



GALVESTON
PARK BOARD OF TRUSTEES

601 Tremont - P. O. Box 1080
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RESTORE ACT IMPLEMENTATION IN TEXAS RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

WHEREAS, Texans cherish our shared coastal heritage and recognize that protecting and restoring coastal natural resources is essential to sustaining our economy and our way of life; and,

WHEREAS, there was the tragic loss of 11 rig crew members during the Deepwater Horizon tragedy; two of whom were from Texas; and,

WHEREAS, Texas also experienced other direct impacts, including substantial environmental and economic losses, as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas Gulf coast generates more than \$17 billion in tourism activity every year by drawing visitors to our world famous beaches, birding and hunting areas, bountiful fishing grounds and enchanting coastal towns; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas Gulf coast is home to robust commercial and recreational fishing industries that together support over 23,000 jobs and generate more than \$4 billion in revenue each year, enriching coastal economies while providing Americans with access to fresh, safe seafood and world-class angling opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, Texas has 367 miles of Gulf-facing shoreline, with many thousands of miles of bay shoreline and barrier islands; and,

WHEREAS, the past half century has demonstrated that beach nourishment works as a means of repairing erosion, storm damage protection and enhancing recreation while providing at least **\$4 in national economic benefits for every \$1 of federal money spent**; and,

WHEREAS, over 64% of the Texas coast is eroding and coastal wetlands and public beaches are experiencing a significant loss of acreage, resulting in decreased habitat, negatively impacting public beach accessibility, and fisheries production; and,

WHEREAS, Texas bays, estuaries and wetlands are increasingly deprived of the freshwater inflows needed to ensure their sustained functionality, species diversity and long term viability and wider sand beaches combined with taller healthy dunes are a proven mitigation measure to reduce potential storm impact; and,

WHEREAS, it is our responsibility to protect and restore our coastal ecosystems for the benefit of future generations of Texans, and recognize that our Gulf-facing beach shorelines provide the first line of defense for the many billions of dollars of upland infrastructure and priceless coastal plain habitat;

and,



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WHEREAS, implementation of the Restore Act provides Texans with an unprecedented opportunity to make a significant investment in protecting, restoring and sustaining critical natural resource projects including beach nourishment, dune restoration, shoreline stabilization, oyster reef restoration, water quality improvement, sustainable fisheries management, protection of vulnerable and endangered marine species, research and monitoring of critical ecosystems, and overall coastal habitat protection; and,

WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance for Governor Perry to designate coastal restoration and protection projects as a top priority for the State of Texas through the disbursement of Restore Act funding.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Galveston Park Board of Trustees to call upon Governor Perry, the Restore Council, Federal and State agencies and to designate coastal restoration and protection projects as a top priority for the State of Texas through the disbursement of Restore Act funding for projects that will protect and restore our coast against further environmental and economic damage.

Be it Further Resolved that the Galveston Park Board of Trustees issues this **Resolution** supporting the **RESTORE Act Implementation in Texas** and seeks the aid and support of its legislative delegation at the State and Federal level in implementation of this critical program; and,

Be it Further Resolved additionally that a copy of this **Resolution** be made part of the minutes of the Galveston Park Board of Trustees and that originals hereof be furnished to **Senator John Cornyn, Senator Ted Cruz, Congressman Randy Weber, Congressman Pete Olson, Congressman Steve Stockman, Congressman Filemon Vela, Congressman Blake Farenthold, Texas Governor Rick Perry, and Harry Simmons, President ASBPA National Association.**

Executed on Behalf of the Galveston Park Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

Dr. Craig K Brown

Mr. Buzz Elton

Chairman

Secretary

Galveston Park Board of Trustees
12/13/2013

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