



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF ST. MARYS RECOMMENDED FOR GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$382,333 Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant for Fiscal Year 2017

ST. MARYS, Ga., (May 10, 2017) –

The City of St. Marys is pleased to announce that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division has recommended to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for funding the City of St. Mary's 319(h) grant application in the amount of \$382,333 for coastal urban storm water BMP retrofits in downtown St. Marys. This project is recommended to be funded in part through a grant from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division as authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Provisions of Section 319(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.

The many planning efforts of the City, including the Sea Rise Study, a partnership with the National Sea Grant College Program, the Downtown Renaissance Visioning and Strategic Plan and the current master planning process, included storm water improvements as keys to unlocking the potential of the downtown waterfront area. The overarching goal of these improvements and the proposed project is to address non-point source pollution and flooding related to urban runoff in downtown St. Marys. The City plans to achieve these goals by enhancing the current design plans for downtown improvements through the installation of permeable pavement in the parking stalls and transformation of raised landscaped area into bioretention areas. These infiltration-based storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been recommended because they mitigate effects of urban runoff by reducing sediment and nutrient loads and promoting infiltration.

"This grant would not have come together without the collaboration of staff and partner agencies. The City would also like to thank the public for the continuing support of this project and we look forward to these improvements in the downtown," says City Manager, Mr. John Holman.

For additional information, contact City Manager Mr. John Holman at 912-510-4041.

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