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Sarasota Bay Estuary Program selected as Climate Ready Estuaries partner

Sarasota, FL – The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) has been selected by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to receive financial support in 2010 from its Climate Ready Estuaries program (CRE) to move forward with climate ready adaptation planning. EPA is providing targeted assistance to National Estuary Programs (NEPs) to identify climate change vulnerabilities, develop adaptation plans, and begin to implement selected actions within those plans.

The SBEP received two types of support for the development of an adaptation plan and direct technical assistance from an EPA contractor. The direct technical assistance will be used for creating an “easy to use” visualization tool using Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data. LIDAR is a remote sensing technology that can provide elevation data at high resolutions and accuracies. This tool will be used in community workshops and focus groups to support adaptation planning.

“We’re very pleased that SBEP has been selected as a partner in the Climate Ready Estuaries program,” says Mark Alderson, Director of the SBEP. “ This funding will enable us to move forward with our local adaptation planning efforts.”

The Climate Ready Estuaries (CRE) program is a partnership between EPA and the National Estuary Programs (NEPs) to address climate change in coastal areas. This effort is building additional capacity in coastal communities as they prepare to adapt to the effects of climate change. CRE is supporting NEPs and coastal communities in becoming “climate ready” by providing tools and assistance to assess climate change vulnerabilities, engage and educate stakeholders, develop and implement adaptation strategies, and share lessons learned with other coastal managers. To learn more about the EPA’s Climate Ready Estuaries program visit the CRE website at www.epa.gov/cre/explore.html

The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is dedicated to restoring the area's greatest natural asset—Sarasota Bay. Its unique program strives to improve water quality, increase habitat and enhance the natural resources of the area for use and enjoyment by the public. Sarasota Bay is one of 28 estuaries in the United States that have been named by the U.S. Congress as an "estuary of national significance."

SBEP partners include Sarasota County, Manatee County, City of Sarasota, City of Bradenton, Town of Longboat Key, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Florida Water Management District and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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