

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

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Okaloosa County Applauds State's Investment in Preserving Destin's Waterfront for Public Use

Okaloosa County, Florida – Okaloosa County today thanked Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet for approving the purchase of waterfront property in Destin, preserving land for public access that would otherwise have been lost forever to private development.

"Thank you, Governor DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet, for recognizing the tremendous value of this land and approving an investment that will expand public access of the coastline for Floridians," said Okaloosa County Board Chairman Paul Mixon. "The state recognized what a unique opportunity this was – to purchase land on our state's one-of-a-kind coast for a new state park – and they took action with Floridians in mind."

This acquisition expands the current public parkland by 33% and enhances public access by connecting it to Gulf Shore Drive. The newly acquired parcel includes a protective seawall, road and parking improvements, and full utility connections. It also includes a state-of-the-art marina with 53 slips that will now be available for public use rather than reserved for only private individuals.

"The purchase of this parcel, appraised by state-certified professionals, represents a strategic investment in our community's future," said Okaloosa County Commissioner Drew Palmer (District 5). "It protects public access to a rare stretch of waterfront that would otherwise be lost to private development, preserves one of the most iconic views along our coastline, and ensures lasting benefits for Destin, Okaloosa County, and generations to come. I'm grateful to the Florida Legislature, Governor, and Cabinet for recognizing the importance of this opportunity and making it a reality

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