



RONNIE McDONALD
BASTROP COUNTY JUDGE

May 3, 2011

Mr. Frederick Land
Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300

RE: USACE Project No.: SWF-2010-00506

Dear Mr. Land:

Section 381.004, Texas Local Government Code, authorizes Texas counties to develop and administer community and economic development programs to stimulate business location and commercial activity in a county. In June 2010, Bastrop County ("County"), in accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 381, entered into an Economic Development Agreement ("Agreement") with Central Texas Airport, LLC ("Company"). In the Agreement, Company agrees to construct, as part of a project, an Airport that will serve the public and will stimulate economic development in the County.

The recitals in the Agreement state that it is the intent of the County and Company that, as a result of Company's development under the Agreement, business and commercial activity in Bastrop County will be stimulated, and commercial activity will be encouraged, developed and stimulated, producing additional tax revenue, job opportunities, affordable housing and business opportunities in and for the County.

The recitals in the Agreement further state that the County finds the Project, as presented by the Company, will result in substantial benefit to Bastrop County and significant financial benefit to other taxing entities within Bastrop County and will promote state and local economic development, and that the Project will stimulate economic development within an area of Bastrop County that is or has been considered to be economically disadvantaged; and that, based on the Company's statements, the County finds that the Airport will be available for use (and the Airport will be used) by the public in a manner that will fulfill an essential community purpose.

We are aware that there is opposition to the proposed Project. We are also aware that there is support for the proposed Project. The permit application under your review is for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of Section 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). It is our understanding that the standard of practice for the USACE review of these types of permit applications is that the level of review of the Project will be commensurate to the level of impact to waters of the U.S..

This segment of the Colorado River (Stream Segment 1428) has been designated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for contact recreation, exceptional aquatic life, and as a public water supply. A concern that has been expressed by constituents is in regard to any potential for adverse impact(s) to the existing water quality of the Colorado River and the aquifer(s).

It is not our intent to influence the USACE one way or the other in their decision with regard to this permit. In fairness to all, we (the Bastrop County Commissioners Court) simply request that the permit be reviewed using the USACE's standard practices, in accordance with the requirements of Section 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act, using: sound science, standard engineering practices, and a rational-logical thought process. We also suggest that the results of the Environmental Assessment (EA) be made public prior to issuing a finding.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R" and "M".

Ronnie McDonald
County Judge