

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE STATE PORT AT GULFPORT

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ENDORSING THE RESTORATION AND REDEVELOPMENT CONCEPT AS ADOPTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE STATE PORT AT GULFPORT.

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast and with neighboring states causing the greatest natural disaster ever to occur in the State of Mississippi and the United States, including almost complete destruction of the facilities and infrastructure of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District's mission is to encourage and accomplish planned development of the region's human, economic, political and natural resources and identify and capitalize on the development potentials of its fifteen counties; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized by the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District that restoration and redevelopment of the Port at Gulfport is vital to the continued economic recovery and development of Gulfport; and

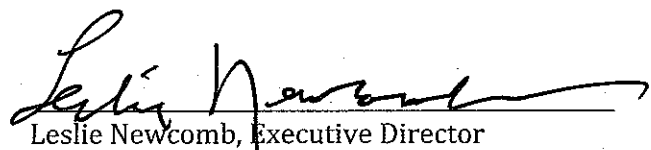
WHEREAS, the purpose of the Port of Gulfport's restoration program is to facilitate the restoration of public infrastructure and publicly owned facilities that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, to provide storm mitigation against future damage for the Gulfport community, and to provide for the long term recovery of the operating capacity of the Port; and

WHEREAS, the concept adopted for restoration and redevelopment of the Port facilities would allow and accommodate future growth of Port facilities which could result in a substantial number of new and better jobs and a higher quality of life; facilitate and maximize the future growth of Port operations through private investment; and bring business and economic development opportunities into the coastal region and the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District wishes to express its support for the concept adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport for restoration and redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport, finding and declaring the same essential to our joint mission and purpose of advancing the development potentials of the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the 10th day of February, 2010, the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District does hereby express its support for the concept adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport for restoration and redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport.


Lynn Cartledge, President, Board of Directors
Southern MS Planning & Development District


Leslie Newcomb, Executive Director
Southern MS Planning & Development District