



October 19, 2017

Commissioner Chris Elliott  
Baldwin County Board of County Commissioners  
312 Courthouse Square, Suite 12  
Bay Minette, AL 36507

RE: Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program

Dear Commissioner Elliott,

On behalf of the Bay Area Resource Council (BARC), and Escambia County serving as the host organization and grant manager, we are pleased to announce that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Program has awarded a grant of \$2 million to establish a new Estuary Program for Pensacola and Perdido Bays. This Estuary Program will guide the production of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan that will be a fully vetted roadmap for achieving publicly identified outcomes and goals for Pensacola and Perdido Bays.

Stakeholders from federal, state, and local agencies and the public will develop a long-term plan that will address water quality and living resource challenges and priorities in Pensacola and Perdido Bays. The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program is a non-regulatory program that will seek to build on existing assets, watershed management plans, and scientific data to restore and conserve the environment and the economy of Pensacola and Perdido Bays for generations to come.

BARC will soon transition into the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program Policy Board. The Policy Board will be the Top Level Organizational Unit and decision-making body of the Estuary Program. BARC would like to officially offer you an invitation to serve on the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program Policy Board, Northwest Florida's first Estuary Program.

An Organizational Meeting for the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program will be held on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 from 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM at the Escambia County Central Office Complex Room 104, 3363 W. Park Place, Pensacola, FL 32505.

Please notify Katie Wilhelm at [katie.wilhelm@wfrpc.org](mailto:katie.wilhelm@wfrpc.org) (850-332-7976 x280) regarding your decision. We look forward to working with you very soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grover C. Robinson IV".

Grover C. Robinson IV  
Chairman, Bay Area Resource Council  
Escambia County Commissioner, District 4



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