



MONROE COUNTY RESTORE ACT Project Funding Submittal Form

Purpose:

The RESTORE Act Project Submittal Form is designed to assist citizens, businesses and public or private organizations wishing to submit a project for consideration of funding from the RESTORE Act dollars allocated to Monroe County by the 2012 RESTORE Act.

Instructions:

- To be considered for RESTORE Act funding from Monroe County's RESTORE Act local allocation, or "local pot," you must complete this Project Funding Submittal Form and submit it electronically and hardcopy, by the due date: **AUGUST 30, 2013 AT 2:00 PM.** Late or incomplete submissions will not be reviewed.
- Please submit one complete Submittal Form per project; if you have multiple projects, please submit one Submittal Form for each project.
- A complete Submittal Form will consist of the following four sections:
 1. Application Cover Pages - please use the formatted cover pages included (questions 1-6);
 2. Project Budget - please use the budget form included;
 3. Application Narrative -Detailed Project Information (questions 7-18);
(For this portion, please provide responses on normal, letter size paper, 12 pt. font, and 1" margins; and paginate. Take as much space as needed for each question, but please keep responses as focused as possible. It may assist you to review all the questions before addressing any one question. Please be sure to respond to each question. If a question is not applicable, please indicate that.)
 4. Any additional documentation necessary to fully understand your project.
- Please submit completed form ELECTRONICALLY, as a single PDF document, to tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov. Once your Form is received, you will receive a confirmation email.
- Please submit completed HARD COPY Form to Lisa Tennyson, Office of Management and Budget, 1100 Simonton Street, Room 213, Key West Florida 33040.
- Please refer to the Monroe County RESTORE Act website for additional information. Questions can be directed to Lisa Tennyson by email at tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov.

Selection for Funding:

- Proposals will be evaluated based on these criteria: 1) need for and benefits of the project; 2) cost-effectiveness and financial feasibility; 3) technical feasibility/probability of success; 4) timeliness of implementation and completion; 5) consistency with approved public plans/public support; and 6) project management capacity.
- Applications received by the due date, and which meet at least one of the allowable uses, will be reviewed and scored by the members of the Monroe County Local Advisory Committee.
- The Committee will meet in one or more noticed, public meeting(s) (dates to be determined) to discuss, evaluate and rank project submissions.
- The list of ranked projects will be presented to the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners which will make the final decision on project awards.

General Information:

- All project awards are subject to availability and amount of local RESTORE Act dollars directed to Monroe County.
- All project awards will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and policies (auditing, reporting, procurement, transparency, etc.). Federal rules and regulations guiding RESTORE Act project award funding are still being developed by the US Treasury. All information provided herein is subject to further revision pending the development and adoption of these rules.
- All projects must have a direct benefit to Monroe County pursuant to one or more of the RESTORE Act criteria.
- Applicants certify that the information provided in their completed Submittal Forms and in any supporting documents, are true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief. Inaccuracies, omissions, or any other information found to be false may result in rejection of this application and project funding consideration.
- All Submittal Forms and supporting documentation are subject to discussion and public input at RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee meetings, public meetings, and the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners; and those submitting proposals may be requested to present their proposals or respond to questions at such meetings.
- Applicants may be requested to provide additional information or to complete a supplemental project proposal form.
- All forms and supporting documentation are public information and will be made available to the public pursuant to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and policies.
- Projects for funding from other RESTORE Act provisions should be submitted to the appropriate funding entity, (ie, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resource Damage Assessment, etc.) For additional information on other funding opportunities, visit the Department of Environmental Protection website at www.dep.
- Projects must meet at least one of the uses listed below. The list of allowable uses has been ranked in priority order by the Local Advisory Committee and is provided as a reference.

Monroe County RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee Ranking of Allowable Uses

Use	Rank
Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands	1
Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources	2
Infrastructure projects benefitting economy or ecological resources	3
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf region, including recreational fishing	4
Workforce development and job creation	5
Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure	6
Improvements to state parks affected by Deepwater Horizon oil spill	6
Implementation of federally approved marine/coastal management plan	8
Promotion of consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region	9
Planning Assistance	10

APPLICATION COVER PAGE – 1 OF 2 (PROJECT BASIC CRITERIA)

Section 1: Application Cover Page; Basic Criteria

Please use this page, or re-create as is.

1. **PROJECT TYPE:** *(As mandated by the RESTORE Act, funds may only be used for one or more of the allowable uses listed below, which the County cannot amend or change. Carefully review each criteria listed below and determine if your project will achieve one or more of the allowable uses below. Projects that do not meet at least one of the allowable uses below will not be considered for funding. Check all that apply.)*

- Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region.
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
- Implementation of a federally approved marine/coastal management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- Workforce development and job creation.
- Improvements to or on state parks in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

XX Infrastructure projects benefitting economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.

XX Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.

- Planning assistance.
- Activities to promote tourism and seafood in the Gulf Coast region, for one or more of the following:
 - Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Region, including recreational fishing.
 - Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region.

2. **CONTACT INFORMATION:** *(Include at least one name, phone number, email address, and organization name if applicable)*

- Organization: Monroe County, FL (the Florida Keys)
- Address: 1100 Simonton Street
- City, State, Zip Code: Key West, FL 33040
- Contact Person
 - Name: Kevin G. Wilson, P.E.
 - Title: Director, Public Works & Engineering Division
 - Phone: 305 / 453-8797
 - Email Address: Wilson-kevin@monroecounty-fl.gov

APPLICATION COVER PAGE – 2 OF 2 (PROJECT SUMMARY)

Section 2. Application Cover Page; Project Summary Information

Please utilize this sheet or re-create, but keep format as is.

3. Project Name: *(Provide a short, succinct title for the project)*

Water Quality Improvement through Storm Water Retrofitting

4. Project Executive Summary: *(Provide a concise summary or abstract in the space below; do not exceed the space below.)*

Monroe County proposes to construct and implement storm water retrofit projects in the Florida Keys, including those contained in the in the Monroe County *Storm Water Management Master Plan (SMMP)* (available on the Monroe County website) and others identified by the County staff. Some of the improvements respond to federal and state mandates. When completed, the project will reduce the negative economic and quality of life effects of uncontrolled storm water retention. result in reduced sediment and nutrient loading to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, improved water quality in the Sanctuary, and compliance with mandatory state water quality standards

The Water Quality Action Plan (WQAP) of the FKNMS identifies priorities for local entities to implement solutions to restore healthy water quality in Sanctuary waters. Storm water control is addressed in *Strategy W.11, Storm water Retrofitting, of Activity No. 1*, which calls for using engineering methods including structures to control storm water runoff. This proposed project would go far in implementing the WQAP of the Sanctuary.

5. Range of Benefit: Does this project have a

- Local benefit?
- Keys-wide benefit?
- Regional benefit?
- Gulf-wide benefit?

(Provide the location of the project and a brief description of the area that is benefiting; do not exceed the space below.)

The project includes stormwater retrofits located throughout the entire Florida Keys, in unincorporated Monroe County, Florida.

6. Project Cost: *(Provide the actual/estimated project cost, the amount being requested with this submission, and the amount of match committed to the project from any source. Please make clear the total project cost and the amount you are requesting. There is an opportunity to provide detailed cost/request/match information in the narrative section (see question 8.)*

• Total Project Cost:	\$ <u>4,200,000</u>	
• RESTORE Request Amount:	\$ <u>3,000,000</u>	% of project cost: <u>71</u>
• Secured Cash Match (committed funding from other sources):	\$ <u>1,200,000</u>	% of project cost: <u>29</u>
• In-kind Match value:	\$ _____	% of project cost: _____
• Funding Gap:	\$ _____	% of project cost: _____
• Anticipated Cash Match (potential funding from other sources)*:	\$ _____	% of project cost: _____

**These funds must be secured within 1 year of project award.*

APPLICATION PROJECT BUDGET

Section 3. Project Budget

PROJECT BUDGET		FUNDING		
Activity/ Item	Cost	Anticipated RESTORE Funding	Cash Match	In-kind Match
Planning/Design/Permitting				
	\$ 400,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 100,000	
Administration*:	\$			\$
Planning Subtotal:	\$ 400,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 100,000	
Construction or Project Activity(ies)				
Construction of Storm water controls	\$3,800,000	\$2,700,000	\$1,100,000	
Administration*:	\$			\$
Construction Subtotal:	\$3,800,000	\$2,700,000	\$1,100,000	\$
Monitoring				
Administration*:				
Monitoring Subtotal:				
Project Cost				
Total Administration*:	\$			\$
TOTAL Project Cost:	\$4,200,000	\$3,000,000	\$1,200,000	\$

Estimated Costs by Year	
Year 1	\$1,218,000
Year 2	\$1,218,000
Year 3	\$ 588,000
Year 4	\$ 588,000
Year 5	\$ 588,000
Year 6	

*Notes: Only complete the sections of the budget that are applicable for your project. Please refer to question 8 to provide further explanation of budget details. *The RESTORE Act places a total 3% cap on administrative expenses. We are uncertain at this point how this will be applied, how "administration" will be defined or assigned, or whether projects may even be able to include administration. We are waiting on further guidance from US Treasury rules to define this. Please keep this in mind as you develop your budget. Administrative costs typically include but may not be limited to overhead costs for basic operational functions (insurance, utilities), as well as costs associated with admin staff such as accountants, legal, etc.*

APPLICATION QUESTIONS – DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

Section 4. Application Narrative; Detailed Project Information

Please respond clearly and specifically to each of the following questions. Use 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, and pagination, to aid in readability. There is no page limit, but please be as brief as possible. To complete your submission, please attach your response to these questions to the application cover pages and the budget page.

7. Project Description:

While most studies have identified wastewater impacts as a major controllable source of pollutants affecting the environment, stormwater runoff has also been identified as a significant source. Therefore, the County is proposing that stormwater retrofit projects be constructed and implemented, that will reduce the sediment and nutrient loading of near shore waters resulting from stormwater runoff. The total estimated cost to retrofit 100% of urban areas with stormwater structures within the entire Keys is \$465 million. The project proposed for funding is implementation of stormwater retrofits at the highest priority stormwater problem areas within Unincorporated Monroe County. The SMMP identified 11 high priority problem areas that are shown in SMMP Table 4.2.1 (included below)

Monroe County
Stormwater Management Master Plan
Section 4.0 - Strategies and Solutions

**Table 4.2-1
Monroe County Stormwater Management Master Plan
Summary of Retrofit Costs For Unincorporated Monroe County**

Problem Area	Study Area	Rank	Description of Improvement	Estimated Cost
Saddlebunch Bike Trail - FDEP	Saddlebunch	2	Vegetated swales along one or both sides of road	\$445,900
Bahia Honda Bike Trail - FDEP	Bahia Honda	2	Vegetated swales along both sides of road	\$437,700
US1 Rockland Channel to Shark Channel	Big Coppitt	2	Vegetated swales along road, porous pavement	\$543,500
US1 Big Coppitt Boat Ramp	Big Coppitt	2	Berm with vegetated swales	\$43,000
US1 Boca Chica Channel to Rockland Channel	Boca Chica	2	Median to vegetated swale, swales along road, porous pavement	\$1,128,700
US1 Bayside Parking Area at MM66	Long Key	2	Vegetated swale, regrading	\$18,900
US1 Oceanside and Bayside Parking Areas at MM 77.5	Lower Matecumbe	2	Vegetated berm on both sides of road	\$2,600
US1 North Hams Channel to Park Channel	Lower Sugarloaf	2	Vegetated swales along road, porous pavement	\$418,000
US1 Bow Channel to East Side of Cudjoe Key	Cudjoe Key	2	Vegetated swales along road, porous pavement	\$1,045,100
US1 Indian Key - Bayside Parking Area at MM 78	Lower Matecumbe	2	Vegetated berm	\$2,100
Safe Harbor (Example Private Marina)	Stock Island	3	General cleanup, source controls, vegetated swales	\$361,100
Total Retrofit				\$4,444,600

These retrofits focus on easy to install vegetated swales and berms alongside the major thoroughfare, US 1.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has determined that the water quality is impaired in multiple water bodies (WBIDS) throughout the Florida Keys. The Florida Keys Reasonable Assurance Documentation Update of 2011 (FKRAD Update) <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/docs/bmap/keys-rad-update-2011.pdf> outlined extensive wastewater and stormwater restoration activities to address the nutrient impairments from these sources. Since stormwater runoff from County roads flows directly to nearshore Outstanding Florida Waters in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), where DEP adopted a “zero-degradation” policy for marine waters, addressing on-going stormwater runoff is of utmost importance.

County staff has identified additional locations including five in the Lower Keys, one in the Middle Keys, and three in the Upper Keys as the worst locations for local flooding. They have identified another 20 locations throughout the County as areas affected by both storm water and tidal flooding. All of these areas frequently restrict traffic, prevent access to neighborhoods and cause property damage during the worst events. The proposed work will reduce or eliminate flooding due to storm and tidal events and avoid the direct discharge of contaminated runoff by applying best management practices identified by the FDEP. By reducing or eliminating standing water on the County’s roads, the life expectancy of existing road surfaces will be extended.

Maximum 20 pts. How important is this project in terms of the need it meets and the goals it is seeking to achieve? How critical is the need it addresses? Is the need supported by data/facts? Is this project likely to meet its goals? Is the project approach organized and well thought out?

8. Budget Narrative/Financial Feasibility/Cost-Effectiveness:

- The costs estimates of \$3 million is based upon a conceptual estimate from a County consultant that the initial nine locations will cost \$1.5 million and an internal County staff estimate for the additional 20 sites will exceed \$1.5 million.
- The funds will be used for design, permitting, and construction.
- The project will benefit from “in kind” contribution in the form of County staff time.
- The project has been conceived as a series of smaller projects so that the funds can be allocated to as many as can be accommodated within the authorized funding.
- The elimination of standing water (from any source) reduces the chance the road surface will be compromised.
- Receipt \$3 million of RESTORE Act funds for stormwater retrofits and drainage will be leveraged with additional County funds to improve the road surfaces and, hence, this grant will have a multiplier effect on infrastructure development.

Maximum 15 pts. Several things will be evaluated with respect to the budget including match value, financial feasibility and cost-effectiveness.

- 9. Technical Feasibility:** The technologies to be implemented are well established best management practices. The project will use an appropriate combination of injection wells, French drains, soakage pits, and surface swales. The combination of technologies applied in each location will be determined by site specific reviews including, but no limited to, measurement of percolation rates, reviews of historic surface water and tidal data, and projections for sea level rise adopted in the County’s comprehensive plan.

Maximum 5 pts. Is this approach likely to work?

- 10. Readiness for Implementation/Permitting Considerations:** The County is already negotiating a design contract for the initial nine sites. As soon as a contract is concluded the design can begin. The extent of the work depends on funds available. The design duration depends on the number of sites selected and, in turn, on the funds available. The design and construction is expected to span 12 months including permit acquisition (time frame uncertain) and competitive bidding.

Maximum 10 pts. Is the timeframe realistic? Is the permitting achievable? Is the timeframe acceptable?

11. Project Completion Timetable:

Approval of a design contract for the initial sites can be in place within two months of funding

Design (including appropriate surveys) may require 6 months.

Competitive bidding for construction and approval of a construction contract will require 3 months.

Construction will span 3-4 months.

Phase 2 will require a similar time frame with a start date approximately 3 months behind the initial sites.

Subsequent phases will follow similar time lines as additional sites are assessed. This is an ongoing effort of the Public Works & Engineering Division.

Maximum 10 pts. Timeframe realistic? Is the timeframe acceptable?

12. Environmental Benefits:

The benefits of these projects fall into two categories – effect of reduced flooding on neighborhoods and long term environmental benefits.

Benefits of reduced flooding:

Immediate benefits of this project will be improved usability of the neighborhoods in which the work will be implemented. The reduction of standing surface water will be immediate upon implementation of this project. Long term maintenance and sustainability of the project relies upon the existing County budget in which maintenance of drainage structures is a routine portion. The budget shortfall is in the addition of more structures not in maintenance of structures. The major benefit of adding structures in those areas of the County identified is in improving the drainage in low lying areas of the County which will improve the quality of the road.

Benefits to Natural Resources:

This project will reduce nutrient and pollutant loading to the FKNMS, improve water quality in the Sanctuary, in support of the goals and objectives of the FKNMS Water Quality Protection Program, Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act (FKWQIA) and the FKWQIP, and in compliance with relevant federal and state regulatory requirements and mandates.

This project will improve water quality with benefits for seagrass beds and hardbottom communities dominated by corals, sponges, and other invertebrates. This nearshore environment provides critical nursery habitat for finfish and shellfish stocks including snapper, grouper, pink shrimp, and spiny lobster. Recreationally targeted species such as bonefish, permit, and tarpon will also benefit. The project will help federally listed species including sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, staghorn coral, and other protected species including manatee, brown pelican and many other bird species.

The near shore tidal waters of the Florida Keys are a fragile, extremely valuable and unique network of interconnected ecosystems. Where the near shore seafloor is rocky, southern Florida and the Florida Keys support the only living coral reef system in the continental United States. Areas where the seashore is sandy or muddy play host to dense and extensive beds of turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*) and other seagrasses. Both coral reef areas and seagrass beds provide critical nursery and feeding habitat for many commercially valuable fish and shellfish species, including the snapper, grouper, red drum, stone crab, spiny lobster, and queen conch. Both coral reef habitat and seagrass beds are considered *Essential Fish Habitat in the Florida Keys* due to the critical importance that these habitats have not only for commercially important fisheries species, but also for the West Indian manatee, many species of sea turtles, acroporid corals, small-toothed sawfish, and other marine species listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA).

This unique ecosystem provides unparalleled support to fisheries and essential habitats throughout Florida and the Gulf of Mexico. According to NOAA's Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Revised Management Plan (2007), it provides critical spawning habitats to over 520 species of recreational and commercial migratory, endemic, coastal & pelagic finfish and shellfish. According to the US Army Corps' Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Program Management Plan (2006), the Keys' waters provides habitat for 80 percent of the fish species in the U.S., and most commercially valuable fish species depend on Monroe County nearshore waters at some point during their development.

Coral reef and seagrass bed health is directly linked to near shore marine water quality. Both corals and seagrasses thrive in areas where water is clear (low turbidity), low in nutrients, and high in dissolved oxygen (DO). High levels of nutrients and low DO have been directly linked to extensive die-off in coral reefs in the coastal waters of Puerto Rico and Jamaica. Similarly, seagrasses show die-back in areas where turbidity and nutrients are high, favoring the growth of algae that can smother seagrasses. Therefore, the quality of stormwater runoff into the near shore waters of the Keys can have a direct effect – positive or negative - on the health of these critical near shore

resources. The proposed stormwater improvements will reduce sediment and pollutant loadings.

The health of near shore essential fish habitat has been negatively affected by oil spills and other human activity in the Gulf of Mexico, and low water quality output from untreated stormwater runoff represents a long-term cumulative impact on these resources. Stormwater management improvements will help to reverse this trend and better protect nursery habitat for species covered under the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act*.

Maximum 10 pts. *Are the benefits impactful? Do the benefits address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits? Does the project have long-term sustainability?*

13. Economic Benefits:

Residents: Improved drainage will eliminate property damage to both the road beds and the adjoining private property. Elimination of standing water on roads reduces the incidence of residents that miss work or other commitments due an inability to get in or out of their neighborhoods. The one time improvement will be maintained by County staff and results in a long term improvement. The improved drainage make the neighborhoods more attractive and may result in some increase in property values. Increases in property values has an economic benefit to the residents but also leads to an increase in the taxable value and, thus increased revenues for the government through property taxes.

Any improvements to the near shore waters also benefits the economy of the Florida Keys because Monroe County is the only county in Florida, and Florida is the only state on the Gulf Coast, with a barrier reef. The coral reef tract in the Florida Keys is the third largest in the world, and the only living reef in the continental US. This reef environment generates more than 70,000 jobs and \$6 billion dollars in economic activity annually, according to a study Monroe County Application published in 2005 by the University of Miami. (Towards Sustainable Multispecies Fisheries in the Florida, USA, Coral Reef Ecosystem, Bulletin of Marine Science, 2005; Ault, Jerald, et al.)

Tourism: The quality of life for tourists in the Florida Keys relies on a healthy marine ecosystem and can be negatively impacted by water quality degradation. Over two million individuals per year visit the Florida Keys to enjoy its unique natural features. Water related activities, including snorkeling, diving, fishing, and other activities support 70 percent of tourism in the Florida Keys, which generates over \$2.3 billion per year and supports over 33,000 jobs (NOAA, FKNMS Socioeconomics Factsheet).

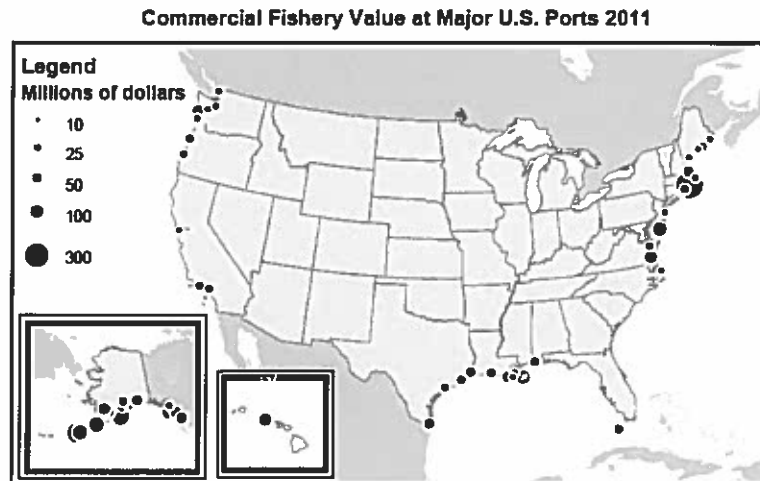
From 2007 to 2008, more than 400,000 visitors and residents of the Florida Keys engaged in over 2M person-days of recreational sports fishing. These recreational fishers spend \$262M in Monroe County, approximately \$103M of which was directly spent on fishing items (NOAA, FKNMS Socioeconomics Factsheet).

Approximately 739,000 visitors and residents participated in 2.8 million days of diving in the Florida Keys between 2007-2008; \$51.7M was spent at diving/snorkeling operations. Moreover, divers spend a total of \$450M in Monroe County, Florida Keys, supporting more than 7,500 jobs. (NOAA, FKNMS Socioeconomics Factsheet).

Recreational and Commercial Fishing: The Florida Keys ecosystem is home to 520 fish species, including over 260 species of reef fish, as well as spiny lobster and stone crabs that support valuable commercial and recreational fishing economic activity. The Keys are considered 'fishing capital of the world', generating hundreds of world records and billions of dollars of economic impact, in addition to providing well-known habitats and spawning grounds for many of the commercially and recreationally-

harvested fish species that populate the Gulf.

With the highest number of recognized International Game Fish Association (IGFA) all tackle, saltwater line class, and saltwater fly rod "World Record Game Fish" records, Monroe County is the global center of recreational and sport fishing. We are home to the 13th most valuable port the nation and the 5th most valuable port in the Gulf of Mexico, according to NOAA's Fisheries of the United States, 2011, dated August 2012. Monroe County is the only port in the entire state of Florida to rank among the nation's top 50 ports in landings tonnage (14M pounds) or landings value (\$56M). A map of ports of major value, from the report follows:



Environmental Justice: Nearly 25 percent of population within the Service Area is made up of individuals regarded as either low income or over 65 years of age. Approximately 7.7 percent of the population was living below the poverty level in 2008, and the portion of residents over the age of 65 is estimated to be approximately the same as that of the county and state (14.7 percent and 17.6 percent, respectively). This segment of the population often lives on fixed incomes and, while their income may not be below the poverty level, they are affected by cost of living changes. These factors suggest that the majority of the residents within the Service Area are above poverty levels. There will be minimal impacts to residents associated with the costs of the Stormwater Restoration.

Maximum 10 pts. Level of benefits? Do they address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits? Does the project have long-term sustainability?

14. Community Economic and/or Environmental Resilience Benefits:

The project proposed is a direct reduction in local flooding and consequently improves accessibility of these areas during storm events because it reduces or eliminates local flooding. Since it improves neighborhood access during storms, it also simplifies emergency access and / or evacuation and reduces local private property damage.

The strength and stability of the local economy is integral to community resilience. The 3 million annual visitors to the Florida Keys provide the basis of the tourism industry on which the economy relies. Tourism is based on clean water and beaches as well as the abundant fish and wildlife that characterize this popular vacation destination. Consequently, potential economic impacts of the proposed projects must be considered when evaluating community resilience.

Maximum 5 pts. Level of benefits? Do they address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits?

15. **Complements to Existing Efforts/Public Acceptance:**

The work proposed is an extension of work already planned by the County. The County's resources are limited and the proposed project would allow a more accelerated implementation than would be otherwise possible. The individual items proposed are updates on the existing storm water master plans originally developed more than ten years ago and not completely implemented for lack of resources. All of the individual projects identified were based on local resident and County staff observations. All of the identified locations have at some point been the subject of local resident requests for improvements. As a result no local resident objections are expected.

5 pts. Does the project align with county and/or municipal priorities? Is there clear public support?

16. **Compliance with Federal, State, Local Regulations:**

Improved drainage projects are all designed in accordance with the Local government standards and will be permitted by local authorities and SFWMD and FDEP as required.

No points awarded, since compliance with regulations is a requirement.

17. **Project Management Capacity:**

Project management will be by the Public Works & Engineering Division of the County. The County's Engineering Department has extensive experience implementing projects with FDOT & FHWA funds. The Department has in the past received very high praise for its management of those funds and had consistently laudatory comments by the funding agencies auditors. Recent project successes have included several County bridge projects(Geiger Key, No Name Key, Tom's Harbor) and current design projects (CR905 bike lanes, US-1 shared use path, Card Sound bridge design).

Maximum 10 pts. Does the organization or sponsor have the demonstrated ability and experience to implement/administer this project, and deliver on the outcomes?

18. **Additional Information:**

Letter of support from Sean Morton, Superintendent, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS)
(see following page)

Map of the Florida Keys (below)





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
33 East Quay Road
Key West, FL 33040

March 12, 2013

Mayor George Neugent
Monroe County Board of County Commissioners
25 Ships Way
Big Pine Key, FL 33043

Kevin Claridge
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas / Director
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 235
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to provide the support of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for two applications for proposed water quality infrastructure improvement and restoration in the Florida Keys. Funding for these projects would address and implement the Water Quality Action Plan from the 2007 Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan.

The Water Quality Action Plan identifies priorities for local, state and federal entities to implement solutions to restore healthy water quality in sanctuary waters. Building regional treatment plants, including one to serve the Cudjoe Key region is a component of Activity No. 3, Implement a Master Plan, described in Strategy W.3 Addressing Wastewater Management Systems, in the Water Quality Action Plan.

Reducing pollution from storm water runoff is another high priority action item from the Water Quality Action Plan. Stormwater is addressed in Strategy W.11, Stormwater Retrofitting, of the and Activity No. 1 which calls for using engineering methods including structures to control storm water runoff. Canal restoration is critical item identified in Strategy W.10, Addressing Canal Water Quality, and Activities Nos. 1 through 7 describe the need to conduct pilot restoration projects and implement technologies designed to improve canal water quality.

The Management Plan and Water Quality Action Plan were developed after extensive public input, support from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and adopted by the State of Florida and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 2007. The proposed projects would go far in implementing the Sanctuary's goals and should be considered a high priority for the Sanctuary and the Florida Keys community.

Sincerely,

Sean Morton
Superintendent

