Draft Resolution of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund 2018

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was passed by Congress in 1965, and has aided the creation and enhancement of national forests, parks, and wildlife refuges, as well as state and local parks, historical sites, and recreational areas; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has delivered tremendous benefits to Louisiana through its federal and state components, including Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge, as well as state parks, recreation facilities, and educational sites in the parishes of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was innovative for deriving its funding from offshore oil production revenues, and is specified as a recipient of Gulf of Mexico production revenues in the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA); and

WHEREAS, the conservation, outdoor recreation, and educational benefits of the Land and Water Conservation Fund have enhanced the mission of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, as well as Louisiana’s efforts in support of coastal restoration, wildlife conservation, and sustainable development, including new opportunities provided by the Recreational Strategies and Projects in the Deepwater Horizon NRDA Restoration Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is slated for re-authorization in 2018, as well as its annual funding through the Congressional appropriations process;

THEREFORE, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program Management Conference reaffirms its support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and its continued implementation for the benefit of America and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program region, to be conveyed to Louisiana’s federal and state officials.