

Norton Way (2 acres), Perimeter Road (33 acres), Mill Street (19 acres), Central Avenue (32 acres), and 300 South Tippecanoe Avenue at East Mill Street (88 acres); Site 5 (5 acres)—10501–10509 E. Valley Blvd. at Pacific Place, El Monte; Site 6 (50 acres)—1875 West Mission Boulevard, Pomona; Site 7 (1 acre)—301 San Marino Avenue, between Broadway and Clary Avenues, San Gabriel; Site 8 (4 acres)—22941 South Wilmington Avenue, Carson; Site 9 (30 acres)—2560 East Philadelphia Street, Ontario; Site 10 (48 acres)—within Ontario Ridge Commerce Center at 3655 East Philadelphia Street, 2055 South Haven Street and 3625 East Philadelphia Street, Ontario; Site 11 (33 acres)—4100 E. Mission Boulevard, Ontario; Site 12 (32 acres)—1661 and 1777 S. Vintage Ave. and 1670 Champagne Ave., Ontario; Site 13 (7 acres)—2530 S. Birch Street, Santa Ana; Site 14 (7 acres)—3000 and 31000 Segerstrom Avenue, Santa Ana; Site 15 (9 acres)—2900 and 2930 South Fairview Street, Santa Ana; Site 16 (1 acre)—3630 West Garry Avenue, Santa Ana; Site 17 (6 acres)—1101 W. McKinley Avenue (buildings 4, 5, 7, 8, & 22), Pomona; and Site 18 (2 acres)—Santa Ana and Junipero Serra Streets, San Gabriel.

The grantee's proposed service area under the ASF would include all of Orange County and portions of Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County, California, as described in the application. If approved, the grantee would be able to serve sites throughout the service area based on companies' needs for FTZ designation. The proposed service area is within and adjacent to the Los Angeles/Long Beach Customs and Border Protection port of entry.

The applicant is requesting authority to reorganize its existing zone project to include fourteen of the existing sites as "magnet" sites (sites 1–8, 10, 14–18) and four of the existing sites as "usage-driven" sites (sites 9, 11–13). The ASF allows for the possible exemption of one magnet site from the "sunset" time limits that generally apply to sites under the ASF, and the applicant proposes that Site 2 be so exempted. The applicant is also requesting to expand the zone to include the following initial "usage-driven" sites: *Proposed Site 19* (22.09 acres)—VF Outdoor, Inc., 15614–15620 and 15700 Shoemaker Avenue, Santa Fe Springs (Los Angeles County); *Proposed Site 20* (22.32 acres)—Liberty Hardware, 5555 Jurupa Street, Ontario (San Bernardino County); *Proposed Site 21* (45.91 acres)—Tireco, Inc., 10545 Production Avenue, Fontana (San Bernardino County); *Proposed Site 22* (17.8 acres)—Schlosser Forge Company,

11711 Arrow Route, Rancho Cucamonga (San Bernardino County); and *Proposed Site 23* (15.7 acres)—Forged Metals Inc., 10685 Beech Avenue, Fontana (San Bernardino County). Because the ASF only pertains to establishing or reorganizing a general-purpose zone, the application would have no impact on FTZ 50's authorized subzones.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, Christopher Kemp of the FTZ Staff is designated examiner to evaluate and analyze the facts and information presented in the application and case record and to report findings and recommendations to the Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is January 14, 2011. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period to January 29, 2011.

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 2111, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230–0002, and in the "Reading Room" section of the Board's Web site, which is accessible via <http://www.trade.gov/ftz>. For further information, contact Christopher Kemp at Christopher.Kemp@trade.gov or (202) 482–0862.

Dated: November 8, 2010.

Andrew McGilvray,
Executive Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA024

Request for Comments on the Draft Revision of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy Prepared by the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, on behalf of the interagency Estuary Habitat Restoration Council, is soliciting

comments on the draft revision of the "Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy."

DATES: Comments and information must be received by January 14, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy, NOAA Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 14730, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Electronic comments may be submitted by e-mail to estuaryrestorationact@noaa.gov or via an online form at <http://www.era.noaa.gov>. NOAA is not responsible for e-mail comments sent to addresses other than the one provided here. Comments should be in one of the following formats: Word or Word Perfect. The subject line for submission of comments should begin with "Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy comments from [insert name of agency, organization, or individual]." Comments sent via e-mail, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size.

All comments received are a part of the public record and may be posted to <http://www.era.noaa.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. A copy of the current strategy and authorizing legislation may be obtained by writing to the address specified above, telephoning the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or visiting the Internet at: <http://www.era.noaa.gov> or <http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/ERA/Pages/home.aspx>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jenni Wallace, NOAA Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, MD, 301–713–0174.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Estuary Restoration Act of 2000, title I of Public Law 106–457 as amended by Section 5017 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Public Law 110–114 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), has four purposes: (1) Promotion of estuary habitat restoration through a coordinated Federal approach relying on common standards for monitoring and a common system for tracking restored acreage; (2) Development of a national strategy for creating and maintaining effective estuary habitat restoration partnerships among public agencies as well as through public-private partnerships; (3) Provision of Federal assistance through cooperative agreements for efficient financing of estuary habitat restoration projects; and (4) Development and enhancement of monitoring and research capabilities to

ensure that estuary habitat restoration efforts are based on sound scientific understanding and innovative technologies.

The Estuary Habitat Restoration Council, consisting of representatives from the Department of the Army, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Department of Agriculture, was established to oversee implementation of the Act.

The Council was charged, among other things, with developing an estuary habitat restoration strategy designed to ensure a comprehensive approach to maximize benefits and foster coordination of Federal and non-Federal activities. Mandatory elements of the strategy are set forth in section 106(d) of the Act. The Council is also responsible for soliciting, reviewing and evaluating project proposals, and submitting a list of recommended proposals to the Secretary of the Army with recommendations on project priority for funding and implementation. All projects selected for implementation must be consistent with the Strategy.

In December 2002 the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council published the Final Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy (67 FR 7142). Section 106(f) of the Act authorizes the Council to periodically review and update the estuary habitat restoration strategy. The Council has drafted a revised Strategy. The intent of this notice is to obtain comments on the draft revised strategy prepared by the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 106(e)–(f) of the Act. After reviewing public comments on the draft, the Council intends to publish the adopted revised version of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy in early 2011.

The 2002 Strategy was broader than site-specific restoration, and encouraged the Council to develop a comprehensive approach to maximize coordination of ongoing Federal and non-Federal estuary habitat restoration activities throughout the country. There are many elements from the 2002 Strategy that continue to be relevant to the Council's efforts to effectively restore estuary restoration habitat. However, the 2002 Strategy contained some goals that, while worthwhile, were not achievable due to staffing and funding constraints. The draft revised strategy, therefore, focuses the Council's limited funding and resources on more attainable and realistic goals and identifies gaps that are not currently being filled by other Federal programs. In addition, the revised strategy identifies completed

actions from the 2002 Strategy and discusses how the Council will build on these accomplishments in the future.

In order to develop the draft revised Strategy, information was gathered from the five Federal agencies involved with the Act. In accordance with Section 105(i) of the Act, the Council consulted with external stakeholders to obtain their advice. A stakeholder workshop was held in June 2010 and a request for public comments to guide the strategy revision process was published in the **Federal Register** on June 21, 2010 (75 FR 34975). The public comment period was open for 30 days. Stakeholders were asked to provide their opinions about the direction of the Act and how the program can best work with Federal and non-Federal partners to achieve shared goals.

During this stakeholder process, a variety of gaps were identified that the Council could direct resources to fill. However, two issues—climate change adaptation and socio-economic monitoring—were repeatedly raised. The Council addresses both of these issues in the draft revised Strategy.

Draft Revised Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy

Introduction

The Estuary Restoration Act (title I of Pub. L. 106–457) (Act) was created in 2000 to establish a collaborative process among Federal agencies for addressing the pressures facing our Nation's estuaries. In 2007, the Act was amended by Section 5017 of the Water Resources Development Act (Pub. L. 110–114). As part of the Act, an inter-agency Estuary Habitat Restoration Council (Council) was established to encourage the restoration of estuary habitat through more efficient project financing and enhanced coordination of Federal and non-Federal restoration programs, and for other purposes. The Council is also responsible for developing and revising from time-to-time an Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy (Strategy) in accordance with Section 106 of the Act. This Strategy revises and supersedes the Final Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy originally published in 2002 (67 FR 7142). The Council consists of representatives from the Department of the Army—U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior—United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Department of Agriculture—Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Consistent with 2002 Strategy, much of the Council's work has involved soliciting and funding on-the-ground habitat restoration projects. The Council has also been actively engaged in developing mechanisms that track estuary habitat restoration activities throughout the country and improve monitoring and research capabilities to ensure that estuary habitat restoration efforts are based on sound scientific understanding and innovative technologies.

This revised Strategy enhances the Council's role in estuary habitat restoration, and establishes a focus that will maximize benefits to our Nation's estuaries. Based upon stakeholder feedback, and in alignment with the Administration's National Ocean Policy, the Council will direct resources toward restoration projects (and their monitoring) that will be able to adapt to the stressors associated with climate change. The Council will use climate adaptation as a priority-setting tool, while still addressing the other objectives and principles of the Strategy and Act.

Vision Statement

The primary objectives of this strategy are to: (1) Restore estuarine habitats in a manner that allows for adaptation to stressors associated with climate change, (2) build conservation partnerships, (3) provide incentives to partners to develop innovative restoration technology and (4) enhance monitoring capabilities.

Overarching Principles of the Estuary Restoration Act Strategy

The Council recognizes three overarching principles to efficiently implement the Act and to contribute to estuary habitat restoration efforts on a national scale. These principles include: supporting existing Federal programs and fostering partnerships between Federal and non-Federal partners; working at an ecosystem level; and working within existing regional governance structures and voluntary conservation frameworks actively engaged in estuary habitat restoration issues and supporting the Administration's National Ocean Policy.

To support this Strategy's identified focus these three principles will be viewed through the lens of climate change adaptation.

Public/Private Partnerships

To efficiently restore and preserve our Nation's estuarine habitat it is essential to enhance partnerships among government agencies, non-governmental entities, and private individuals.

Integrating with public-private partnerships is a central theme of the Act and a critical part of this Strategy. Currently, hundreds of existing public/private partnerships direct significant portions of their resources to the restoration of estuarine habitat throughout the United States. In addition, many of these ecosystem level partnerships currently incorporate climate change adaptation components into their own ongoing activities. Although too numerous to list, a few examples include the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, National Waterfowl Management Plan Joint Ventures, the National Estuary Program, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, and Fish and Wildlife Service Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, as well as many projects implemented by both the NRCS and USACE and their partners.

To maximize public-private partnerships, the Council will prioritize funding to projects that collaborate among public agencies and private organizations during the implementation of estuary restoration projects.

Ecosystem Level Approach

This Strategy recognizes that successful estuary restoration projects with multiple goals will improve ecosystem function. In its review of project proposals, the Council will support projects developed in an ecosystem context with multiple benefits and those that utilize natural processes to restore and maintain estuary habitat. Restoration projects should be designed using an ecosystem or watershed approach to establish a self-sustaining area that provides the structure and function necessary to support the many interrelated physical, biological, and chemical components of healthy estuarine habitats.

Regional Ocean Governance and National Ocean Policy

The Act encourages coordination among all levels of government in order to address issues of estuarine habitat loss and degradation. The Council recognizes that there are a variety of regional governance structures whose efforts contribute significantly to estuary restoration, including the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Northeast Regional Ocean Council, West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health, Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, and the South Atlantic Alliance. There are many existing Federal programs actively involved in the protection, restoration and science of estuaries that work with the regional governance structures. It is the goal of the Council

to foster cooperation between government agencies at the Federal, State, and local levels, and that project proponents seeking funding from the Act collaborate on the ground with any existing local governance structures. In addition, the Council will reach out to non-ERA Federal agencies to encourage collaboration and support of the goals of the Act.

This coordination is in accordance with the Act and complements the Administration's National Ocean Policy, which includes a set of overarching guiding principles for management decisions and actions. The Council recognizes that the principles and objectives of this Strategy will aid the National Ocean Council in implementation of the Policy and Implementation Strategy. In particular, this Strategy supports Priority Objective 5: Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification and Priority Objective 6: Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration.

Objectives of the Estuary Restoration Act Strategy

The following paragraphs describe the objectives of this Strategy.

Restore Estuarine Habitats in a Manner That Allows for Adaptation to Stressors Associated With Climate Change

Coastal and marine habitats are already experiencing effects of climate change and will continue to be among the first and most obvious areas to suffer damage as changes continue to occur. The Council recognizes that by increasing and protecting the amount of available habitat, restoration projects will account for many environmental stressors on estuarine species and increase the habitats' ability to adapt to changing climate conditions. Examples could include projects that increase the amount of available salt marsh habitat to buffer against sea level rise or a fish passage barrier removal project that increases available cool water habitat that will benefit anadromous fish.

Build Conservation Partnerships

In order to maximize public-private partnerships, the Council encourages collaboration among public agencies, private organizations, companies, and individuals (e.g., private landowners, hunters, birders, and fishermen) in restoration efforts. This connectivity encourages private organizations, companies, landowners and others to bring their resources (financial or in-kind) to the table to assist in planning and implementing successful restoration projects.

The Council particularly encourages the use of existing partnerships and planning entities to carry out this Strategy, including the regional ocean governance structures.

Support Innovative Restoration Technology

The Act provides a financial incentive for the use of innovative technology or approaches by increasing the Federal share of the cost for the incremental increase in project cost due to the use of innovative technology. The Council encourages project planners to develop innovative technology as they design restoration projects. Additionally, project planners are encouraged to develop unique and innovative technologies that are designed with climate change adaption in mind. The Council recognizes that there is less risk involved when funding restoration projects that utilize familiar techniques, since there is a higher degree of certainty that the project will result in the desired outcomes. However, the Act emphasizes the need to support projects that utilize innovative technology and, therefore, the Council will prioritize projects that propose untested techniques that appear to be based on scientifically-sound assumptions. The Council will consider technology "innovative" if it involves a new process, technique, or material or uses existing processes, techniques, or materials in a new application or habitat type.

Enhance Monitoring Capabilities

Monitoring is important for a number of reasons. It allows practitioners to track success and determine which methodologies are successful, which are most cost effective, when adaptive management is required and when more information is required prior to implementing restoration. By closely tracking progress at the project level, restoration practitioners and policymakers can determine whether individual projects contribute to meeting the goals of estuary and regional restoration plans, and tally habitat acreage restored at a national scale.

The Act recognizes the importance of monitoring to the success of any estuarine restoration program. It requires NOAA, in consultation with the Council, to establish monitoring requirements for projects funded under the Act. Those standards may be found at: <http://www.era.noaa.gov/information/monitor.html>. They are based on NOAA's two-volume Science-Based Restoration Monitoring of Coastal Habitats, which provides standard data

formats for project monitoring, along with requirements for types of data collected and frequency of monitoring. The first volume (A Framework for Monitoring Plans Under the Estuaries and Clean Water Act of 2000) contains a framework for the creation of a monitoring plan. The second volume (Tools for Monitoring Coastal Habitats) contains detailed discussions of the habitats and their characteristics, along with a variety of additional information. These documents are available at the URL listed above.

The Council will continue to promote monitoring of estuarine restoration projects with other agencies and when considering funding projects. In addition, the Council will prioritize projects with monitoring plans that measure the effectiveness of the climate change adaptation components of the project design. Project monitoring, however, must be scaled to the project's scope, and level of risk.

Mechanisms To Support the Estuary Restoration Act Strategy

Solicitation Process

The solicitation for estuarine habitat restoration projects incorporates elements that must be considered as described in Section 104(c) of the Act, where the Council determines which projects to recommend for funding. Other elements within the solicitation include an equitable geographic distribution of projects, a balance of large and small projects, and encouragement of demonstration of innovative technology. The solicitation for estuarine habitat restoration project proposals will describe more specifically the criteria that the Council will use to prioritize climate change adaptation projects, as well as other ranking criteria.

Efficient Project Financing and Implementation

As part of the Estuary Restoration Act, the Council was established to encourage the restoration of estuary habitat through more efficient project financing and implementation. The Council and its partners are developing processes to improve the efficiency at which the projects are implemented.

Science of Restoration Monitoring

In 2008 NOAA entered into a partnership with the National Estuarine Research Reserve Program to estimate the long-term success of restoration techniques. Grants were awarded to five National Estuarine Research Reserves (Wells, ME; Narragansett Bay, RI; Chesapeake Bay, VA; North Carolina;

South Slough, OR) for this work. Project goals included: Establish reference transects for measuring vegetation, groundwater/tidal inundation, soil and pore water properties; monitor reference and restoration sites to determine restoration "success" at individual sites; determine restoration technique effectiveness; and assess best monitoring parameters to determine success. In 2011 a final report will articulate outcomes including reference site data that can be used by other restoration practitioners and an analysis of the success of past salt marsh restoration projects.

Socio-Economic Monitoring

Building on previous socio-economic efforts, NOAA has funded an external panel and three case studies to help determine the value and impact of coastal habitat restoration. These studies will produce the best methods and metrics to use in measuring the economics of restoration. NOAA, on behalf of the ERA, will continue to fund socio-economic monitoring studies to help NOAA, the four other ERA agencies, and our restoration partners consider systematic approaches for the collection of data to measure and monitor the economic outcomes of habitat restoration in the coastal zone.

National Estuaries Restoration Inventory

As required by the Act NOAA, in consultation with the Council, developed the National Estuaries Restoration Inventory (NERI) (<https://neri.noaa.gov/neri/>), which maintains a database of information concerning estuarine habitat restoration projects carried out under the Act, as well as for other projects that meet the minimum monitoring requirements. The inventory contains information on project techniques, project completion, monitoring data, and other relevant information. This database is Internet-accessible to allow widespread dissemination and use of restoration project and monitoring data. The goal is to incorporate information on estuarine projects from multiple sources. NOAA will continue to work to incorporate estuarine restoration data from all the agencies represented on the Council, including EPA's National Estuary Program On-line Reporting Tool (NEPORT), the FWS Habitat Information Tracking System (HabITS), and the Corps' Civil Works Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration database.

Trends

Understanding trends for estuarine habitat is key to an effective and

efficient restoration program. Trends data provide a chronological and geographic picture of change in habitat types, thereby helping managers to recognize ecological stability or stress.

Under the auspices of the Act, two documents that measure estuarine habitat within the U.S. have been finalized in order to address the estimated historic losses, estimated current rate of loss, and extent of the threat of future loss or degradation of each type of estuary habitat. The "Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Coastal Watersheds of the Eastern United States, 1998 to 2004" (http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/_documents/gSandT/NationalReports/StatusTrendsWetlandsCoastalWatershedsEasternUS1998to2004.pdf) was completed in 2008. In this document, NOAA and USFWS analyzed sample plots using digital high-resolution imagery to identify wetlands and land use changes between 1998 and 2004 in the coastal watersheds of the United States adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Great Lakes. The "Habitat Change Analysis" (http://www.era.noaa.gov/pdfs/final_habitat_trends_report.pdf) was completed in 2005. This document assesses the overall conditions of historic and recent degradation and loss of estuary-associated ecosystems and focuses on the extent and condition of estuarine and Great Lakes wetlands in the continental United States, using two time frames, 1930–2004 and 1992–2004.

Moving Forward

Working with public/private partners and other interested stakeholders, the Council will review and refine this Strategy over time in an iterative process, as new information becomes available, as implementation of the National Ocean Policy is initiated, and as progress toward meeting the goals of the Act is evaluated. The Council will create an Action Plan that will articulate what it will do to move forward on the principles and objectives identified in this Strategy. The Council looks forward to addressing the challenges facing estuarine habitat restoration and serving as an effective vehicle through which five Federal agencies can cooperatively direct their resources.

Dated: November 8, 2010.

Samuel D. Rauch III,
*Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Regulatory Programs, National Marine
Fisheries Service.*

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