



**MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MATAGORDA BAY MITIGATION TRUST  
ANNOUNCES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR 2023-2024 FUNDING CYCLE**

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 2023-2024 Request for Proposals period where governmental and public educational entities, along with non-profit organizations, are invited to submit proposals for environmental mitigation projects, environmental studies, public education

and public access initiatives, habitat restoration, and environmental advocacy projects in the Matagorda Bay and San Antonio Bay ecosystems. The deadline for submitting proposals is 5PM, October 16, 2023.

“The funding priorities for this year’s funding round continue to be in the areas of public education, youth camps, public access improvement, environmental research and advocacy, as well as habitat restoration. 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,” Raabe stated.

Raabe, who has served as Trustee since the inception of the Trust, also stated, “This year we are issuing a general call for proposals for our stated priorities as well as a specific call for proposals for larger public access projects.”

For the general call for proposals, the maximum anticipated single project award amount is \$500,000.00. While there is no local match requirement, matching funds in the form of in-kind services or cash are desirable.

The specific call for proposals is for restoration projects that provide shoreline access to the non-boating public that are included in the 2023 General Land Office Coastal Resiliency Plan. The maximum anticipated single project award amount will be \$2,100,000.00, contingent upon the proposer receiving match funding for the remainder of the project costs within three years of award of Trust funding.

Since its inception in 2020, the Trust has awarded 48 contracts, totaling \$17,983,503, for a wide range of environmental projects in the Matagorda Bay and San Antonio Bay areas.

This current Request for Proposals is the fourth annual funding cycle to which Raabe states, “We continue to be encouraged that the Trust’s investment in these projects 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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