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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Galveston Bay Foundation applauds EPA decision to require removal of toxic wastes from San Jacinto River, calls for a quick removal

Houston, TX – October 11, 2017 – Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) applauds the EPA's decision to require removal of the dioxin-laden wastes from the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site at I-10 in Channelview. It ends a lengthy period of debate on the future of the waste at the site and will result in final remediation and cleanup for the site.

GBF advocated for years for the removal of the old paper mill waste from the site. The waste was first pumped into pits along the San Jacinto River in the mid-1960s. The site has contained a temporary cap for the last several years. Because the site is located in a high energy zone subject to flooding, the cap had repeated maintenance issues and exposed more waste to the San Jacinto River.

Now that EPA has announced this final decision, known as the record of decision, it is imperative that they ensure the cleanup and removal begin as soon as possible. We encourage EPA to come to final agreement with the responsible parties, McGinnis Industrial Waste Maintenance Corporation (a subsidiary of Waste Management) and International Paper, as quickly as possible. If they cannot move this agreement forward quickly, EPA should begin the cleanup process on its own and seek restitution for cleanup costs from the responsible parties.

About the Galveston Bay Foundation

Established in 1987, the Galveston Bay Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to preserve and enhance Galveston Bay as a healthy and productive place for generations to come. It implements diverse programs in land preservation, habitat restoration, water quality and quantity, youth education, and advocacy. For further information, contact the Foundation at (281) 332-3381, visit www.galvbay.org, like us on Facebook, or follow us on twitter @GBayFoundation

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