Environmental Compliance Readiness

Bucket 2 – Council Selected Restoration Component

PROPOSAL TITLE

Mobile Bay and Beyond – Watershed Implementation to enhance Marsh, Marine, and Estuarine Ecosystems

LOCATION

Alabama

SPONSOR(S)

USDA

TYPE OF FUNDING REQUESTED (Planning, Technical Assistance, Implementation):

Planning, Technical Assistance and Implementation

REVIEWED BY:

John Ettinger

DATE:

February 11, 2015

If Planning and/or Technical Assistance

1. Does the submission identify environmental laws potentially applicable at the implementation stage:

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) N/A

Comments

A range of environmental laws could apply to the proposed activities, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Coastal Zone Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and more. The Council could consider funding the planning and technical assistance portion of this submission separately from the implementation portion. NEPA and other applicable environmental laws would need to be addressed prior to consideration by the Council of whether or not to fund the implementation portion of this submission. As discussed below, there is existing information and documentation pertaining to compliance with NEPA and other environmental laws for this submission.

If Implementation

1. Status of compliance with environmental laws applicable to a Council decision to include the submission on the Funded Priority List:

Elements of this submission may be eligible for NEPA Categorical Exclusions (CEs). Further review would be needed to determine whether there may be extraordinary circumstances which may preclude use of such CEs in specific circumstances. The Council would also need to determine whether additional NEPA evaluation may be needed to ensure potential environmental effects are adequately assessed. Further Council review would also be needed regarding compliance with other applicable environmental laws. Compliance with the Endangered Species Act and National Historic Preservation Act may be facilitated by existing programmatic agreements or practices. Existing NEPA documentation associated with the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program may be applicable to this submission or components of this submission. NEPA and other applicable environmental laws would need to be addressed prior to consideration by the Council of whether or not to fund the implementation portion of this submission.