



**Save the Sound**<sup>®</sup>

Action for our region's environment.

**Response to Questions regarding the Request for Proposal: *Protection and Restoration of Intertidal Marsh Habitat within the Ash Creek Estuary***

**December 13, 2024**

1. Are there specific evaluation criteria or metrics that you will be using to select the consultant team?
  - Save the Sound will use both qualifications and fee to evaluate which consultant team offers the best value. The fee will be a consideration in the proposal; qualifications will be evaluated on the following basis:
    - Depth of Project Understanding.
    - Quality of response to the Scope of Work.
    - Depth of relevant experience of the engineering firm in assessing, designing, and permitting coastal restoration projects (at a minimum the qualifications should include expertise in QAPP approval, shoreline habitat assessment, living shoreline design, experience with sediment addition design, hydrodynamic modeling, and CT Coastal Permitting and experience with the regulatory landscape).
    - Qualifications and experience of the key project staff and personnel delegated to this project, including but not limited to the designated Project Manager.
    - If relevant, the qualifications and experience of any subconsulting firms and key contractor personnel.
2. Is there an existing hydrodynamic model for Ash Creek?
  - Save the Sound is not aware of any existing hydrodynamic models for Ash Creek.
3. Will electronic data (e.g., CADD, GIS) from previous studies be made available to the selected consultant team?
  - The selected consultant team can assume that GIS and CADD files from studies completed by OneNature will be provided to the consultant team in electronic format.
4. Beside efforts conducted by Fairfield, Bridgeport, or ACCA, has Save the Sound initiated any public outreach?
  - To this point, Save the Sound has participated in outreach efforts initiated by ACCA, but has not initiated our public outreach efforts.



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5. Are pre-dredging test results, including grain size distribution and chemistry, as well as volumes from the last dredging effort available for review? If so, will they be provided to assist development of an RFP response?
  - Data from the 2019 dredging efforts have now been provided on the Save the Sound RFP website.
6. For the modeling scenarios/alternatives analysis (Tasks 5 and 6), in addition to typical tides/flows with and without SLR, does STS have a preference for how many other events should be modeled?
  - Save the Sound is interested in understanding the long-term system dynamics at the project site. This includes daily tides/flows that affect the site, but also the events with more energy that are likely to shape the site over the long-term. As for the exact scenarios and alternatives, Save the Sound is looking to the consultant to provide recommended models and scenarios for modeling. It is expected that the consultant will justify their recommendations.
7. We understand that vegetation monitoring has been conducted within the site, has there been any wildlife surveys/monitoring conducted as well? And if so, will that data be available?
  - To Save the Sound's knowledge, there has not been wildlife surveys or wildlife monitoring of the site.
8. Will the dredge report contain any information on the quality of the dredge material? If not, is that information available?
  - Data from the 2019 dredging efforts have now been provided on the Save the Sound RFP website.
9. The Project Summary mentions a Cost-Benefit Analysis but it is not detailed later in the RFP. Could you please clarify the expectations for this task?
  - This line listed in the Project Summary should not be "Cost-Benefit Analysis" but rather should read "Alternative Analysis." As a part of the alternatives assessment, we will want an Engineering Cost Estimate for each alternative.
10. Are there any existing modeling efforts, in addition to the CT DEEP Hurricane Surge Model, that are relevant and accessible for this project?
  - Beyond the CIRCA modeling and FEMA modeling, Save the Sound is not aware of any additional modeling efforts specific to this area.