Progress Report

Project Title: Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA): Implementation of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act

Award number: #NA23NOS0120081

Period of Activity: 12/1/2022 – 5/31/2023

Progress Report Submission Date: 6/23/2023

Principal Investigator(s): Debra Hernandez, SECOORA Executive Director

Progress and Accomplishments:

Year 1 Progress and accomplishments are listed by Topic 1 and Topic 2 in the below tables. High-level milestones/deliverables, accomplishments and any issues are included for each project. Status of each project is reported as "not started", "in-progress", "not on schedule" or "complete" as required by the IOOS Performance Reporting Guidance for BIL Awards. If a specific milestone is delayed, a justification for the delay and description of activities employed or to be employed to mitigate the delay are provided.

NEPA SACSs are complete for the following Topic 1 activities:
- East Coast Florida Buoy Deployments (IOOS memo date 3/17/23). Permit status is provided in the descriptive text below.
- Ocean Acidification Sensor Deployment in the Florida Keys (IOOS memo date 4/24/23). Permit status is provided in the descriptive text below.

NEPA SAC for Topic 2 activities:
- Surface Elevation Table (SET) locations - 16 SET locations will be identified as part of the gap analysis objective for this project. The gap analysis will begin during the next reporting period and go into Year 2. We do not anticipate identifying SET locations until Year 2. This NEPA SAC will be addressed in Year 2.

Project and Task(s)	Status
TOPIC 1: To support improved and enhanced coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes observing systems	
Goal A: Invest in new observing infrastructure for the Southeast	

Water Level Network	
Coastal Carolina University (CCU, Lead PI Paul Gayes) with partner Florida Atlantic University (FAU), have installed and are operating water level stations in South Carolina (SC) and Florida (FL). The NEPA review for these stations has been conducted under award NA21NOS0120097 by the IOOS program office and documentation on each site is found here on the CCU-FAU tab: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10KN3sdkzaUR-Kf_TbC-YI0d1mcCqWH6pvWowcQVbB8o/edit?usp=sharing. The project team goal is to install 15 water level stations during Year 1. The project team has installed the 9 stations at the following locations during the reporting period (6 of the stations were directly funded from this award): • Cocoa Beach, FL - 2 stations on 01/14 to help monitor water levels in the Banana River. • Flagler County, FL - 2 stations - 1 on 02/14 and 1 on 03/06 to help monitor water levels in the Mantanzas River. • Florida Panhandle - 2 stations, 1 on 05/22 and 1 on 06/01. The two stations installed along the Florida Panhandle were identified by FL Sea Grant as needed to monitor flooding in underserved communities; however, the funding for both stations was from a grant received by FAU from the State of Florida. SECOORA will include the stations in our data portal. • Georgetown County, SC at the Intercoastal Waterway-South Island Ferry – 1 station installed 2/14/23. • Marlboro County at Cottingham Road N on Crooked Creek – 1 station installed 2/14/23 to monitor water level in the creek. This station was identified by SC Sea Grant as needed to monitor flooding in underserved communities; however, the funding for this station was from a grant received by CCU from the State of South Carolina. SECOORA will include the station in our data portal. • McClellanville Town Dock – 1 station installed 4/9/23 to help monitor water levels for the town. CCU is working with SC Department of Transportation and Horry County for approvals to install one additional sensor on state infrastructure (bridge). There is a delay in siting due to construction on the bridge. List of all CCU/FAU water level stations here: https://portal.secoora.org/#metadata/150/sensor_source *Outreach and Media Coverage*: The water level sensor at Waites Island will be highlighted as part the South Carolina-7 event this year (Learn more:	In Progress

https://www.southcarolina7.com). There is a documentary being filmed about the South Carolina-7 which will emphasize partners, such as CCU, technology, and data applications related to environmental science and management. The Waites Island event is 7/19/23 in North Myrtle Beach, SC.	
Florida International University (FIU, lead PI Tiffany Troxler) operates seven water level sensors in south Florida. The NEPA review for these stations has been conducted under award NA21NOS0120097 by the IOOS program office and documentation on each site is found here on the FIU tab: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10KN3sdkzaUR-Kf_TbC-YI0d1mcCqWH6pvWowcQVbB8o/edit?usp=sharing. Accomplishments by objective are as follows: - Maintain water level sensors and deploy one webcam to monitor coastal flooding. - Three water level sensors in Coral Gables - One water level sensor in Miami - One water level sensor in Hollywood - Two water level sensors in Monroe County - New water level installation sites, specifically in underserved communities, are being sought with the City of Miami and with Miami Beach. - The project team is working with partners to identify a location for web camera installation. The FIU team has been in communication with the SECOORA WebCOOS team to discuss camera technology and telemetry options. The installation of the first camera has been delayed though as the confirmed site, Looe Key Resort, located on Ramrod Key, FL, had staff turnover and FIU is awaiting communication from the new resort manager as to whether the site can still be used for a camera. - Conduct citizen science data collection during two King Tide events. - Citizen science events are being planned for Fall 2023 to coincide with King Tides in south FL. List of FIU water level datasets found here: https://portal.secoora.org/#metadata/2212/sensor_source	In Progress
Ocean Acidification Monitoring	
Looe Key is the second longest established Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the Florida Keys. These Looe Key reefs represent one of the most vulnerable habitats to coastal ocean acidification (OA) in the US. The goal of this project is for Mote Marine Laboratory (MML, Lead PI Emily Hall) to deploy an OA mooring that will produce directly measured climate-quality pH and other carbonate chemistry data	In Progress

products to establish a unique time series on the seafloor in the lower Florida Keys. This will also provide support for the Southeast Coastal and Ocean Acidification Network (SOCAN) for OA monitoring in the FL Keys.
 	
Accomplishments by objective are as follows:
• Conduct site selection, submit environmental compliance documents to IOOS and apply for required permits.
    o The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary has approved the deployment of the OA mooring in Looe Key MPA under the already existing MML permit #FKNMS-2021-172.
    o The NOAA IOOS office provided the Specific Award Condition Release/Record of Environmental Consideration on 04/24/23.
    o The USACE application for the OA sensor was submitted to the Keys Permit Section on 5/2/23 and the project team is awaiting final approval. No work can begin on-site (Looe Key) until the USACE permit is finalized.
• SeapHOx will be calibrated and conditioned in a seawater tank at MML facilities.
    o Delayed: Purchase of a new SeapHOx sensor has been delayed due to manufacturing delays within SeaBird Scientific, the instrument manufacturer. MML has been told to contact SeaBird after 7/4/23. Alternate backup plans are being discussed (e.g., purchase of a different type of instrument).	

Florida Buoy Deployments	
SECOORA hosted an RFP to select the operator for the two buoys requested for deployment of the east coast of Florida. Five proposals were submitted. Based on peer reviews, the proposal submitted by the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), lead PI Lynn Leonard, with co-PIs from Florida Atlantic University (FAU), was selected. Goal: Based on stakeholder feedback (e.g., National Weather Service (NWS) offices, NWS Southern Region Marine, Tropical, and Tsunami Program, Coastal Resources Office for St. Lucy County, FAU researchers, boaters/mariners) the UNCW/FAU team will deploy and maintain meteorological and oceanographic buoys at the following locations: Buoy #1 – Ft. Pierce Location: 27.59333, -80.189444 Depth: 50-70ft Range/Bearing: ~10 miles NE of Ft. Pierce Inlet	In Progress

Buoy #2 – Ponce de Leon Location: 29.28888, -80.802788 Depth: 80-95ft Range/Bearing: ~16 miles NE of Ponce de Leon Inlet Accomplishments are as follows: • NEPA environmental compliance reviews for the site has been completed by the IOOS Program office, 3/17/23. • USACE has issued an NWP 5 for the project, 5/26/23. • US Coast Guard Private Aids to Navigation (PATON) form submitted on 5/31/23. Awaiting final approval. • FAU divers have conducted site surveys at the Ft. Pierce buoy location and confirmed 100% sand bottom coverage at the buoy location. The team will conduct a site survey at the Ponce de Leon site during the next weather window in June/July timeframe. • Equipment and supply purchasing: o G-2000 buoys from MSI have been ordered and are scheduled for delivery in August 2023. Railroad wheels used for anchors have been ordered and are scheduled for delivery in June 2023. o The following sensors have been ordered and received: Met sensors, CTDs, dataloggers, Iridium modems, peripheral wiring, enclosers, antennas, and other accessories. • FAU has submitted a ship-time request for the R/V *Hogarth* for mid-September 2023 for buoy deployments. • UNCW and FAU are drafting a brochure/handout targeting local mariners, marinas, and fishing clubs that will detail the buoy locations and data availability. They plan to email and handout brochures during early September, ahead of the buoy deployments.	

Goal B: Reinvestment in existing observing infrastructure for the Southeast	

High Frequency Radar (HFR) Reinvestment	

ECU Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) – SECOORA purchased a 5 MHz long-range CODAR to replace the aging HFR systems operated by CSI. The new 5 MHz system was ordered in December 2022 and delivered on 5/5/23 to the CSI HFR team (Lead PI, Mike Muglia). Due to upgrade needs at multiple HFR sites, the new CODAR equipment has been placed at multiple HFR installations (JENN, OCRA, HATY) to swap out failing or broken pieces of equipment.	Complete – 5/31/23
University of South Florida (USF) –SECOORA will work with USF (Lead PI, Cliff Merz) to order parts and supplies needed to maintain the existing CODAR HFR systems. This action is part of the Year 2 BIL award.	Not started

Buoy Reinvestment	
SECOORA will issue a subaward to USF to purchase a replacement Nortek Signature 1000 current profiler or other required science equipment for deployment on USF real-time buoys. This action is part of the Year 2 BIL award.	Not started

TOPIC 2: To enhance associated sharing and integration of Federal and non-Federal data to inform the most pressing regional coastal and ocean management challenges	
Goal A: Data and product development to support high priority regional management issues	
Improve access to regional ecological data to help inform offshore ocean use decisions through stakeholder engagement and mapping tool refinement	
Proposed offshore projects such as wind energy sites or sand dredging have the potential to impact marine species and habitats across the South Atlantic (NC, SC, GA, FL). To sustain the region's rich marine diversity, it is important that the siting, construction, and operation of offshore development is done with the environment in mind. The Nature Conservancy (TNC, lead PI Mary Conley) is working with partners to further develop and refine the [Southeast Marine Mapping Tool](). A beta version of the tool was released in May 2022. The next stage of this project, which is funded through SECOORA, will focus on 1) engaging decision-makers and stakeholders across the region in collaboration with Coastal Zone Management programs to elicit feedback on the tool, 2) enhancing the online tool based on feedback, and 3) connecting related online resources to the tool.	In Progress

Accomplishments are as follows:
- A project steering committee was formed and has met twice (virtually). The committee is working to increase connections to other online data support tools (e.g., Marine Cadastre and SAFMC Habitat Dashboard) and environmental conservation organizations.
  - Meeting 1: Participants were introduced to the project and the Southeast Marine Mapping Tool. A video introducing users to the tool was created and distributed to the steering committee to support their initial review: https://tnc.box.com/s/6p30gjvl4hcxto8qdfdo4l8cwmb6891y
  - Before the second meeting the committee was asked to use a scenario provided by TNC to explore the tool and provide feedback via a survey.
  - Meeting 2: A prioritized list of tool enhancements was identified based on feedback from the steering committee survey. The meeting focused on clarifying feedback and suggestions on tool improvements.

• Based on steering committee feedback, TNC will host state-focused meetings in the fall of 2023 to share the tool with state coastal zone managers, receive feedback, and identify additional utility or data sources that may be needed. • TNC created a press kit for the Southeast Marine Mapping Tool which was distributed to partners and released across the Southeast. A corresponding [article](#) was shared on the SECOORA website on 5/17/23 and through nature.org. • Presentation: "Southeast Marine Mapping Tool: Increasing access to regional ecological data to help inform offshore ocean use decisions" was given by Mary Conley on 2/9/23 at the Coastal GeoTools Conference in Charleston, SC. The presentation can be accessed through the conference website: https://coastalgeotools.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-Coastal-GeoTools-Abstract-and-Presentations-1.pdf	
Expansion of water level monitoring in underserved communities	

SECOORA is supporting the installation and long-term operation of new water level stations in the Southeast. The network will provide real-time local water level data to town managers, emergency managers, design engineers, and the public. This data is vital for monitoring coastal flooding and keeping citizens informed of hazardous conditions. This network will enable localized flooding alerts and improve community resilience. SECOORA is working with Sea Grant agencies in each state to help identify locations in underserved communities where water level data is key to community resilience.
 	
Accomplishments by Objective are as follows:
• Submit locations for 10 water level sensors to the NOAA IOOS Environmental Compliance Manager for review.
  ○ The four southeast Sea Grants, funded through SECOORA 2021-2026 IOOS Year 2 Supplemental Regional Ocean Data Sharing funds, are conducting outreach to underserved communities to identify station locations. A suite of 25 potential station installations have been identified through this Sea Grant collaboration. Determining final 10 station locations and identifying contractors to do the work is underway.
• Install and survey 5 water level stations in underserved communities.
  ○ SECOORA will work with partners to install water level stations during the next reporting period.
	In Progress

Increase the visibility of regional ocean data sharing activities with a Regional Ocean Data Sharing Web Presence	

Delayed: SECOORA is in the process of redoing our website. Once the new website is launched (expected summer 2023), we will create the Regional Ocean Data Sharing webpage to organize project information and provide updates on project status.	Not started

Goal B: Establishment of Communities of Practice to address regional ocean data sharing needs in the southeast

Surface Elevation Tables (SETs)

SETS are a vital tool in learning how marshes respond to Sea Level Rise. Coastal Zone Managers in the SE identified the following objectives: 1) develop a comprehensive inventory of SETS in NC, SC, GA, and FL, 2) conduct a SET gap analysis and potentially install 16 new SETS in the southeast, and 3) Establish a SET Community of Practice (CoP). Heather McCarthy has served as the SET Coordinator but is stepping down as of 5/31/23 to be the full time SCDRP Executive Director. SECOORA will advertise for a new SET Coordinator in the next progress report period.
 	
Accomplishments by objective are as follows:
• Comprehensive regional SET inventory.
    o Conducted literature search, online research, and expert interviews on the use of SETs within the region.
    o Began compiling a database of regional SET literature, white papers, and anecdotal information regarding active SET station locations.
    o Identified the most commonly used standardized protocol for the collection of SET data (developed by the National Park Service (NPS)).
    o Identified the most commonly used standardized protocol for the analysis of SET data (R script developed by the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)).
    o Produced 4 separate maps of locations (lat/long) from the following sources:
        ▪ NC CoP Dataset (closed data set and NC CoP unwilling to provide permission to share the map locations)
        ▪ NPS Data Store (open data - regularly updated and available).
        ▪ Everglades Data Release (published).
        ▪ Global Release Data (published in Science in 2022 and available here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VFuUtCXVfO9KcFqqPP1GhZx0aPx-xJgJ).
    o Extraction of SET locations (lat/long) from the following sources is
	In Progress

underway. These locations will be included in maps once complete:

- Gulf of Mexico (PLACE:SLR dataset - closed data; includes SETs along northwest coast of Florida).
- National Wildlife Refuge SETS from a descriptive paper of locations.
- NOAA Sentinel Sites SET Inventory/Summary (older data, some SETs still maintained).
- NERR SET data - Real-time analyses of SET data from NERRs (R script).

- Gap analysis
  - Mapping efforts described above will assist with the gap analysis.
  - Conducted literature search and expert interviews to determine the feasibility of funding alternative technologies instead of installing 16 new SETs in Year 2 (e.g., LIDAR).

- Community of Practice
  The Southeast SET CoP efforts are focused on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge around the data and its applications. Groundwork for the CoP began this reporting period:
  - Heather McCarthy conducted a virtual meeting on 3/2/2023 with Dr. Michael Osland (Research Ecologist, USGS Wetland & Aquatic Research Center, Lafayette, LA) and Nina Woodard (Habitat Resilience Specialist, PLACE:SLR, Extension Associate at Mississippi State Univ). Because the SET inventory and community in the Gulf of Mexico is well-developed, these researchers had many lessons learned and contacts to share.
  - Heather McCarthy attended the North Carolina SET CoP Workshop on 3/31/2023. She presented SECOORA's SET initiative and goals, gauged interest and need for regional coordination, asked about hurdles/challenges/data-sharing, requested feedback, and led a discussion about pivoting to explore new technologies that can more efficiently gather surface elevation data. Heather met with NC Sea Grant to discuss the evolution of the NC SET CoP to a regional entity.

Support and expand the existing Drone Community of Practice (CoP)	
Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS), or drones, are a rapidly growing component of research, assessment, and monitoring of coastal regions within the U.S. Southeast. A Drones in the Coastal Zone CoP is being established to continue supporting the sharing of knowledge and best practices related to the use of drone technologies to support coastal research.	In Progress

Accomplishments by objective are as follows:
- Develop the Drones in the Coastal Zone CoP webpage with links to projects, resources, latest news, and past and future workshop materials. The webpage will be hosted on the SECOORA website.
  - Delayed: SECOORA is in the process of redoing our website. Once the new website is launched (expected summer 2023), we will create the CoP webpage to organize project information and provide updates on project status.
- Work with Duke University and NOAA NCCOS Beaufort Lab to host a 2-day regional workshop to advance the understanding of applications of drone data to key coastal and ocean management issues.
  - The Workshop Steering Committee has met three times during the reporting period (3/16, 4/6, 5/22) and are planning a Spring 2024 in person workshop. Due to Steering Committee and SECOORA schedules, the workshop cannot be hosted during Year 1 but will be scheduled early in Year 2. The workshop location is tentatively scheduled for the NOAA NCCOS Beaufort Lab, Beaufort, NC.
- Host a Request for Proposals (RFP) opportunity for 6 people to attend a 3-part UAS executive education course offered by the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. The courses will build capacity in the region for implementing the technology and understanding the data. After successful completion of all three courses, applicants will receive a certificate of completion.
  - SECOORA has posted an RFP to sponsor candidates from the US Southeast region to attend 3 Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) executive education courses offered by the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. Deadline to apply is 6/30/23. The course timeline is Course 1: 10/9/23 – 11/17/23; Course 2: 1/8/24-2/16/24; and Course 3: 3/11/24-4/26/24.
- Drones in the Coastal Zone (DITCZ) CoP calls:
  - 2/2/23 (63 attendees): Tiffany Troxler, Florida International University, presented "Integration of drone surveys as part of a SECOORA coastal flood monitoring network" and Cuizhen (Susan) Wang, Department of Geography, University of South Carolina, presented "Drone Lidar for coastal topography and marsh biomass mapping".
  - 5/4/23 (37 in attendees): Eric Harkins, founder and CEO of Back Forty Aerial Solutions, LLC, presented "The Case for Low Altitude LiDAR in Tidal Environments" and Brendan Brown and Drew Reicks, CDM Smith, presented on "Using Drone Data and Machine Learning to Map Invasive Species and Monitor Coastal Restoration".

Goal C: Support resilience planning in the southeast through the <u>Southeast & Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership</u>	
The Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP)	

The SCDRP seeks to strengthen community resilience and support rapid recovery from storms and disasters by serving as the primary network for professionals in emergency management, climate adaptation, and disaster recovery in the US Southeast and Caribbean territories. Organized to coordinate regional disaster recovery and resilience planning, the SCDRP has emerged as a convening forum for professionals who are committed to building capacity and sharing their expertise to advance community resilience. Heather McCarthy is the Executive Director of the SCDRP.
 	
Accomplishments by objective are as follows:
• Provide salary support for the SCDRP Executive Director and support travel for the Executive Director and Program Coordinator to meet with partners.
    o The SCDRP Executive Director, Heather McCarthy, is being supported through this award. Heather led the 2023 SCDRP Annual Meeting Planning process and was integral to the meeting success. The Annual Meeting was hosted in Miami, FL, between 1/23/ - 1/25. 120 people participated in the meeting. The meeting summary, agenda, and videos of teach session are available here: https://www.scdrp.secoora.org/copy-of-2023-annual-meeting. Highlights of the meeting include:
        ▪ A pre-meeting field trip to Miami-Dade County Wastewater Treatment Plant, Virginia Key, FL with the Miami-Dade County Office of Resilience.
        ▪ During the 9 Annual Meeting sessions, speakers and panelists addressed the theme of how to build effective resilience in our communities through 1) unique partnerships across larger areas that share common vulnerabilities, 2) inclusive, equitable, community-based solutions, and 3) taking actions with immediacy and urgency.
        ▪ Risk experts from the Caribbean spoke during special panel sessions. These experts represented the Bahamas, Belize, and Barbados.
        ▪ Hosted a post-meeting dinner and Roundtable Discussion between 35 professionals focused on "Aligning Resilience Planning with Disaster Response: Partnerships for Healthy Communities" with the Nicholas Institute from Duke University.
	In Progress

- - Secured 6 corporate sponsorships for the event.
  - Awarded 10 registration scholarships to students and non-profit representatives (scholarships were provided through other funding sources).
  - Hosted 3 VIP keynote speakers General Laura Richardson, of the U.S. Army who leads the Southern Command; Mayor Daniella Levine-Cava of Miami-Dade County; and Assistant Secretary-General Selwin Hart of the United Nations.
- Southeast Coastal Zone Mangers will participate in the 2023 SCDRP Annual Meeting (https://www.scdrp.secoora.org/). SECOORA will support travel for 2 CZMA managers from each state (total of 8 people) for the event. This meeting will allow the CZMA managers to liaise with the SCDRP Board so that the SCDRP is apprised of state CZM priorities.
  - SECOORA provided invitational travel funding for coastal zone managers, SCDRP staff, and SECOORA staff to attend and give presentations on resilience efforts at the 2023 SCDRP Annual Meeting.

Additional SCDRP accomplishments:
- During this reporting period SCDRP Monthly Partnership Meetings were hosted on 12/15, 1/25 (in-person), 2/23, 3/23, 4/27, and 5/25. The SCDRP Executive Director coordinates and participates on these meetings. Virtual meetings are recorded and available on the SCDRP YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN1Eo26yGEtC8u8bOQPazldbyfjWMK8Yi
- The SCDRP conducted a successful Membership drive which tripled the number of individual memberships from 37 to 142.
- 16 e-newsletters were emailed to ~550 SCDRP listserv members.
- The SCDRP Governance Committee met monthly to produce new formal Policies & Procedures for the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board was originally comprised of 9 members. The Governance Committee approved adding 6 new Advisory Board seats to expand diversity and perspectives on the Board, bringing the total Advisory Board membership to 15. The SCDRP held the first official election of new Advisory Board Members in January and onboarded new members on February 1. The Advisory Board members are found here (scroll down the page to find the members): https://www.scdrp.secoora.org/about-4

Outreach and Media Coverage
- Southeast & Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership in NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter, Fall 2022 (vol. 11 no. 3). https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/NOAA-in-the-Caribbean-Autumn-2022-Newsletter_English_Final.pdf

- USGS engaged with U.S. and international natural hazards resilience specialists at the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP), https://www.usgs.gov/centers/spcmsc/news/usgs-engaged-us-and-international-natural-hazards-resilience-specialists
- SCDRP 2023 in Smart Home America News Blog. https://www.smarthomeamerica.org/news/scdrp-2023
- Building Resilience in the Southeast: Innovative partnerships and community-based approaches, supported by local, state, and federal agencies, are contributing to resilience-building efforts in the Southeast, by U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit. https://toolkit.climate.gov/regions/southeast/building-resilience-southeast

BUDGET SUMMARY:

Total Approved YEAR 1 Funds (Topic 1 + Topic 2)	$950,500
Matching Funds	$0 (no matching funds were required)
Total Funds Expended (YEAR 1 Topic 1)*	$167,830.79
Total Funds Expended (YEAR 1 Topic 2)*	$14,946.83
Total Unobligated Funds (Topic 1 + Topic 2)	$0
Budget Deviations	None

* SECOORA pays its monthly operational costs (i.e., payroll, etc.) and then conducts the ASAP draws in the middle of the following month for both the preceding month's operational expenses and the sub-awardee invoices. SECOORA receives invoices on a quarterly basis. There is always a delay between when a subawardee or subcontractor conducts work and when it is invoiced to SECOORA.