

THE STATE OF TEXAS           §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND       §

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BEND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT REQUESTING THE MEMBERS OF THE 83rd LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT INCREASES FUNDING FOR THE TEXAS RECREATION & PARKS ACCOUNT AND LARGE COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY RECREATION AND PARKS ACCOUNT LOCAL PARK GRANT PROGRAMS, AND THE TEXAS STATE PARK SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department ("TPWD") administers the Texas Recreation & Parks Account Local Park Grant Program ("TRPA") and the Large County and Municipality Recreation and Parks Account (Urban Account) and manages 94 State parks and historical sites in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, TPWD has a separate accounts in their general revenue fund referred to as the TRPA and Urban Account for the purpose of providing matching grants to political subdivisions for parks and recreation projects, and for outreach grants to introduce new populations to outdoor experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, the matching grants provided by the TPWD are utilized for the planning, acquisition, and development of local park, recreation and open space areas to be owned and maintained by political subdivisions; and

**WHEREAS**, funds granted to political subdivisions under the TRPA and Urban Account guidelines have funded 1629 projects of the 3,470 submitted over 30 years delivering over \$800 million to the local Texas economy; and

**WHEREAS**, political subdivisions throughout the State of Texas depend on grants from TPWD through the TRPA to stimulate the acquisition and development of parks and recreational areas for the benefit and enjoyment of their citizenry; and

**WHEREAS**, the TRPA, Urban Account, and State parks are funded from sales tax on sporting goods and that the development of new parks stimulates the purchase of sporting goods; and

**WHEREAS**, the maintenance and improvements of State park and historic sites and the addition of new parks is a priority to Texans due to the State's expanding population and extensive tourism industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the development of parks encourages and promotes public health, economic development, job creation, education; corporate relocations, an improved quality of life, and juvenile crime prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are needed for major repairs at state parks and for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities; and

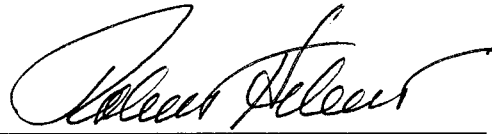
**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of Fort Bend County Commissioners Court that a copy of this resolution with appropriate names affixed be presented to the Governor of Texas and the leadership of the 83rd Texas Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, this Resolution serves a public purpose.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS:**

1. That members of the 83rd Legislature of Texas seek passage of legislation maximizing the use of revenue from the sporting goods sales tax to increase funding for parks and recreation programs for both Local and State parks and that all TRPA and Urban Account funded park projects be subject to the established TPWD competitive scoring system; and
2. That members of the 83rd Legislature of Texas restore funding to the TRPA and Urban accounts in the amount of at least \$15.5 million per year.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.



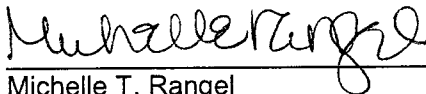
Robert E. Hebert, County Judge

ATTEST:



Dianne Wilson, County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Michelle T. Rangel  
Assistant County Attorney

