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Restore America's Estuaries selected by EPA to manage Southeast New England Grant Program

WASHINGTON, DC – Restore America's Estuaries is pleased to announce our selection by the U.S. EPA to manage a competitive sub-award grant program to support projects that protect, conserve, and restore coastal ecosystems and their watersheds.

Coastal waters in southeast New England are experiencing rapid rates of change, making this area susceptible to land-based threats, included excess nitrogen. By leveraging our extensive network in this region, RAE will create an ecosystem-scale, multi-stakeholder strategy to assist EPA in addressing this and other threats to coastal and estuarine waters. Through this grant, RAE will administer a number of projects over the next several years that will build a collaborative framework for advancing ecosystem resiliency, protect and restore habitat and ecosystem function, and apply innovative policy, science, and technology to the management of the coastal systems in this region.

"RAE is thrilled to partner with EPA to tackle nitrogen pollution, one of the most pressing issues threatening this region's coastal and estuarine waters," said Jeff Benoit, President of Restore America's Estuaries. "By engaging a broad array of stakeholders in the region and facilitating the creation of management collaboratives across the SNEP region, RAE will help improve capacity among state and local governments to conduct effective and efficient regionally-scaled habitat projects to address nitrogen pollution and other imminent threats to the long-term health of the region's waters and coasts. Our organization has strong ties to the Southeast New England region and we are thrilled to be able to work closely with the communities here to protect, enhance, and restore coastal waters. RAE is also excited to leverage our broad reach and network to bring the lessons learned through this unique funding opportunity to a national audience to assist other coastal areas facing similar problems."

Deb Szaro, Acting Regional Administrator at EPA, said, "EPA is extremely pleased with the opportunity to collaborate with Restore America's Estuaries in the work of protected our critical coastal watersheds. It would be difficult to find any other organization with the skills, local knowledge, and commitment to results that Restore America's Estuaries offers, and we anticipate great success going forward."

Founded in 1995, Restore America's Estuaries leads a national alliance of ten community-based conservation organizations working to protect and restore the nation's vital estuarine habitats. Working closely with community, private, and governmental organizations, Restore America's Estuaries has extensive experience in supporting successful on-the-ground

restoration projects and in providing technical assistance and tools to guide the restoration process, including developing methodologies for quantifying ecosystem services. Restore America's Estuaries is also well-known for hosting a biennial National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and Management, the largest national gathering focused on coastal restoration, science, and management practices, with the next Summit scheduled for December 2018 in Long Beach, CA.

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***Restore America's Estuaries (RAE)** is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1995. RAE leads a national alliance of ten coastal conservation organizations across the country dedicated to the protection and restoration of bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation.*

www.estuaries.org.