



June 19, 2013

RE: Yates Creek, Taylor County, Florida

Dear Restore Act Advisory Committee Members:

On behalf of the Taylor County Development Authority, please accept this letter of support for the proposed purchase/acquisition of a coastal site in Taylor County, Florida known as Yates Creek. The purpose of the acquisition of this property, which includes both Little Spring Creek and Yates Creek, would be to create a public park that would not only offer public access to the Gulf via the boat ramp, but also provide an area for kayaking, primitive camping, nature trails, bird-watching stations and the opportunity for people to learn about the rich history of the area.

Even though Taylor County has the longest continuous coastline in the state along the Gulf of Mexico, there is very limited public access to the Gulf along the county's coast. Consequently, a public park located in the Yates Creek area would be an economic development asset for Taylor County.

The park will be designed to protect native habitat in this environmentally sensitive area, and allow the public an opportunity to experience a taste of "Old Florida", while enjoying outstanding outdoor recreation. Moreover, the estuarine nursery areas of places like Yates Creek are critical to the ecology of the entire Gulf.

Thank you for your consideration as to funding this much-needed project with available BP Deep Water Horizon settlement funds.

Sincerely,

Scott Frederick, Director

TAYLOR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

103 E. Ellis St., Perry, FL 32348 | floridarisingstar.com | 850-584-5627