

**Melinda Mallia**

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November 19, 2008

The Honorable Liz Sumter  
County Judge, Hays County, Texas  
111E. 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:

As you know, it has been my honor to serve as the Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (RHCP). The CAC has been meeting monthly for the last year and a half, discussing options for the structure of the RHCP and various issues related to its implementation. I am pleased to report that the CAC met last Thursday in Wimberley and discussed the third draft of the RHCP and the funding plan prepared by the consultants. Our committee recommended a few minor additional changes to the language of the plan, but overall we are satisfied with the draft.

I am writing to urge the Court to approve the 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 CAC unanimously passed the following resolution at last week's meeting:

*The Citizens' Advisory Committee 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 before us tonight. This step will enable the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hays County, and the consultant team to complete the required review processes under the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, including subsequent opportunities for public comment and hearing. It is also the recommendation of the Citizens' Advisory Committee 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 and as soon as possible.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (512)854-4460 or (512)351-9940 if you have any questions about the resolution or the CAC's deliberations. I have appreciated the opportunity to work with the CAC and the county on this important project.

Sincerely,



Melinda Mallia  
Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee  
Hays County RHCP

cc: Melinda Taylor, Esq., Smith|Robertson  
Alan Glen, Esq., Smith|Robertson  
Rebecca Hays, Esq. Smith|Robertson  
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