

MISSION * ARANSAS NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

September 16, 2009

Matt Menashes
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
444 N Capitol St NW Ste 322
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Menashes,

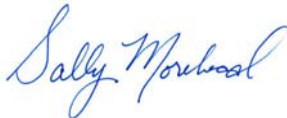
The Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) is happy to support the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association's application for the NOAA's Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration National and Regional Partnership.

The Mission-Aransas NERR recognizes the importance of restoring fish habitats and other environments to their natural state. Restoring habitats are vital to increasing the level ecological services they provide and can play a dramatic role in protecting our coasts from climate change effects such as relative sea level rise. The proposed project will help identify effective strategies for restoration and increase our knowledge of restoration science. This information will greatly assist resource managers in effective management of our local estuaries and adjacent upland areas. If funded, these restoration projects will also further our efforts to provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. Local communities will also be supported by increasing the quality of habitats that support local fisheries and providing resilience to extreme storm events.

Mission-Aransas NERR is very interested in participating in the program and increasing the number of restored habitats and reference sites for climate change. The Mission-Aransas NERR is currently drafting a Habitat Mapping and Change Plan that will assist the Reserve in selection of appropriate restoration and reference sites. This plan also identifies many Reserve partners that will assist in plan implementation and restoration sites.

On behalf of the Mission-Aransas NERR, I write to support this proposal. There are many applications that can result from the products of this proposal, some of which can help identify methodology for restoration of diverse habitats, plant and animal distributions in response to local sea level rise, and increased storm protection. We are very excited by this new restoration endeavor because we are certain the proposed project is necessary to our local communities to better manage the aspects of the coastal ecosystem.

Sincerely,



Sally Morehead
Reserve Manager



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