

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.

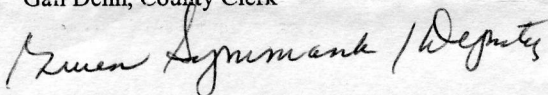
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Minutes of this Court as public acknowledgment of this resolution.

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

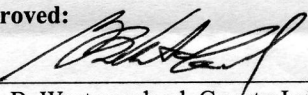
Attest:



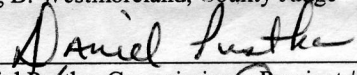
Gail Denn, County Clerk


Gwen Symmank / Deputy

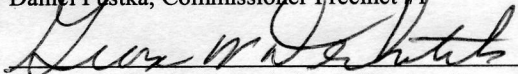
Approved:




Greg B. Westmoreland, County Judge




Daniel Pustka, Commissioner Precinct #1



George Deshotels, Commissioner, Precinct #2



James Gibson, Commissioner, Precinct #3



Percy Carroll, Commissioner, Precinct #4