

October 15, 2024

Ms. Roberta Swann, Director  
Mobile Bay National Estuary Program  
118 N. Royal Street, Suite 601  
Mobile, AL 36602

Re: MBNEP's Gulf of Mexico Division Grant Understanding Water Quality through  
Monitoring Activities Proposal

Dear Ms. Swann,

As Chair of the Baldwin County Commission, I am writing to express our support for your Gulf of Mexico Division Grant application. The proposed Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring Program for Mobile and Baldwin Counties will play a crucial role in enhancing the health and resilience of our watersheds. This initiative is essential for establishing baseline water quality data, improving pollution detection, and promoting informed management of stormwater, groundwater, and watershed health.

The program's innovative approach, including the use of advanced tools such as sondes, flow gauges, and the canine detection program, will provide accurate and actionable data on key parameters. These efforts will support local governments in addressing stormwater challenges, impacts of land use change, and saltwater intrusion. Training for county and municipal staff, along with expanded community engagement through Alabama Water Watch and outreach to underserved communities, will ensure long-term, sustainable stewardship of our coastal resources.

Furthermore, by establishing a baseline for water quality, tracking key pollutants, and increasing capacity of local monitoring efforts, this program will support informed decision-making.

We fully support this proposal and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's proven commitment to promoting the wise stewardship of Alabama's estuaries and coast. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Ashley Campbell, Natural Resource Planner, at (251) 580-1655.

Sincerely,

BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD, Chairman  
Baldwin County Commission

cc: Roger Rendleman  
Buford King  
Ashley Campbell