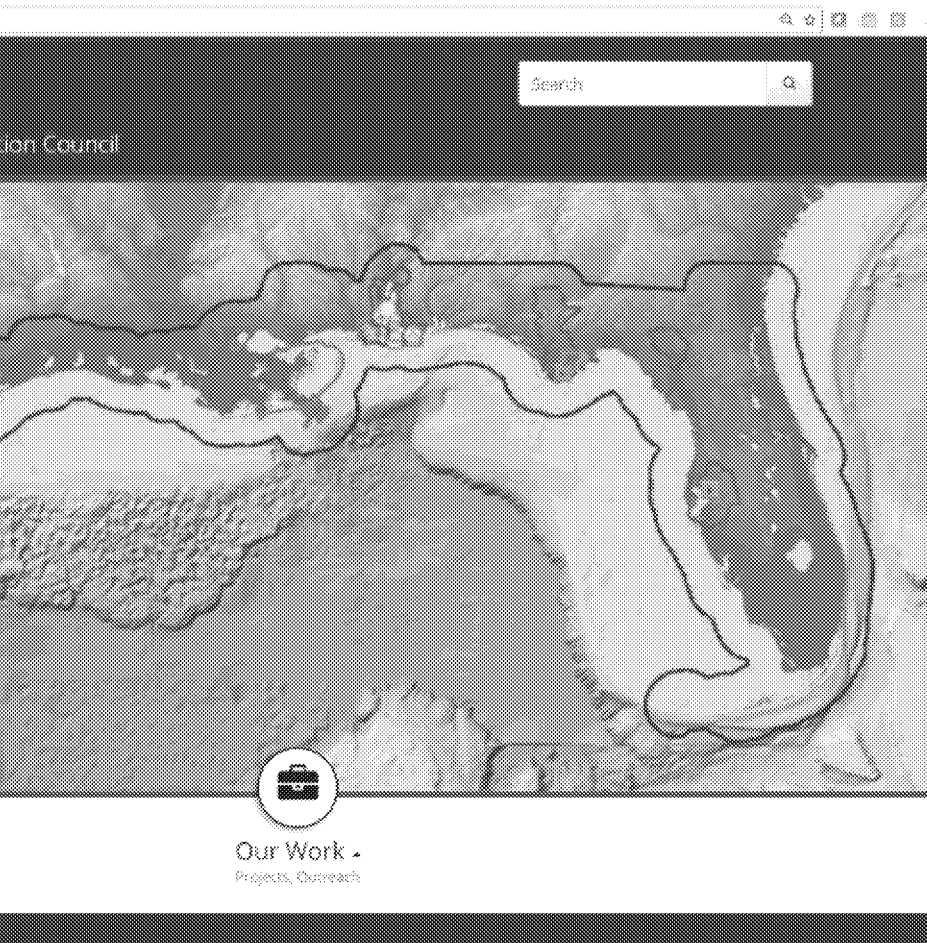
**Subscribe to RESTORE EBlasts**



**The Council •**

History, People, Resources

# Blasts Subscription





Press - Media Releases

Press releases/media advisories from the RESTORE Council Members and other related Gulf restoration efforts.

Gulf-wide

Gulf-wide updates from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida on projects awards, project amendments, RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts.

Texas

Updates on project awards, project amendments RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with the state of Texas.

Louisiana

Updates on project awards, project amendments RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with the state of Louisiana.

Mississippi

Updates on project awards, project amendments, RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with the state of Mississippi.

Alabama

Updates on project awards, project amendments RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with the state of Alabama.

Florida

Updates on project awards, project amendments, RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with the state of Florida.

Tribal

Updates on project awards, project amendments, RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with Federally Recognized Tribal lands.

Public Meetings or Public Comment Periods

Notification of public meetings or public comment periods from the RESTORE Council Members and other related Gulf restoration efforts.



# RESTORE eBlasts



GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL

Haie Boggs Federal Building  
500 Poydras Street  
Suite 1117  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
[www.RestoreTheGulf.gov](http://www.RestoreTheGulf.gov)

The State of Florida has completed the construction phase of the [Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration project](#) funded by the RESTORE Council. This \$4.7 million project is the first completed implementation phase of a project funded from the [Council-Selected Restoration Component's Initial Funded Priorities List](#). Approximately 85,000 cubic yards of lime rock material was taken by barge and placed in the bay waters on an estimated 317-acre area in Franklin County. This has provided a new base that larval oysters may naturally settle on and grow in size to maturity. Newly settled oyster larvae are referred to as oyster spat. This effort complements other oyster restoration projects within Apalachicola Bay, an area with nationally and regionally significant oyster reefs which have suffered from degradation. Oysters improve water quality through filtering out excess sediment and pollutants. Oyster beds provide habitat that sustains fish and other bay organisms.

Florida's Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will monitor the project by measuring the colonization and growth of oysters in the restored area over the next two years.

For more information on this project, contact Rachel Home [deepwaterhorizon@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:deepwaterhorizon@dep.state.fl.us).

We look forward to connecting with you!



[Click here to Unsubscribe.](#)





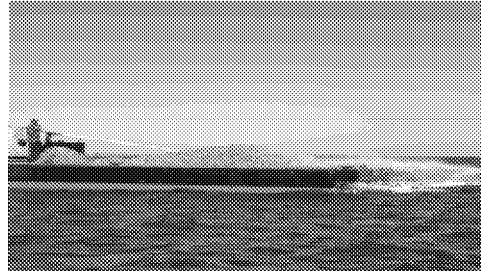
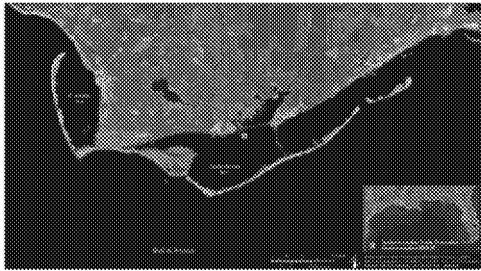
# RESTORETHEGULF.GOV

The official website of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

## RESTORATION COMPONENT

### Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration (implementation)

FPL #01



**Project Start Date**  
4/1/2017

**Project End Date**  
7/1/2020

**Award Amount**  
\$4,680,000.00

**Organization**  
Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection;

**Watershed**  
Apalachicola Bay Watershed

**Congressional Districts**  
FL-2

**State(s)**  
Florida

**Project Phase**  
Implementation

**Project ID**  
EGID 39



[Go to full gallery](#)

**Last Date Refreshed**  
02/27/2018

#### Project Abstract

The State of Florida has completed the construction phase of the Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration project funded by the RESTORE Council. This \$4.7 million project is the first completed implementation phase of a project funded from the Council-Selected Restoration Component's Initial Funded Priorities List. Approximately 95,000 cubic yards of lime rock material was taken by barge and placed in the bay waters on an estimated 317-acre area in Franklin County. This has provided a new base that larval oysters may naturally settle on and grow in size to maturity. Newly settled oyster larvae are referred to as oyster spat. This effort complements other oyster restoration projects within Apalachicola Bay, an area with nationally and regionally significant oyster reefs which have suffered from degradation. Oysters improve water quality through filtering out excess sediment and pollutants. Oyster beds provide habitat that sustains fish and other bay organisms.

Florida's Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will monitor the project by measuring the colonization and growth of oysters in the restored area over the next two years.

#### Contact

Rachel Home email: [deepwaterhorizon@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:deepwaterhorizon@dep.state.fl.us)

#### Budget

Award amount: \$4,680,000.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17FL0039



# Public Engagement Tools

## Current

- RESTORE eBlasts
- Products (Fact Sheets, FAQs, Talking Points)
- Project Pages
- Social Media
- Webinars
- Website

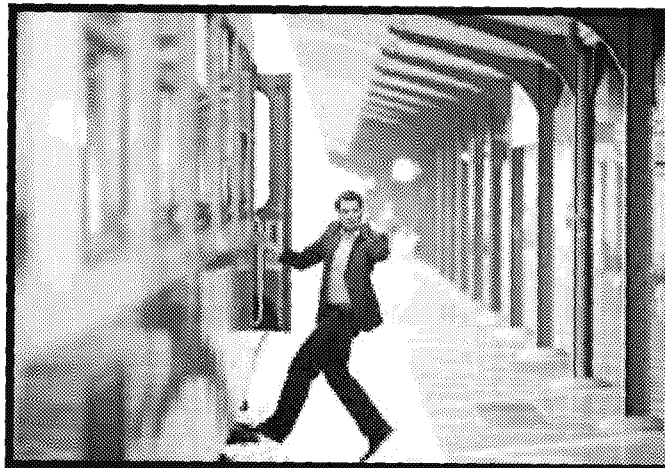
## Future

- RESTORE Education Opportunities



# Questions from the Public

How do I get money for lost wages?



Who is on the RESTORE Council?

Where do I submit my project/program?

When will the next FPL be released?

What is an "FPL"?

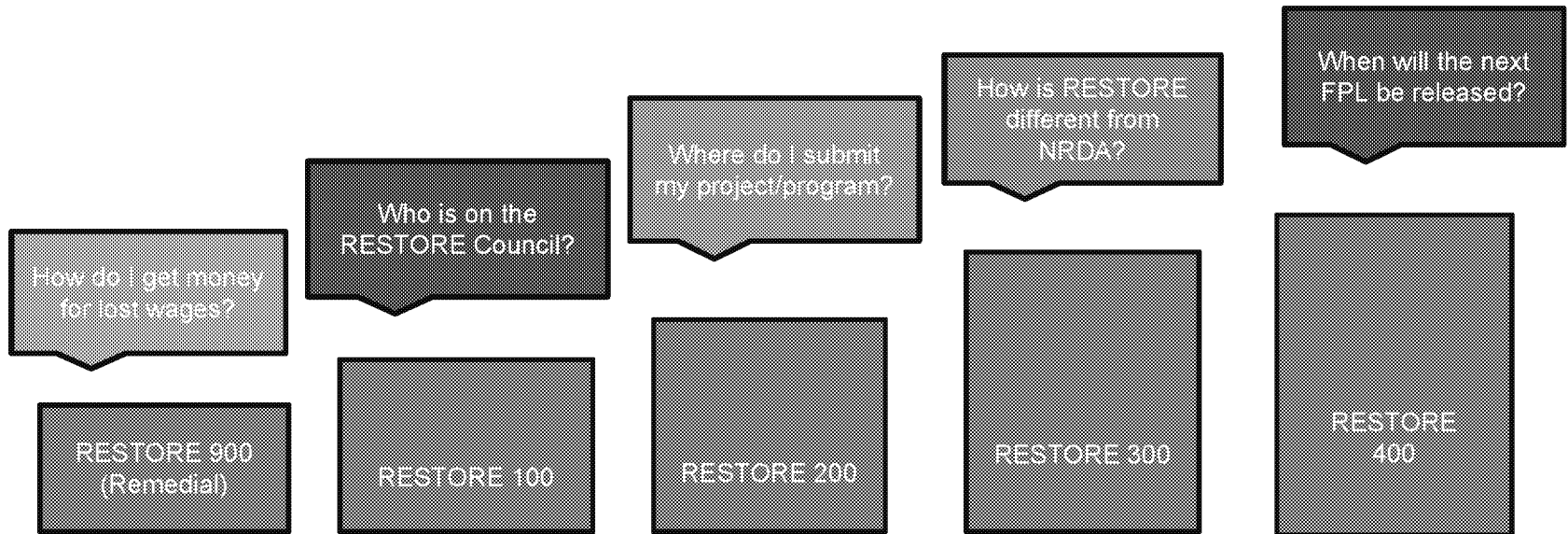
What is RESTORE?

I have health issues related to oil spill clean up...

How is RESTORE different from NRDA?



# Understanding RESTORE





# RESTORE Ed

## Who

- RESTORE staff
- Public Engagement Workgroup members
- Council Member representatives (as needed)

## What

- A series of 30 minute to 1 hour informal small group meetings



# Education Opportunities

## How

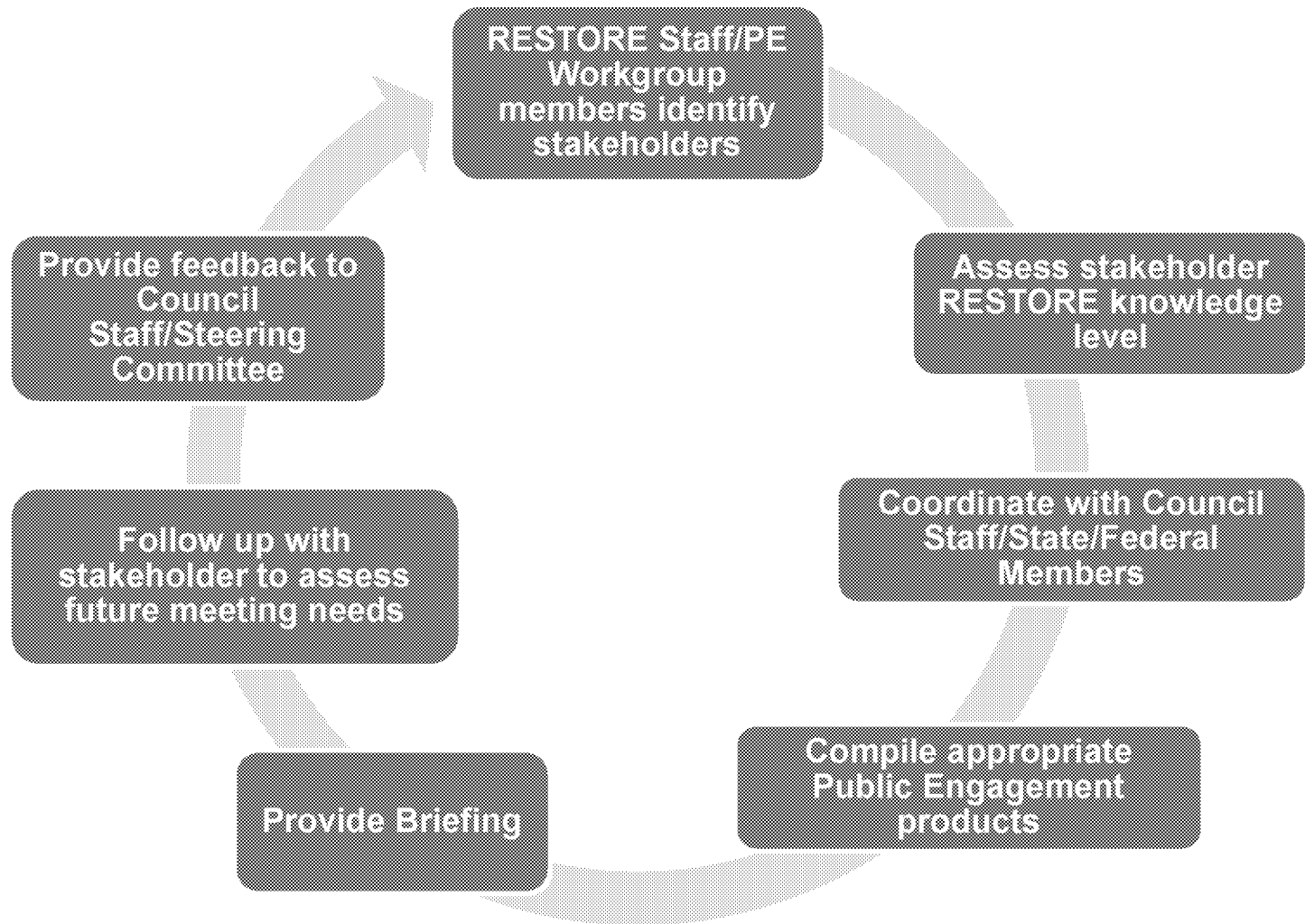
- Advertised on RESTORE website/eBlasts
- Pre-approved RESTORE/NRDA/NWFW products

## Where

- Previously scheduled meetings
- Faith based/Houses of worship
- Community centers
- Fairs/Festivals
- Restoration effort meetings
- Other partner identified venues



# RESTORE Education Opportunities





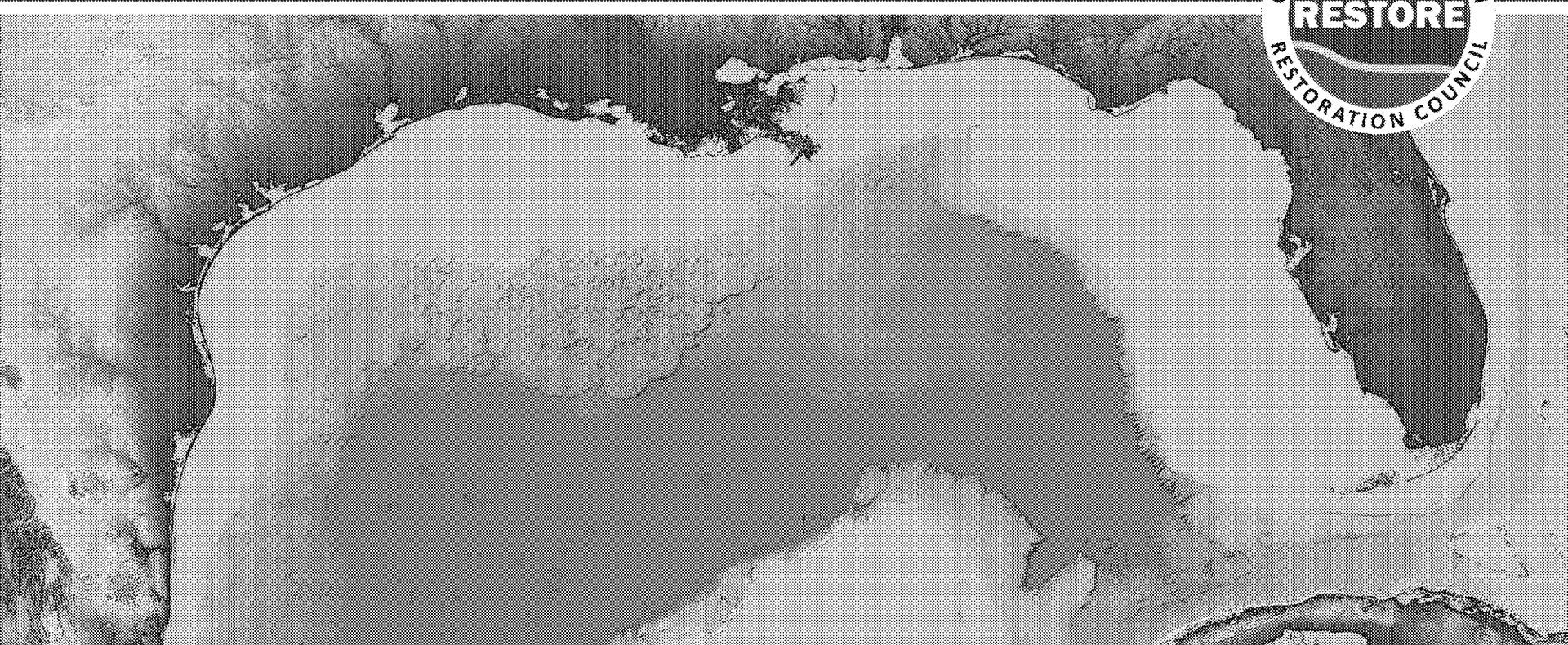
# Expected Results

- Supporting engagement with all stakeholders
- Increasing diversity of participants
- Increasing public engagement opportunities
- Ensuring public participation



# Council PE Workgroup Members

- Serve as POC for transparency of member activities
  - Project Page content/update
  - Develop member project award roll out
  - Public Meeting announcements
  - Member collaboration activities
  - CPS activities
- Participate in developing coordinated Council message
  - Enhance public knowledge of ongoing Council restoration activities/efforts
  - Communicate FPL/10 year funding strategy
  - RESTORE Council DWH 10 Anniversary strategy



# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Commitment and Planning Support (CPS) Year 4 Evaluation Process

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Staff Work Product – Subject to Council Approval

42



## CPS FPL Year 4 Evaluation - Purpose

**Per the CPS FPL, at Year-4, review the effectiveness of CPS Funds in:**

- Supporting Council members in meeting the Comprehensive Plan commitments
- Identifying future investments that maximize achievement of Gulf-wide restoration goals
- Considering whether extending planning and support efforts beyond the five-year period is needed to continue to meet the Comprehensive Plan commitments.

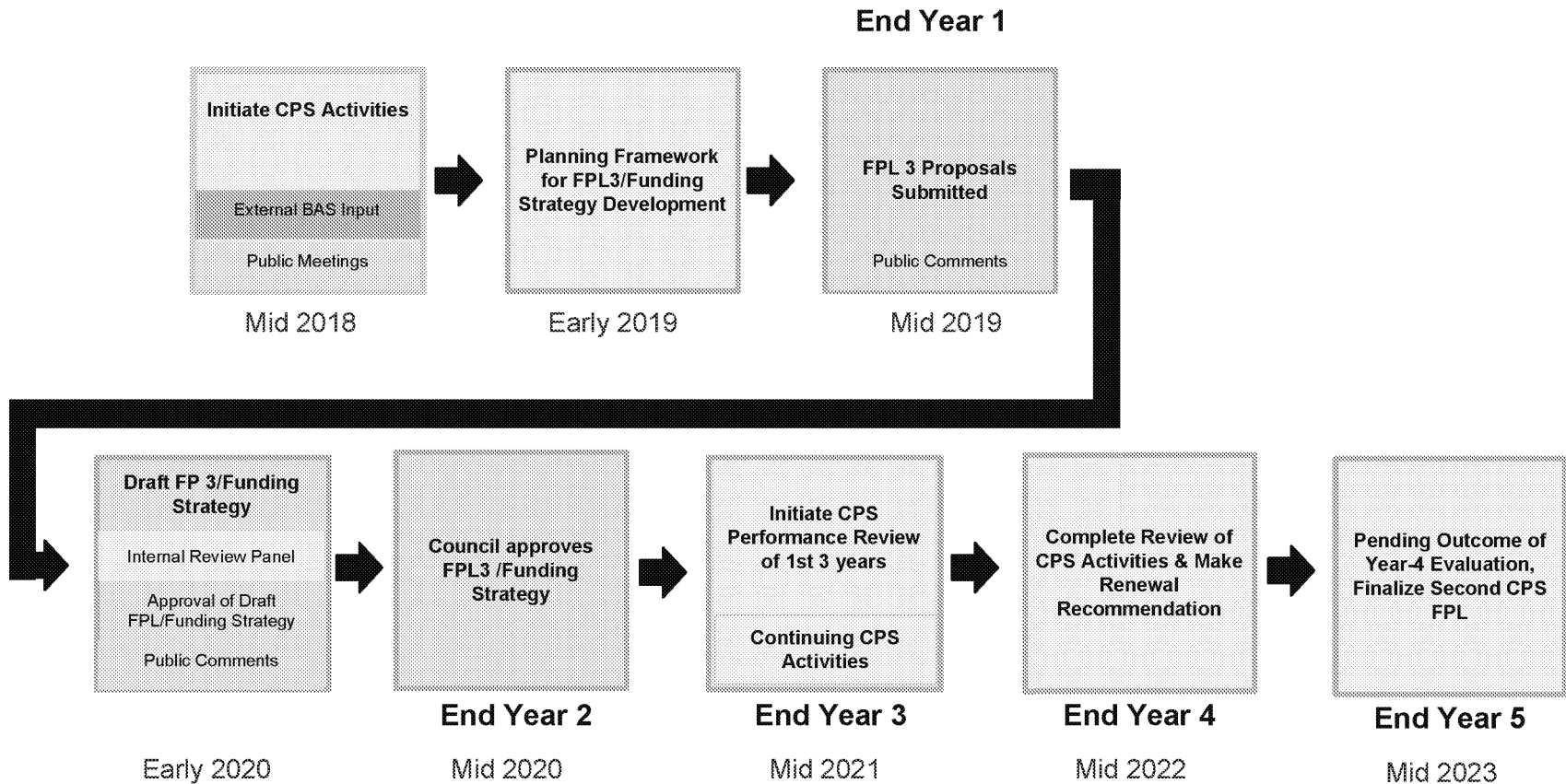


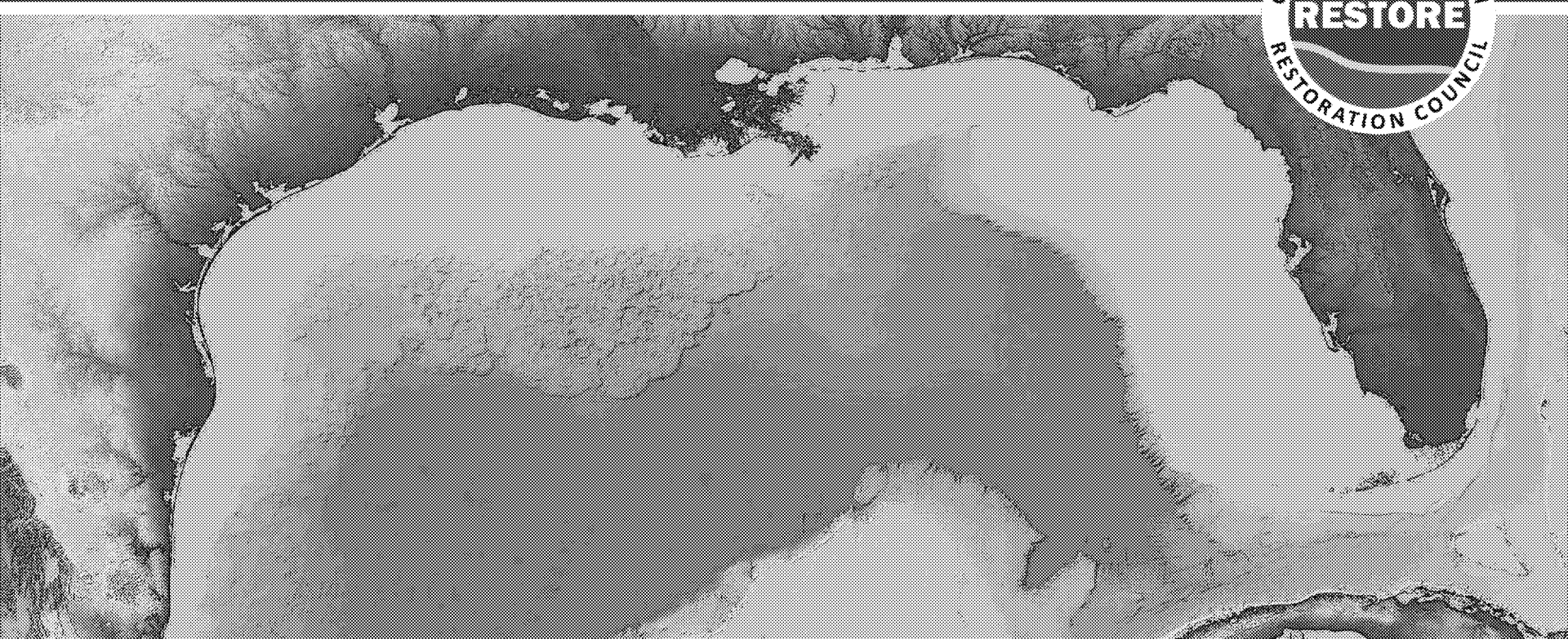
## Recommended Approach

- Use both qualitative and quantitative information to evaluate effectiveness
- Initiate evaluation at the beginning of Year 4, thereby evaluating the first 3 years of activities
- Evaluation would inform:
  - CPS FPL renewal determination
  - Whether revisions to parameters (e.g., funding amounts, allowable activities) are warranted
  - Any necessary revisions to commitments in the 2021 Comprehensive Plan update



# CPS Evaluation Timeline





# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

## Potential FPL Budget Shortfalls: Overview

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Staff Work Product – Subject to Council Approval



# Potential FPL Budget Shortfalls

- **Goal of presentation:**
  - Heads up to members regarding issue
  - Initial feedback/thoughts from members
- **Issue:** Members might request additional funds to cover budget shortfalls for approved FPL activities (pre- or post-award)
  - Due to unanticipated costs (materials, labor...)
  - Not uncommon in programs such as this
  - Council process needed for addressing such requests



# Potential Outcomes

- Amend FPL to increase funding to meet budget shortfall
- Determine alternative way to continue within approved budget (e.g., downsize project, alternative funding source(s) to cover shortfall)
- Deauthorize project and/or move it to consideration for funding in a subsequent FPL (could include termination of award)



# Policy and Process Elements

- **Council policy and process for potential budget shortfalls would need to address:**
  - Role of sponsor, Council staff and other members in reviewing matter and making recommendations to Council
  - Timing for considering such requests (e.g., ad hoc versus periodic Council meetings)
  - Budget considerations (e.g., funds for potential increases limited in some way)