

A RESOLUTION to support the Galveston Bay Estuary Program's *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition, The Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Galveston Bay Ecosystem*.

WHEREAS, Galveston Bay is a special and unique place where freshwater from rivers and streams mixes with saltwater from the ocean; and

WHEREAS, Galveston Bay is critical to the economic wellbeing, health, and quality of life for this region's communities; and

WHEREAS, the original *Galveston Bay Plan* was approved by the Governor of Texas and the United States Environmental Protection Agency in 1995 and was designed to be implemented over a 20-year period with evaluations every five years; and

Whereas, the Texas Estuaries Act (1999) recognizes the national significance of Texas estuaries and the benefits and public purpose of the estuary management plans, and directs the previous Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to be the lead state agency for implementation of the plans under the National Estuary Program, among other supportive roles; and

WHEREAS, the Galveston Bay Estuary Program was created to provide long-term protection of Galveston Bay through an ecosystem-wide process of cooperative action and management in accordance with the original approved plan and consistent with §320 of the Federal Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, at the mid-point of the original plan's 20-year timeline, the Galveston Bay Council's decision to identify the most urgent actions for implementing the plan and to sustain the bay's future resulted in the publication of the document *Charting the Course to 2015: Galveston Bay Strategic Action Plan* (2009); and

WHEREAS, at the 20-year timeline for the original plan, an in-depth analysis of the original objectives was undertaken, going beyond the most urgent actions defined in the *Strategic Action Plan*; and

WHEREAS, *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition* builds upon 30 years of factual, scientific information and identifies specific actions, goals, and objectives to address priority issues; and

WHEREAS, the strategies and tools identified in *The Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition*, in concert with the collaboration, coordination, and monitoring that occurs through the Galveston Bay Council and its subcommittees, will ensure that Galveston Bay is preserved for future generations to come.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Galveston Bay Estuary Program's coordinated regional management of Galveston Bay will be the most effective means of preserving this region's most valuable natural resource and intends to join with other local governments and regional stakeholders to support the goals of

The Galveston Bay Plan, 2nd Edition, The Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Galveston Bay Ecosystem.