



MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST

PRESS RELEASE
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Contact: Steven J. Raabe, P.E., Trustee
P.O. Box 1269
Poth, Texas 78147-1269
Phone: 361-200-1456
Website: www.mbmTrust.com
Email: Trustee@mbmTrust.com

MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST
ANNOUNCES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

On July 31, 2017, a federal Clean Water Act lawsuit was filed by San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper and S. Diane Wilson against Formosa Plastics Corp. alleging illegal discharges from Formosa's plant located in Point Comfort, Texas.

On June 27, 2019, the US District Court in Victoria issued a declaratory judgement against Formosa for monetary and injunctive relief after which a settlement was reached that included Formosa's commitment to undertake engineering changes, future monitoring, mitigation payments for future infractions, and remediation of past discharges. The settlement also provided for the 2020 establishment of an independent trust known as the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust, funded by Formosa, in the amount of \$50 million over a five-year period. The mission of the Trust is to support and fund environmental mitigation projects, studies, and initiatives in the Matagorda Bay and San Antonio Bay ecosystems.

In February 2020, Steven J. Raabe, P.E. was appointed as Trustee of the Trust.

Today, the Trustee announces the opening of its 2022-2023 Request for Proposals period where governmental and public educational entities, along with non-profit organizations, are invited to submit proposals for environmental mitigation projects, studies, as well as public education and access initiatives in the Matagorda Bay and San Antonio Bay ecosystems. The deadline for submitting proposals is October 17, 2022.

“In the 2022-2023 funding round our priorities will remain in the areas of public education, youth camps, public access improvement, environmental research and advocacy, as well as habitat restoration,” Raabe stated. He added, “our mission and purpose remain focused on studying and restoring the ecosystems of the Matagorda Bay and San Antonio Bay Systems, as well as the river deltas feeding into those systems.”

Since its inception in 2020, the Trust has entered into 30 contracts, totaling \$11,219,156, for a wide range of environmental projects in the Matagorda Bay and San Antonio Bay areas.

This current Request for Proposals is the third annual cycle to which Raabe states, “As we enter into the third year of our environmental investment program, we continue to be encouraged that this work will have a real and lasting impact on the future of our Bay Systems.”

Further information and proposal documents can be found on the Trust’s website at:

<https://mbmtrust.com/rfps/>

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