

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DIAMONDHEAD, MISSISSIPPI,
ENDORING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE LEGISLATURE,
GOVERNOR, ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF MARINE
RESOURCES, AND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE MISSION OF THE
MISSISSIPPI SOUND COALITION**

WHEREAS, the City of Diamondhead, Mississippi, (the "City"), joins with the other members of the Coalition comprised of Mississippi Coast municipalities, counties, and fisheries, seafood, tourism and other businesses in endorsing financial support from the Mississippi Legislature and Governor, Attorney General, Department of Marine Resources, and Department of Environmental Quality for the Mississippi Sound Coalition's Mission: To restore, preserve, and protect the ecosystem of the Mississippi Sound and the economy and way of life that depend upon it ; and

WHEREAS, certain members of the Mississippi Sound Coalition initiated litigation against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Mississippi River Commission contending the more frequent, lengthier openings of the Bonnet Carré Spillway in recent years have caused significant damage to the environment and economy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2023, the Honorable U.S. District Court Judge Louis Giurola, Jr., ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to consult before September 30, 2023, with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the impact of Spillway openings on Essential Fish Habitats and the Court retained jurisdiction to ensure the Corps' compliance; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Sound Coalition and its science and engineering committee desire to supplement information and data provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure that the true impacts on the environment and economy of the Mississippi Coast are fully considered by the NMFS and the Corps and further to provide the NMFS and the Corps with alternative measures to consider for mitigation and, if possible, avoidance of future damage to the Mississippi Sound caused by the Corps' management of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Sound Coalition has proposed that an appropriate monitoring technology be placed at the Rigolets Pass to measure water quality and quantity flowing from the Bonnet Carré Spillway through Lake Ponchartrain and Lake Borgne into the Mississippi Sound; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Sound Coalition has drafted a Mississippi Sound and Lake Ponchartrain Protection Act for consideration by the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Sound Coalition desires to engage more robustly in public hearings, education, and advocacy at state and federal levels regarding its Mission, scientific and engineering data, and public policy proposals; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with procuring and presenting such scientific and engineering data and recommendations, the gauge at Rigolets, public advocacy, and ongoing litigation expenses of the Mississippi Sound Coalition are beyond the capabilities of the members of the Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Sound Coalition seeks financial support from the State Legislature and Governor of the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Sound Coalition further seeks appropriate joinder by the State of Mississippi in the Coalition's judicial and legislative efforts in sounding the alarm and proposing win-win solutions for this national problem, to the federal government, our neighboring states, and the 31 states that use the Mississippi River to drain and dispose of harmful wastewater that makes its way to the Mississippi Sound, causing devastating harm to the environment and economy of the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama Gulf Coasts;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF DIAMONDHEAD, MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION ONE. That the findings, conclusions and statements of fact contained in the foregoing preamble are hereby adopted, ratified and incorporated herein.

SECTION TWO. That the City of Diamondhead, Mississippi, hereby expresses its support and encouragement for the Mission and efforts of the Mississippi Sound Coalition and further seeks the support of the Mississippi State Legislature and Governor for legislation and funding to advance the efforts of the Coalition to restore, preserve, and protect the Mississippi Sound and the support of the U.S. Congress to adopt the Mississippi Sound and Lake Ponchartrain Protection Act.

SECTION THREE. That this Resolution be and hereby is by its adoption effective immediately.

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Councilman Finely	<u>✓</u>	_____
Councilman Liese	<u>✓</u>	_____
Councilman Cumberland	<u>✓</u>	_____
Councilman Clark	<u>✓</u>	_____
Councilman At-Large Maher	<u>✓</u>	_____
Mayor Depreo	<u>✓</u>	_____

APPROVED:

Mayor Nancy Depreo
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Pammi Klein
CITY CLERK



THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at the regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Diamondhead, Mississippi, held on March 7, _____, 2023, and duly recorded in Minute Book _____ Page _____ thereof.

Pammi Klein
CITY CLERK

