

ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT
AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

- (1) An advisory group entitled the Agency on Bay Management, herein referred to as the Agency, shall be established by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, herein referred to as the Council.
- (2) The Agency shall serve as the advocate for the Tampa Bay ecosystem, promoting its restoration and protection through responsible, resource-based management; providing a forum for open discussion of issues affecting the ecosystem; educating and encouraging the public to participate in Bay protection and management; and fostering wise use by commercial and recreational interests.
- (3) The Agency shall be housed within the Council and served by Council staff.
- (4) The Agency shall continue to seek state and federal funds, and other outside grants, to supplement staff functions and to undertake other studies, projects and efforts leading to the refinement and/or implementation of the Bay Management Plan and the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Tampa Bay.
- (5) The Agency shall consist of no more than 65 voting members, to be recommended by the Executive Steering Committee and appointed by the Chair of the Council, to include but not be limited to the following groups:
 - (a) The Florida Senate.
 - (b) The Florida House of Representatives.
 - (c) Environmental interests in the Tampa Bay Region.
 - (d) Commercial interests in the Tampa Bay Region.
 - (e) Industrial interests in the Tampa Bay Region.
 - (f) Science and academic interests in the Tampa Bay Region.
 - (g) Recreational interests in the Tampa Bay Region.
 - (h) Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas and Pasco Counties, respectively.
 - (i) The Tampa, Manatee and St. Petersburg Port Authorities.
 - (j) The Cities of St. Petersburg and Tampa.
 - (k) Other municipalities bordering Tampa Bay.
 - (l) The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.
 - (m) The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.
 - (n) The U. S. Geological Survey.
 - (o) The National Marine Fisheries Service.
 - (p) The Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.
 - (q) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
 - (r) The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
 - (s) The Florida Department of Transportation.
 - (t) The Southwest Florida Water Management District.

- (u) The Tampa Bay Region at large.
 - (v) The Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County.
 - (w) The Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission.
 - (x) The Tampa Bay Estuary Program.
 - (y) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - (z) The U.S. Coast Guard.
 - (aa) MacDill Air Force Base.
 - (bb) Tampa Bay Water.
- (6) The members of the Legislature appointed to the Agency shall participate in the activities of the Agency to the extent that such participation is not incompatible with their respective positions as members of the Legislature.
- (7) The members of the Agency shall serve without compensation.
- (8) The Chair of the Council shall annually designate the Chair and Vice Chair of the Agency. The Agency Chair shall be a member of the Council.
- (9) Every attempt shall be made to ensure a geographic balance of regional representation in the Agency.
- (10) The Agency shall strive to improve the comprehensive management of Tampa Bay among business, environmental, and public interest organizations and individuals. To this end the powers and duties of the Agency shall be as follows:
- (a) The Agency shall meet as set forth in its Operating Procedures. All agency meetings shall be open to the public and advertised accordingly.
 - (b) The Agency shall cooperate with, and secure the cooperation of, all affected municipal, county and other local agencies in implementing the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Tampa Bay and other relevant management plans.
 - (c) The Agency shall cooperate with, and secure the cooperation of, every relevant department, agency, or instrumentality in the state government including but not limited to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District in implementing the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Tampa Bay and other relevant management plans.
 - (d) The Agency shall cooperate with, and secure the cooperation of, every relevant department, agency, or instrumentality in the federal government including but not limited to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Environmental Protection Agency , the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the United States Geological Survey in

implementing the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Tampa Bay and

other relevant management plans.

- (e) The Agency shall encourage the coordination of the existing regulatory programs and studies of all federal, state, regional and local agencies involved in management of Tampa Bay.
 - (f) The Agency shall serve as a liaison between the Council and other environmental agencies, organizations and interest groups.
 - (g) The Agency shall develop a regional environmental resources library and information system within the Council, to the maximum extent feasible.
 - (h) The Agency shall, annually, prepare a summary of Agency and members' activities for publication in the *Bay Soundings* environmental journal and other appropriate outlets.
 - (i) The Agency shall aspire to sponsor or co-sponsor regional environmental conferences annually, emphasizing growth management and natural resource issues in the Tampa Bay watershed.
- (11) The Chair of the Agency shall have the authority to create committees and special task forces as needed, consistent with the powers and duties of the Agency.
- (12) Any amendments to these rules must be accepted by the Agency.