

RESOLUTION 2000 - 05

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT NASSAU COUNTY BE INCLUDED IN THE TIMUCUAN ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE.

WHEREAS, Congress created the Timucuan Ecological Preserve in 1988; and

WHEREAS, the preserve was established to protect the natural resources of the coastal wetlands and to preserve historic and pre-historic sites; and

WHEREAS, the Preserve includes 46,000 acres, and seventy-five percent (75%) of said acres are open water or salt marsh; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service administers the Timucuan Preserve and owns 7,500 acres of the 46,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, during the twelve (12) year period that the Preserve has been in existence, the National Park Service has cooperated with all State and local governments as well as private landowners in the administration of the preserve; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Nassau County was originally opposed to being included in the boundaries of the Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the opposition to the inclusion of Nassau County was based upon concerns expressed by the Department of the Interior in 1987; and

WHEREAS, the twelve year history of the Preserve has demonstrated that the concerns expressed have not materialized, and, in fact, the Preserve has been beneficial in all aspects; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County has a significant estuary ecosystem and historic sites that should now be included in the Preserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 10th day of January, 2000, by the Board of County Commissioners as follows:

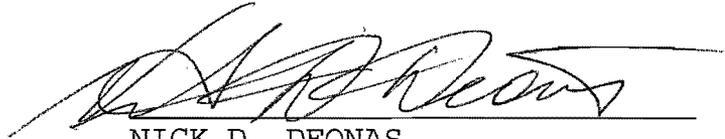
1. The Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, requests that Congresswoman Fowler take all necessary steps to include Nassau County within the boundaries of the Timucuan Ecological Preserve, and the inclusion be accomplished in the year 2000.
2. That the boundaries of the Preserve in Nassau County should be established after consultations with the Park Service and the Board of County Commissioners. Said boundaries shall be established within thirty (30) days of the date of this Resolution.
3. The Board commits to provide staff and individual members of the Board of County Commissioners to

provide testimony before Congress, if required, or any other information required.

4. The Board, by endorsing the inclusion of Nassau County into the Preserve, supports the continued recreational use of the waterways for the public, as has been the case in Duval County, and, further, requests that this be re-affirmed by the Department of the Interior.
5. The Board, by endorsing this inclusion, also supports the preservation of property rights in the same manner that has occurred in Duval County. Any acquisition of properties should be pursuant to policies and procedures as utilized in the Duval County portion of the Preserve.
6. The Board hereby rescinds Resolution 95-73, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "1".
7. Final approval of any Federal Legislation shall be subject to approval by the Board of County Commissioners.
8. A copy of this Resolution shall be provided to Congresswoman Fowler and to Former Congressman

Charles Bennett.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



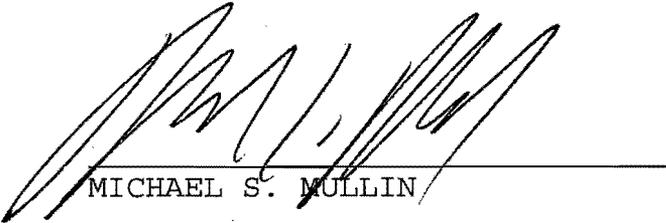
NICK D. DEONAS
Its: Chairman

ATTEST:



J. M. "CHIP" OXLEY, JR.
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney



MICHAEL S. MULLIN

39/a:Timucuan-res