



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

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August 20, 2009

To: CBBEP Board of Directors

From: Ray Allen, Executive Director

Re: Use of Funds for Project # 0824 titled "Tow Vehicle (multi-use) and Passenger Trailer for use at the Nueces Delta Preserve"

The Board of Directors approved \$40,000 In the FY 2008 Annual Work Plan for project # 0824. We had delayed moving on this project until such time as our specific needs could be further clarified. During that delay the old tractor donated by Sherwin Aluminum reached the end of its life (see attached memo) and the scope of our activities and needs at the Nueces Delta Preserve (NDP) have been better identified.

We need an additional pick-up truck for use at the NDP and other CBBEP owned properties. The use of the existing company pick-up is prioritized for our colonial waterbird management activities (towing the boat). We request authorization to request bids and purchase a new truck.

For property management purposes we need a newer tractor/loader for mowing, minor road repairs, maintaining fire breaks and other uses. A tractor could also be used to pull a passenger trailer (tram) around the delta. We request authorization to purchase a used tractor/loader that meets our specific needs and budget limitations.

We have determined that a simple dual axle utility trailer modified to carry passengers (school students) would add to our educational activities at the NDP. A picture of what we have in mind is attached. This trailer could be pulled by either the tractor or pick-up. CBBEP owns a trailer that can be modified to meet our needs.

Project # 0824 Tow Vehicle (multi-use) and Passenger Trailer for use at the Nueces Delta Preserve

Performing Organization: CBBEP
Total Project Funding: \$40,000
CBBEP Bays Plan Actions: PEO-3

The 5,000 acre CBBEP Nueces Delta Preserve is a great location for field trips by educators and students alike. One of the challenges of the NDP is the need to move fairly large groups of people (20 – 25), to different habitat areas within the NDP. The use of smaller vehicles and rented vans result in the groups being divided between multiple vehicles which diminishes the field trip experience since the main guide can only be in one vehicle.

Funds allocated for this effort would go towards the purchase of a tow vehicle capable of safely pulling an open air passenger trailer such as a hayride trailer with actual seats, shade canopy, and safety rails.

Date: May 08, 2009

To: Ray Allen, Executive Director

From: Jake Herring, Project Manager

RE: NDP Ford 3930 Tractor

The tractor at the NDP is experiencing serious mechanical issues.

The tractor has been burning an excessive amount of oil (upwards of a quart an hour), overheating, and is also leaking rear differential oil out of the PTO.

Upon the last of the spring 2009 trail mowing Mr. Charlie Spiekerman, NDP photographer & volunteer, reported that the tractor was having serious mechanical problems and that I needed to look at the tractor. Upon my arrival the mechanical conditions had worsened. Now when the tractor is cranked it blows oil from around the head gasket area and also leaks out the bottom of the engine. No holes are visible in the block but it does make a sound as if the bearings are going out.

Aside from mechanical problems the cab on the tractor is also rusting out. The years it spent at Sherwin Alumina have been rough on the body. The A/C has not worked for some time now. This hasn't been an issue in the past but now that the exhaust manifold is rusting the exhaust blows straight into the cab causing an uncomfortable operating environment.

From talking to repair shops it will be an extensive service just to tell what all exactly needs to be fixed. I also talked to the diesel mechanic school at Del Mar and they could not give a definite repair time. The shop teacher said that sometimes it takes two months but they have had units in there for up to nine months.

Being that the CBBEP has spent sufficient funds to install fire breaks and get trails cut for class field trips these improvements need to be maintained. The NDP is in need of a new tractor that can handle the size of the jobs at the NDP. It is also important that this new tractor be operator friendly so it can be used by staff, hired labor, or volunteers. Having a newer piece of equipment will allow the CBBEP the ability to maintain fire breaks, trails, roads and areas used during field trips with out having to contract out every time a chug hole needs to be filled or a trail mowed. This piece of equipment could also be used to pull the people mover that is currently being discussed.

