

# Extreme Inundation Seaweed Relocation Program

Board approved: March 23, 2019

## Goal:

Develop a program that can provide seaweed relocation services for 3<sup>rd</sup> parties in the event of an **extreme inundation** of seaweed washing ashore on Galveston Island. Working together with partners, Park Board (PB) hopes to create a program to ensure the community is prepared to respond to an extreme event that could have lasting impacts to the Island's tourism industry. This program will not be providing maintenance activities for aesthetic purposes. If a property wishes to have a higher level of beach cleaning activity the PB will provide a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contact that provides contract labor that can be assigned to manual seaweed relocation which does not require a federal permit.

## Park Board Responsibilities:

PB routinely cleans and maintains the beaches on Galveston Island to the extent required by Natural Resource code in State law. The PB must provide a clean and safe beach which includes trash and debris removal. The activity of seaweed relocation is not a part of that responsibility. The PB is also required to maintain its assets for which it is responsible for and these areas will continue to be highest priority for PB staff.

## Definitions & Thresholds for deployment:

- PB assets: Areas assigned to the PB for management through ordinance or interlocal agreements.
- **Landing:** Average height of accumulation is less than 2.5' and ground coverage width less than 10'.
  - Manual efforts should be used to clean up seaweed.
  - No Park Board assistance.
- **Extreme Inundation:** An accumulation that restricts the public access to the water.
  - Average height of 2.5' or higher and ground cover width of 10' or more.
    - Or
  - Average height of 1.5' or higher and ground cover width of 20' or more
  - The landing must impact greater than 50% of the HOA/POA linear footage.
  - PB will use modified wheel loaders to relocate material.

## Park Board Expectations During Extreme Inundations:

- Equipment:
  - PB will relocate seaweed with rented wheel loaders with the required float devices to prevent gouging or excavating the beach. **This method reduces the height of the accumulation but does not completely remove the Sargassum from the beach. Per terms and conditions of federal permit some of the wrack must always remain.**
  - Equipment rental rates and bids will be pursued by the PB to ensure lowest possible rates are procured and in a timely manner.
    - 5 Wheel Loaders, 3 UTVs
  - The Surf Rakes are a limited asset and dedicated to PB Assets, so their use is not being included for this program.
- Operations:
  - Coastal Zone Stewardship Coordinator will be Point of Contact (POC) for program. (czmreporting@galvestonparkboard.org) All requests and communication will be sent the above email address for on-going program information.

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- If needed, relocation services will begin in early morning hours and go on through the day if beachgoers safety is not compromised.
- If needed, relocation services will start at the western most property participating in the program and proceed east. Once completed with eastern most property they will repeat the route.
- All cleaning schedules are estimated and will depend greatly on severity of landings.
- Placement of the relocated material is as the discretion of the PB and will only be dictated by the Director of Operations or designee.
  - PB will strive to place all material at the toe of the dune to encourage the growth of the adjacent dune system.
  - Placement piles will be evenly distributed and used to fill in gaps to encourage a continuous dune system. All placement will abide by our federal terms & conditions.
- Staffing:
  - PB will hire all Operators and Wildlife Monitors to ensure proper training has been completed.
    - 5 qualified operators & 5 trained wildlife monitors
  - PB will provide a resource for manual labor for increased level of service for landings not requiring PB assistance.
- Fees
  - A \$250 administrative setup fee will be deducted from initial deposit.
  - Areas will be billed an hourly rate for time spent in each area.
  - PB will refund or rollover all remaining retainer fees at the end of the season.
  - All accounts will be required to maintain a \$1,000 minimum balance.
    - If an area reaches this level the PB will notify the HOA/POA POC and request payment to bring the retainer back to its original amount. If no deposit is made the HOA/POA will be removed from the service rotation.

### HOA/POA Expectations:

- Provide two POC's to act as representative for HOA/POA entering into an agreement.
  - All communications to the PB regarding program will have to go through identified POC.
- Obtain their own beach and dune permit from the City of Galveston to conduct beach maintenance
  - PB will provide language to include on the proposed beach cleaning activities.
- Cover all contract fees.
- Provide retainer upon execution of contract.
- Identify an area for PB staff to park eqpt off beach to maximize work time and quick deployment.
- Resolution from HOA/POA authorizing official POC's and contract execution authority.

### Registration Process:

- Any HOA/POA will have the opportunity to participate during a registration period.
- Any HOA/POA that chooses not to register will not be allowed to enter later; no exceptions.
- All required documents and fees must be provided at the time of execution of contract; no exceptions.