

**LONE STAR SIERRA CLUB  
RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CENTRAL TEXAS AIRPORT**

RESOLUTION OF THE LONE STAR SIERRA CLUB OPPOSING THE CONSTRUCTION, PERMITTING, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS AIRPORT (CTA), PROPOSED FOR WESTERN BASTROP COUNTY, TEXAS; MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS:

WHEREAS, CTA is not needed. Several other airports in the I-35 and Hwy. 130 corridors, and in San Marcos, have plenty of existing capacity for the private jets and cargo aircraft for which CTA is intended. Austin-Bergstrom Airport less than twenty miles away, already serves such aircraft and has excess capacity; Birds Nest Airport, just east of Hwy. 130 in Pflugerville is presently under construction, and is intended for general aviation, including private jets.

WHEREAS, CTA's proposed site is unsuitable for an industrial development such as an airport. The Central Texas Greenprint for Growth, a joint project of The Trust for Public Land, Capital Area Council of Governments, and Envision Central Texas, published in October, 2009, identified CTA's proposed location and adjacent areas in western Bastrop County as follows:

- Highest priority for water quality/quantity preservation,
- Highest priority for farm and ranchland preservation,
- Highest designation as sensitive ecological areas,
- Highest priority for park and recreational opportunities,
- Highest priority for scenic corridors,
- Highest priority for protection of cultural and historic resources,
- Highest priority for overall conservation opportunities.

CTA would eliminate the possibility that the site could be dedicated to any of the above priorities or designations.

WHEREAS, CTA would increase air pollution in the Bastrop-Austin area. Increased discharge of ozone, carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, and other pollutants from airplane exhausts would push the area toward noncompliance with EPA standards, and degrade the quality of the air breathed by area residents.

WHEREAS, CTA would pollute local surface water and groundwater. The site abuts the Colorado River, and is in the Colorado River alluvium. Pollutants, including fuels, solvents, detergents and other cleaning supplies, and other pollutants associated with concentrated industrial development would seep into the underlying groundwater, and into the river.

WHEREAS, CTA would be a major cause of noise pollution. Hundreds of Bastrop County residents have homes adjacent to, in the flight path of, and in the area impacted by the proposed airport. The flight path leads almost directly over Cedar Creek High School, less than four miles away. CTA proposes hundreds of takeoffs and landings per day, at all hours.

WHEREAS, CTA would cause a major loss of wildlife habitat along the Colorado River. The southern end of the runway would be less than one mile from the Colorado; thus, aircraft

would fly over the river at very low altitudes. The Colorado is part of a major bird flyway, and provides food, water, and cover for many migrating species. Bald eagles and ospreys are known to nest along the Colorado in the area, and vulture often roost nearby.

WHEREAS, CTA would require major infrastructure intrusions into a rural area. The proposed airport site is located on FM 969, a winding, shoulderless, two lane road, already overburdened with gravel trucks, school busses and commuter and agricultural traffic. Either this road would have to be improved, or another road would have to be built connecting the airport to Hwy. 71, which would require a bridge over the Colorado and several miles of new road to be built. Electrical upgrades would be needed to serve the airport.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club that the Club opposes the creation of the Central Texas Airport in western Bastrop County, and recommends that the airport site and adjacent areas be used for the purposes indicated in the Central Texas Greenprint for Growth for Bastrop County, as endorsed by area elected officials, community leaders, and residents.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 9 day of April, 2011, by the Executive Committee of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club.

ATTEST: Del Suter

Title: CHAIR, LONE STAR CHAPTER  
SIERRA CLUB