

Melinda Mallia

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October 14, 2008

The Honorable Liz Sumter
County Judge, Hays County, Texas
111 E. San Antonio St., Ste. 300
San Marcos, Texas 78666

The Honorable Jeff Barton
PO Box 1180 / 111 N. Front St.
Kyle, Texas 78640

The Honorable Will Conley
PO Box 2085 / 950 Ranch Rd. 2325
Wimberley, Texas 78676

The Honorable Karen Ford
P.O Box 1158
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

The Honorable Debbie Ingalsbe
111 E. San Antonio St., Ste. 304
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Re: Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan

Dear Judge Sumter and Commissioners Barton, Conley, Ford, and Ingalsbe:

It is my pleasure to serve as chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (RHCP). I am pleased to report to you that your consultants and the committee have made good progress and are nearing completion of a complete draft RHCP. We are working through elements of the funding chapter of the RHCP and are hopeful that by December we will recommend that the County submit the RHCP, along with a formal application for an Endangered Species Act section 10(a) incidental take permit, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

As you may know, the federal Endangered Species Act requires that the applicant for a section 10(a) permit ensure that adequate funding for the plan will be provided, in order for the USFWS to issue the permit under 16 U.S.C. § 1539(a)(1)(B)(iii). In our plan, it appears that to keep the overall costs of implementation low, while ensuring adequate funding to meet the Act's requirement, it will be critical to devote sufficient funding for easements and acquisition of habitat in the first few years. For this reason, at the CAC

meeting on October 9th, the committee voted unanimously to respectfully recommend the following to you:

that the County Commissioners Court not spend or commit the remaining \$8.7 million in Parks and Open Space Bond funds for 60 days on projects other than habitat protection for the golden-cheeked warbler and/or black-capped vireo.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this recommendation. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with any of you about this action or the status of the work of the Citizens Advisory Committee. I can be reached at (512) 854-4460 during the day, (512) 351-4460 in the evenings, or by email at msmallia@austin.rr.com.

Sincerely,



Melinda Mallia, Chair
Hays County RHCP Citizens Advisory Committee

cc: Melinda Taylor, Esq. (Smith|Robertson)
Alan Glen, Esq. (Smith|Robertson)
Rebecca Hays, Esq. (Smith|Robertson)
Clif Ladd (Loomis-Partners)
Amanda Aurora (Loomis-Partners)