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## **Executive Summary of the Visioning Process**

In December 2002 and January 2003, as an integral phase of the comprehensive planning process, the Town of South Padre Island convened a series of community forums. The purpose of the forums was to identify the current concerns of the citizens about the Island, and to record and prioritize their views on its future development potential. From these forums and a write-in response from those who could not be present, a clear consensus emerged. An analysis of these responses has been interpreted as a Vision Statement for the Town of South Padre Island in the year 2020. This Statement will be used as the basis for preparing the Comprehensive Strategic Plan.

### **The Vision Statement - South Padre Island 2020**

#### ***Community Character and Quality of Life***

- The Island has transformed its image; it is now a unique seaside community with a friendly small town character attracting a balance of permanent residents and tourists.
- It is noted for natural scenic beauty, Island-style buildings and lush landscaping.
- The Town has “raised the bar” of expectations for community aesthetics.
- Padre Boulevard is now a visually exciting, tree-lined corridor with underground utilities.
- Buildings and signage are harmonious, and excessive paved parking areas have been replaced with landscaping and sidewalks.
- New public buildings have set high standards and exemplify the distinctive “South Padre Style.”
- Parks, playgrounds, waterfront promenades, boat ramps and other recreational amenities are conveniently accessible to residents and visitors.
- The Town is noted for cleanliness of its beaches, parks and roadways. Vacant lots are well kept and free of litter.
- The Island’s natural resources are valued and well protected.
- There is a system of parks, greenways and open spaces linked by foot or bicycle paths.
- The transformation of the Island has created greater year-round opportunities for local business and employment.

#### ***Balanced Development***

- New land-use regulations enacted to support the Comprehensive Strategic Plan are equitable, user-friendly and effective in achieving a higher quality of development.
- Tourism now has a year round family orientation with less reliance on Spring Break.
- A stable, better-trained work force supports a higher end tourism market.

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- Land-use patterns for new development, infill and redevelopment form distinctive compact neighborhoods.
  - Shared parking and an attractive pedestrian network have reduced reliance on the automobile.
  - Livable neighborhoods, with a diversity of housing types, have a broad array of convenient amenities.
  - Businesses have diversified and improved in quality, and are conveniently located to serve their specific markets.
  - New attractions cater to residents and visitors of all ages.

### ***Sound Infrastructure and Transportation***

- Traffic congestion at special event and peak periods has been reduced, public transit made more available and a network of pedestrian and bicycle facilities are in place.
- Deficiencies in utilities and infrastructure capacity and services have been corrected and the town has the fiscal resources to support planned growth.
- A second causeway respecting the ecological and recreational functions of the Laguna Madre has been constructed.

### ***Community Relations and Governance***

- The Town has a form of government which allows greater control of fiscal matters and local public expenditure.
- Town government is well managed and is fiscally prepared for planned investment for short and longer-term capital projects.
- Citizens are active and deeply involved in civic affairs, and local associations are well supported.
- Effective communication allows citizens to be aware of local matters of concern.
- Government, citizens and business interests collaborate on a day to day basis to improve the island.
- The Comprehensive Strategic Plan is the reference for all public sector decisions concerning capital investment and regulatory measures.