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December 2, 2008

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

The Honorable Jeff Barton
County Commissioner
Precinct 2
P.O. Box 1180
Kyle, Texas 78640

The Honorable Will Conley
County Commissioner
Precinct 3
P.O. Box 2085
Wimberley, Texas 78676

The Honorable Karen Ford
County Commissioner
Precinct 4
P.O. Box 1158
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

The Honorable Debbie Gonzales-Ingalsbe
County Commissioner
Precinct 1
111 E. San Antonio St., Ste. 304
San Marcos, Texas 78666

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

Since early 2007, it has been my honor and privilege to serve as the Chair of the Biological Advisory Team (BAT) for the Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (RHCP). The BAT has met regularly for the last year and a half to consider issues related to protection of the rare, threatened and endangered species in Hays County relevant to the preparation of a draft RHCP. The BAT met Tuesday, November 18, 2008, in San Marcos and discussed the third draft of the RHCP and the funding plan prepared by the consultants. Overall, we were satisfied with the draft plan, but we recommended a few minor additional changes to the language of the plan and that we remain a standing committee to review subsequent drafts of the RHCP and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). I am writing to urge the Court to approve the current draft RHCP that the consultants have prepared and proceed with preparation and submittal to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of an Endangered Species Act § 10(a) incidental take permit

application. The BAT unanimously passed the following resolution at last week's meeting:

"The Biological Advisory Team recommends that the Hays County Commissioners' Court approve for further processing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a draft of the Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan in a form substantially similar to the third draft dated November 3, 2008. The Biological Advisory Team believes that the draft plan is based on the best available science and has biological integrity with regard to the conservation of the covered species. It is also the recommendation of the Biological Advisory Team that Hays County move with all deliberate speed, with all resources reasonably at its disposal, to acquire and conserve as much endangered species habitat as possible."

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (512) 389-4933 if you have any questions about the resolution or the BAT's deliberations. I have appreciated the opportunity to work with the BAT and the county on this important project.

Sincerely,



C. Craig Farquhar, Ph.D.
Chair, Biological Advisory Team
Hays County RHCP

cc: Ms. Melinda Taylor, Smith|Robertson
Mr. Alan Glen, Smith|Robertson
Ms. Rebecca Hays, Smith|Robertson
Mr. Clif Ladd, Loomis Partners, Inc.
Ms. Amanda Aurora, Loomis Partners, Inc.