

MATAGORDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

RESOLUTION

Requesting Support for Freshwater Inflows Research and Protection

WHEREAS, well before man made his appearance, Matagorda Bay provided sustenance and shelter for myriad marine animals and shore and water birds, and

WHEREAS, this highly productive estuarine environment supported by the confluence of seawater with fresh water that moderated salinity and provided a cargo of nutrients and sediments, and

WHEREAS, Matagorda Bay and surroundings also provide a haven for a record number of bird species that attract bird watchers from around the world, and

WHEREAS, while the health of the Bay is important for commercial reasons, it is equally significant for the contribution to the greater coastal environment, and

WHEREAS, adequate Freshwater Inflows and their timing are necessary to maintain the positive environment in the Bay or to aid recovery after a drought episode, and

WHEREAS, the determination of the quantity and timing of Freshwater Inflow is scientifically very complex, inexact and subject to varying levels of uncertainty, and

WHEREAS, there are numerous and intensive studies underway to determine the quantity and timing of Freshwater Inflows, and

WHEREAS, the State has mandated a task force to study Freshwater Inflow requirements, that is currently underway and is considering approaches to protect instream and Freshwater Inflows, and

WHEREAS, in prospect of future water shortfalls for all purposes due to ever increasing demands by municipalities, industry and agriculture, and

WHEREAS, adequate Freshwater Inflows are necessary to maintain bay dependent ecological habitats as well as economic activities, and

WHEREAS, the scientifically determined estuarine needs for Freshwater Inflows and allocations may not be provided for without the enactment of additional protections,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioners' Court of Matagorda County, Texas, in Regular Session with all members present and concurring, hereby respectfully encourage and recommend that Governor Rick Perry, Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, Senator Ken Armbrister and Representative Glenda Dawson support the ongoing efforts and new initiatives with legislation to protect Freshwater Inflows that will result in maintaining a viable and productive estuarine system.

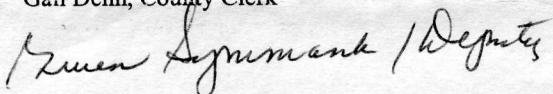
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Minutes of this Court as public acknowledgment of this resolution.

PASSED IN OPEN COURT, this the 7th day of February, 2005

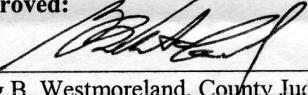
Attest:


Gail Denn

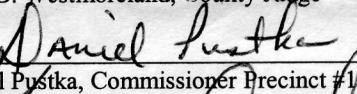
Gail Denn, County Clerk


Karen Symmank / Deputy

Approved:


Greg B. Westmoreland

County Judge


Daniel Pustka

Commissioner Precinct #1


George Deshorts

Commissioner, Precinct #2


James Gibson

Commissioner, Precinct #3


Percy Carroll

Commissioner, Precinct #4