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## **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND WILL PLEDGE TO CREATE MONARCH BUTTERFLY HABITAT**

**South Padre Island, TX – September 22, 2016:** The creation and restoration of a lush and vibrant monarch butterfly habitat is the goal that South Padre Island City Council had in mind as they approved the signing of the National Wildlife Federation Mayor's Monarch Pledge at last night's city council meeting. With the absence of Mayor Patel from last night's meeting, the signing of the pledge will be held at a later date.

"We all know that the monarch is one of the most iconic, symbolic species in nature," said South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center Naturalist Javier Gonzalez during last night's meeting. "It's often used as an example in learning in our schools, so it's important to keep conserving the species, more now than ever, since in recent years they have been declining in numbers. I feel that by signing the Monarch Pledge, the City of South Padre Island will be doing something very important."

The Mayor's Monarch Pledge consists of 25 possible action items, of which the Mayor and local government chief executives who have taken the pledge, must commit to at least three within one year.

One pledge item that was discussed during the meeting was the possible hosting of a Monarch Festival in 2017. Communities and nature centers from around the Rio Grande Valley would be invited to participate in an effort to show solidarity for the conservation of the monarch butterfly.

Along with the signing of the National Wildlife Federation Mayor's Monarch Pledge, South Padre Island City Council approved a Beach-Dune permit for the construction of a gazebo for an Eagle Scout project in the Butterfly Garden.

The construction of the gazebo will launch the restoration of the city's Butterfly Garden, located at 4350 Gulf Blvd.

For more information regarding the National Wildlife Federation Mayor's Monarch Pledge please visit their website at: <http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/About/National-Initiatives/Mayors-Monarch-Pledge.aspx>

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