

RESOLUTION No. 2017-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MEXICO BEACH EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A GULF OF MEXICO ESTUARY PROGRAM FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF THE ST. ANDREW BAY WATERSHED; PLEDGING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Gulf of Mexico estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of Gulf of Mexico estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council will provide funds to "stand up" and establish an Estuary Program in one Northwest Florida Estuary, including Perdido, Pensacola, Escambia, Choctawhatchee, St. Andrew, and Apalachicola, in order to comprehensively coordinate the management and improvement of this estuary and its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staffs, nonprofits, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders have been actively participating in meetings for the past four years to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and

WHEREAS, all involved stakeholders support the establishment of an Estuary Program for the St. Andrew Bay watershed, which includes St. Joseph Bay, in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEXICO BEACH THAT:

1. That the City of Mexico Beach finds the above recitals to be true and correct and incorporates them herein by reference.
2. That the City of Mexico Beach hereby expresses its support for the Gulf of Mexico Estuary Program (EPA\_RESTORE\_003\_008\_Cat1) that will establish one Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration and protection of one Northwest Florida Estuary.
3. That the City of Mexico Beach requests that the St. Andrew Bay watershed be selected as the initial Estuary Program of the Gulf of Mexico Estuary Program.

4. That the City of Mexico Beach pledges to participate in the Gulf of Mexico Estuary Program process for the St. Andrew Bay watershed and work with other stakeholders to prepare and implement a plan to manage and protect our bays and watershed.

5. That this resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

DONE AND ADOPTED by the City of Mexico Beach this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July.



William A. Cathey, Mayor

ATTEST:



Adrian Welle, City Clerk