FY 2014 Section 309 Water Quality Strategy
Competitive Grant Proposal Guidance

Contingent upon receipt of NOAA funds, the Virginia CZM Program intends to award grants on a competitive basis to coastal planning district commissions for the FY 2014 grant year (10/1/14 to 9/30/15) Section 309 CSI Water Quality Strategy. The intent of these grants is to provide PDCs the opportunity to implement and/or expand upon work conducted by two pilot projects in the Hampton Roads and Middle Peninsula regions.

The Land and Water Quality strategy aims to improve land use approaches and development policies that are consistent with increased nutrient reduction goals proposed by the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, Virginia's WIP, and revised Virginia storm water management regulations. To date, the strategy has funded analysis of the local consequences of these storm water control requirements across three regional types (urban, transitional and rural) and developed tools to enable localities to meet these requirements while avoiding natural resource impacts or unforeseen adverse consequences.

In light of new Federal and State regulations associated with nutrient loading, local nutrient goals, storm water management and TMDLs, initial grant funds were offered to Hampton Roads and Middle Peninsula PDCs representing the geographies of urban, suburban and rural areas respectively to evaluate and recommend new policy approaches and solutions for specifically identified local issues relating to water quality. These pilot projects have reviewed the impacts of new legislation and the identification of new policy changes that may be needed to advance sustainable community development in a new regulatory environment. Identifying and addressing these issues at the regional and local level is the most appropriate way to arrive at locally successful approaches to effective water quality improvements. Also, by initiating the project through a pilot program, the HR and MP regions have served as research and testing grounds, thus allowing other coastal regions and localities to implement resulting policies in FY14 -15 and potentially in upcoming years of the next 309 funding cycle.

In addition, the strategy has addressed other regionally specific issues related to land use and water quality as identified by each planning district. For example, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission has explored the need for legislation to enable localities to require replacement or preservation of trees beyond the existing limits of 10-20 percent tree canopy in order to protect or restore water quality.

All coastal PDCs will have an opportunity to receive funds for implementation projects based on tools and policies developed in strategy years 1-3. Localities that have worked with their PDCs on issues related to the pilot studies can apply for these funds through their PDC. Please follow the links below and review the final project summaries, final reports and scopes of work for projects completed or underway through this strategy. Outcomes of the work undertaken so far will be discussed at the June 12, 2014 Coastal PDC meeting.

HRPDC - 2011
http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/Funds,Initiatives,Projects/2011Projects/2011VirginiaCZMGrantProjectTask940111.aspx

MPPDC - 2011
http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/Funds,Initiatives,Projects/2011Projects/2011VirginiaCZMGrantProjectTask940211.aspx

HRPDC - 2012
http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/Funds,Initiatives,Projects/2012Projects/2012VirginiaCZMGrantProjectTask940112.aspx

MPPDC - 2012
http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/Funds,Initiatives,Projects/2012Projects/2012VirginiaCZMGrantProjectTask940212.aspx

HRPDC – 2013
http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/Funds,Initiatives,Projects/2013Projects/2013VirginiaCZMGrantProjectTask940113.aspx

MPPDC – 2013
http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/Funds,Initiatives,Projects/2013Projects/2013VirginiaCZMGrantProjectTask940213.aspx

Proposal Guidelines:

- The maximum amount available for the overall Water Quality Competitive grant is anticipated to be about $138,000. No match is required, however projects outcomes do need to arrive at development of enforceable policy. Each PDC may submit up to two proposals for competitive funding. We anticipate awards to PDCs will be between $10,000 and $40,000.
- Subcontracts are allowed and must be submitted using the embedded Sub-contractual budget Excel file in the proposal template with a description of the work to be performed accompanying the budget.
- Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers and Virginia CZM staff with input from members of the Coastal Policy Team and selected technical experts.
- Proposals will be evaluated based on technical merit, feasibility, cost effectiveness, potential for positive economic and environmental impact, and relevance to the goals of the Virginia CZM Program.

Submission instructions: Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to April.Bahen@deq.virginia.gov using the Virginia CZM Program FY 14 project template (attached) **NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM, Friday, July 11, 2014**. Late proposals will not be considered for funding.