



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 060408-4a

Date: June 04, 2008

Subject: Resolution to address the Lower Colorado River Authority Friendship to Manchaca transmission line.

Motioned By: John Dupnik, P. G.

Seconded By: Mary Ann Neely

Recommendation

The Environmental Board made a Resolution addressing the LCRA Friendship to Manchaca Transmission line.

Rationale

Not Applicable.

Vote 6-0-0-1

For: Dupnik, Maxwell, Anderson, Neely, Moncada, and Ahart

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Beall

Approved By:

Dave Anderson P.E., CFM, Chair

RESOLUTION EB 060408-4a

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN'S ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD,
RECOMMENDING A PREFERRED ROUTE FOR THE LOWER COLORADO
RIVER AUTHORITY'S FRIENDSHIP TO MANCHACA TRANSMISSION LINE**

WHEREAS, the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer is a unique underground system of water-bearing formations in Central Texas that serves as: 1) the primary source of drinking water for tens of thousands of people, 2) the only known habitat for certain endangered and threatened species of salamanders and, 3) a vital resource to the general economy and welfare of the City of Austin (City) and the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer and the Barton Springs complex are extremely vulnerable to surface activities within the recharge zone that may cause pollutants to enter the aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the southwest segment of State Highway 45 is proposed to be constructed to bisect the land located within the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Board formed a Subcommittee to monitor activity related to and along the SH 45 Right-of-Way (ROW); and

WHEREAS, in 1999 the Public Utility Commission granted The Pedernales Electric Company (PEC) the right to build a transmission line (known as the Friendship to Manchaca Project) to serve the need for electricity service in the growing Southern Travis County and Northern Hays County; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 this right was acquired by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to: 1) satisfy contractual obligations to customers, 2) provide backup power sources in the distribution area, and 3) serve "critical loads" which include schools and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the route of the Friendship to Manchaca Project was approved to be aligned adjacent to the SH 45 ROW which would potentially impact environmentally sensitive surface and subsurface Karst features in the vicinity of Flint Ridge Cave (FRC); and

WHEREAS, the land on both sides of the ROW in the vicinity of FRC are located on the City's Water Quality Protection lands; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee has convened three meetings beginning in March of 2006 to evaluate alternatives to the original alignment with the goal of allowing construction of this necessary transmission line with minimal impact to this environmentally sensitive area and preserve the purpose for which the City's Water Quality Protection Land were acquired; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2006 the Subcommittee recommended additional analysis including geophysical studies be performed on the following two preferred alignments:

Route A: a route along the original northeastern alignment; then to the east and down gradient of FRC; and then again along the SH45 ROW just south of the area near FRC

Route B: a route crossing over from the northeastern side of the SH 45 ROW north of the area near FRC and running adjacent to the southwestern side of the SH 45 ROW to just south of FRC where it crosses back over to the northeastern side; and

WHEREAS, the evaluation of the additional geophysical analysis was reported to the Subcommittee on May 22, 2008 resulting in a consensus preference among both the LCRA and the City for Route B.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Austin's Environmental Board does hereby adopt this Resolution to recommend that:

1. Route B be adopted as the consensus route of preference for the Friendship to Manchaca project based on the minimized impact to the City's Water Quality protection lands, the recharge zone, and FRC; and
2. The City should cooperate with and facilitate the LCRA's efforts to acquire the land rights necessary to construct the Friendship to Manchaca project along this route of preference; and
3. The LCRA should cooperate with City staff to implement the appropriate measures prior to, during, and after construction of the Friendship to Manchaca Transmission line to prevent and mitigate any negative environmental impacts.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD:

ADOPTED: June 4, 2008

ATTEST: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Anderson', is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the letters 'P.E.' are handwritten.

David J. Anderson, PE, CFM
Environmental Board Chair