

6 CHAPTER 6 LIST OF PREPARERS

6.1 LEAD AGENCY

FAA Southwest Region - Texas Airports District Office (ADO)

6.2 PRINCIPAL PREPARERS

No one individual can be an expert in all of the environmental impact categories this EA discusses. As a result, an interdisciplinary team of researchers, technicians, and experts in various disciplines prepared the necessary documentation. The lead consultant for preparation of this document is Reynolds, Smith, and Hills, Inc. (RS&H).

6.2.2 Reynolds, Smiths, and Hills, Inc.

David J. Full, AICP, B.A. Urban Planning, M.U.P., 29 years of experience. Project Manager/Director, QA/QC of all work products.

Edward Melisky, M.S. Environmental Planner. 35 years of experience. Responsible for this EA's quality assurance and compliance with NEPA, FAA Orders 1050.1E and 5050.4B, and the *Environmental Desk Reference for Airport Actions*.

Colleen Cummins, AICP, BS–Geo-environmental Studies, MS-Geo-environmental Studies, 13 years of experience. Responsible for review of technical document, exhibits, and coordination.

Charlie Cummings, B.S. Aviation Management, 5 years of experience. Responsible for document research, preparation, and technical exhibit preparation.

Nicholas Kozlik, B.S. Environmental Studies, Planning Certificate, 3 years of experience. Responsible for document research, preparation, and technical exhibit preparation.

Nathanial S. Granger, P.E., B.S. Civil Engineering, 8 years of experience. Client Manager, QA/QC of all work products.

Appendix A

Documented Coordination

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October 8, 2013

Life's better outside.®

Commissioners

T. Dan Friedkin
Chairman
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Dick Scott
Wimberley

Lee M. Bass
Chairman-Emeritus
Fort Worth

Carter P. Smith
Executive Director

Mr. Kane Carpenter
Austin Bergstrom International Airport
Department of Aviation
3600 Presidential Blvd., Suite 411
Austin, TX 78719

RE: Environmental Assessment for the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Department of Aviation's Implementation of the General Aviation Development and Ductbank Relocation Project, City of Austin, Travis County

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has received the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above-referenced project located in Travis County. TPWD would like to offer the following information, comments, and recommendations to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program is now accepting projects through electronic submittal. Future project review requests can be submitted to WHAB@tpwd.texas.gov. If submitting requests electronically, please include geographic location files when available (e.g. GIS shape file, .kmz, etc.).

Please be aware that a written response to a TPWD recommendation or informational comment received by a state governmental agency may be required by state law. For further guidance, see the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Section 12.0011, which can be found online at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/PW/htm/PW.12.htm#12.0011>. For tracking purposes, please refer to TPWD project number ERCS-7633 in any return correspondence regarding this project.

Project Description

The subject area is approximately 53.8 acres located immediately south of Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) on Emma Browning Avenue (General Aviation Avenue) in Travis County. The subject area is located 1.3 miles east of U.S. Highway 183 and 2.2 miles south of State Highway 71. The subject area is proposed for future development of the ABIA.

Impacts to Vegetation/Wildlife Habitat

Due to the fact that the proposed work consists of future development in a previously undeveloped area, vegetation impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends clearing the least amount of vegetation possible for the development of the subject area, especially undisturbed native vegetation and mature trees. TPWD recommends in-kind on-site replacement/restoration of the native vegetation wherever practicable. If on-site mitigation for tree removal is not practicable, TPWD recommends off-site mitigation for removed trees. There are several parks managed by the City of Austin and Travis County located adjacent to the project area that would be appropriate locations to mitigate for tree removal. Examples of nearby parks include Richard Moya Park, Schneider Park, Onion Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Southeast Metro Park, as well as several others.

To minimize adverse effects, activities should be planned to preserve any mature trees, particularly acorn, nut or berry producing varieties. These types of vegetation are high value to wildlife as food and cover. TPWD generally recommends that trees greater than 12 inches in diameter-at-breast-height (dbh) to be removed be replaced at a ratio of three trees for every one (3:1) lost to the extent practicable, either on-site or off-site. Trees less than 12-inches in dbh should be replaced at a 1:1 ratio. Replacement trees should be of equal or better wildlife quality than those removed and be regionally adapted native species. A three to five year maintenance plan that ensures an 85 percent survival rate should be developed for the replacement trees.

Ecologically Significant Stream Segment

An unnamed tributary of Onion Creek is located immediately south of the subject area proposed for future development. Onion Creek is considered to be an Ecologically Significant Stream Segment (ESSS) from the confluence with the Colorado River in Travis County to the most upstream crossing of FM 165 in Blanco County. The designation is based on:

- Riparian conservation area – McKinney Falls State Park
- High water quality
- Exceptional aquatic life
- High aesthetic value
- Diverse benthic macroinvertebrate community

TPWD has identified ESSSSs throughout the state to assist regional water planning groups in identifying ecologically unique stream segments under Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 31 §357.43 and §357.8. Until approved by the legislature this is not a legal designation. The stream segments are identified through extensive review by TPWD staff and are determined to be ecologically important. Information regarding criteria for designation as an ESSSS can be found on the TPWD website at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/environconcerns/water_issues/sig_segs/ or in 31 TAC 357.43 and 357.8.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends the City of Austin ensure that precipitation runoff, which could potentially carry pollutants, is intercepted and treated before reaching the unnamed tributary of Onion Creek by installing storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs). TPWD recommends installing erosion and sediment control BMPs that would aide in construction stabilization. Erosion and sediment control measures include temporary or permanent seeding (with native plants), mulching, earth dikes, silt fences, sediment traps, and sediment basins. Examples of post-construction BMPs include vegetation systems (biofilters) such as grass filter strips and vegetated swales as well as retention basins capable of treating the additional runoff that would occur from the increase in impervious cover.

Federal Laws

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits taking, attempting to take, capturing, killing, selling/purchasing, possessing, transporting, and importing of migratory birds, their eggs, parts and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. This protection applies to most native bird species, including ground nesting species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Migratory Bird Office can be contacted at (505) 248-7882 for more information on potential impacts to migratory birds.

Recommendation: If migratory bird species are found nesting on or adjacent to the project area, they must be dealt with in a manner consistent with the MBTA. TPWD recommends excluding vegetation clearing activities during the general bird nesting season, March through August, to avoid adverse impacts to this group. If clearing vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season is unavoidable, TPWD recommends the City of Austin survey the area proposed for disturbance to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be disturbed by operations. Any vegetation (trees,

shrubs, and grasses) where occupied nests are located should not be disturbed until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged.

State Laws

State-listed Species

Section 68.015 of the Parks and Wildlife Code regulates state-listed species. Please note that there is no provision for take (incidental or otherwise) of state-listed species. A copy of *TPWD Guidelines for Protection of State-Listed Species*, which includes a list of penalties for take of species, is attached for your reference. For purposes of relocation, surveys, monitoring, and research, terrestrial state-listed species may only be handled by persons permitted through the TPWD Wildlife Permits Office. For the above-listed activities that involve aquatic species please contact the TPWD Kills and Spills Team (KAST) for the appropriate authorization. For more information on Wildlife Permits please visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/permits/land/wildlife/research/>. For more information on KAST please visit http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/environconcerns/kills_and_spills/regions/.

Based on a review of topographic maps and aerial photography of the project area, it appears that Onion Creek and its tributaries may provide suitable habitat for freshwater mussels that may be present in Travis County (listed below). There is also a Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD) record for the Texas fatmucket located approximately 2.2 miles east of the subject area within Onion Creek. A printout of this occurrence record as well as other records within the project area is attached for your reference.

The TXNDD is intended to assist users in avoiding harm to rare species or significant ecological features. Given the small proportion of public versus private land in Texas, the TXNDD does not include a representative inventory of rare resources in the state. Absence of information in the database does not imply that a species is absent from that area. Although it is based on the best data available to TPWD regarding rare species, the data from the TXNDD do not provide a definitive statement as to the presence, absence or condition of special species, natural communities, or other significant features within your project area. These data are not inclusive and **cannot be used as presence/absence data**. This information cannot be substituted for on-the-ground surveys. The TXNDD is updated continuously based on new, updated and undigitized records; for questions regarding a record, please contact TexasNatural.DiversityDatabase@tpwd.texas.gov.

Creeper (squawfoot) (*Strophitus undulates*) – Rare species
False spike mussel (*Quadrula mitchelli*) – State-listed Threatened
Smooth pimpleback (*Quadrula houstonensis*) – State-listed Threatened*
Texas fatmucket (*Lampsilis bracteata*) – State-listed Threatened*
Texas fawnsfoot (*Truncilla macrodon*) – State-listed Threatened*
Texas pimpleback (*Quadrula petrina*) – State-listed Threatened*

*Federal Candidate for Listing

Recommendation: If suitable habitat for freshwater mussels in Onion Creek would be directly or indirectly impacted by the future ABIA development at the subject area, TPWD recommends the City of Austin survey for these species within the area expected to be impacted. If protected freshwater mussels are found, please contact this office to discuss relocation of mussels to a suitable site that would not be disturbed by construction.

Recommendation: As previously mentioned, TPWD recommends implementing BMPs to reduce storm water runoff that would have the potential to enter Onion Creek as well as its unnamed tributary.

Rare Species

In addition to state and federally-protected species, TPWD tracks special features, natural communities, and rare resources that are not listed as threatened or endangered. These species and communities are tracked in the TXNDD, and TPWD actively promotes their conservation. TPWD considers it important to evaluate and, if necessary, minimize impacts to rare species and their habitat to reduce the likelihood of endangerment.

Based on the project description, site location, a review of the TXNDD, and publicly-available aerial photographs, the following rare species and natural community could be impacted as a result of the proposed project:

Guadalupe bass (*Micropterus treculii*)

A TXNDD record for the Guadalupe bass is located approximately 1.25 miles southwest of the subject area within Onion Creek.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends the City of Austin avoid construction during the spawning period of the Guadalupe bass (March through June). Avoiding construction during a spawning period will

reduce the potential for adverse impacts to water quality and the habitat of this species.

Texas garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis annectens*)

There may be suitable habitat for the Texas garter snake at the unnamed tributary of Onion Creek immediately south of the subject area.

Recommendation: Snakes are generally perceived as a threat and killed when encountered during clearing or construction. Therefore, TPWD recommends that personnel involved in clearing and construction be informed of the potential for the rare Texas garter snake to occur on the project site. Personnel should be advised to avoid impacts to this snake as it is non-venomous and poses no threat to humans. Contractors should avoid contact with this species if encountered and allow the snake to safely leave the premises.

Plateau live oak/Little bluestem series (*Quercus fusiformis/Schizachyrium* series)

There is one TXNDD record for the Plateau live oak/Little bluestem series (natural community) located approximately 0.7 mile southwest of the subject area.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends that construction crews be informed about the possibility of finding and avoiding harm to wildlife and native vegetation, since this would provide the best benefit for wildlife conservation overall.

Recommendation: Please review the TPWD county list of rare and protected species for Travis County, as rare species in addition to those discussed above could be present depending upon habitat availability. These lists are available online at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/maps/gis/ris/endangered_species/.

TPWD strives to respond to requests for project review within a 45 day comment period. Responses may be delayed due to workload and lack of staff. Failure to meet the 45 day review timeframe does not constitute a concurrence from TPWD that the proposed project will not adversely impact fish and wildlife resources.

Mr. Kane Carpenter
Page 7 of 7
October 8, 2013

TPWD advises review and implementation of these recommendations. If you have any questions, please contact me at (512) 389-8054 or Jessica.Schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica E. Schmerler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jessica E. Schmerler
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

JES:gg.ERCS-7633

Attachments (2)

Protection of State-Listed Species
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Guidelines

Protection of State-Listed Species

State law prohibits any take (incidental or otherwise) of state-listed species. State-listed species may only be handled by persons possessing a **Scientific Collecting Permit** or a **Letter of Authorization** issued to relocate a species.

- **Section 68.002 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Code** states that species of fish or wildlife indigenous to Texas are endangered if listed on the United States List of Endangered Native Fish and Wildlife or the list of fish or wildlife threatened with statewide extinction as filed by the director of Texas Park and Wildlife Department. Species listed as Endangered or Threatened by the Endangered Species Act are protected by both Federal and State Law. The State of Texas also lists and protects additional species considered to be threatened with extinction within Texas.
- **Animals** - Laws and regulations pertaining to state-listed endangered or threatened animal species are contained in **Chapters 67 and 68 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Code and Sections 65.171 - 65.176 of Title 31 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC)**. State-listed animals may be found at **31 TAC §65.175 & 176**.
- **Plants** - Laws and regulations pertaining to endangered or threatened plant species are contained in **Chapter 88 of the TPW Code and Sections 69.01 - 69.9 of the TAC**. State-listed plants may be found at **31 TAC §69.8(a) & (b)**.

Prohibitions on Take of State Listed Species

Section 68.015 of the TPW Code states that no person may capture, trap, take, or kill, or attempt to capture, trap, take, or kill, endangered fish or wildlife.

Section 65.171 of the Texas Administrative Code states that except as otherwise provided in this subchapter or **Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapters 67 or 68**, no person may take, possess, propagate, transport, export, sell or offer for sale, or ship any species of fish or wildlife listed by the department as endangered or threatened.

"Take" is defined in **Section 1.101(5) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code** as:

"Take," except as otherwise provided by this code, means collect, hook, hunt, net, shoot, or snare, by any means or device, and includes an attempt to take or to pursue in order to take.

Penalties

The penalties for take of state-listed species (**TPW Code, Chapter 67 or 68**) are:

- 1ST Offense = Class C Misdemeanor:
\$25-\$500 fine
- One or more prior convictions = Class B Misdemeanor
\$200-\$2,000 fine and/or up to 180 days in jail.
- Two or more prior convictions = Class A Misdemeanor
\$500-\$4,000 fine and/or up to 1 year in jail.

Restitution values apply and vary by species. Specific values and a list of species may be obtained from the TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program.

TXNDD Tracked Species in Project Area

Element Occurrence ID (EOID)	9769	Federal Status	C	State Status	T
Scientific Name	Lampsilis bracteata	Survey Date	8/26/2010	Last Observation Date	8/26/2010
Common Name	Texas Fatmucket	State Rarity Rank	S1		
Global Rarity Rank	G1				
First Observation Date	8/26/2010				
EO Data	26 Aug 2010: A total of one live individual and two recently dead shells were observed.				
General Description	26 Aug 2010: Some sections within the 100-meter survey site were too deep to survey. The site had 35% instream canopy cover with bank slopes of 4 and 25 degrees. The stream width was 8.1 meters with a depth at the center of 1.0 meter. Substrate was 75% gravel or larger.				
Protection Comments	<null>				
Management Comments	<null>				
General Comments	26 Aug 2010: Survey methodology was a timed search of a 100-meter survey area and opportunistic searching. Surveys involved wading and snorkeling and conducting visual and tactile searches. Asian clams were common.				

Element Occurrence ID (EOID)

7074

Scientific Name

Micropterus treculi

Common Name

Guadalupe Bass

Global Rarity Rank

G3

State Rarity Rank

S3

Federal Status

State Status

First Observation Date

<null>

Survey Date

<null>

Last Observation Date

1975-03

EO Data

SPECIMENS COLLECTED ON THIS STRETCH; SEE SUMMARY IN EDWARDS, 1980

General Description

CLEAR, SMALL STREAM

Protection Comments

HYBRIDIZES WITH MICROPTERUS PUNCTULATUS

Management Comments

<null>

General Comments

ENDEMIC TO SEVERAL RIVERS OF EASTERN EDWARDS PLATEAU; COMMON IN PREFERRED HABITAT

Element Occurrence ID (EOID)

6780

Scientific Name

Schizachyrium scoparium-sorghastrum nutans series

Common Name

Little Bluestem-indiangrass Series

Global Rarity Rank

G2

State Rarity Rank

S2

Federal Status

State Status

First Observation Date

<null>

Survey Date

9/5/1991

Last Observation Date

9/5/1991

EO Data

NONE

General Description

TINY AREA WITH LITTLE BLUESTEM; SOME INDIANGRASS, SIDEOATS GRAMA, A FEW FORBS, SURROUNDED BY AREAS INVATED BY GIANT RAGWEED, MESQUITE, SOME SEEP AREAS WITH CAREX MICRODONTA, DESMANTHUS ILLINOIENSIS

Protection Comments

<null>

Management Comments

<null>

General Comments

NEEDS TO BE BURNED SOON, CERTAIN TO BE SHRUB-INVADED

**Code Key for Printouts from
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD)**

This information is for your assistance only; due to continuing data updates, vulnerability of private land to trespass and of species to disturbance or collection, **please refer all requesters to our office to obtain the most current information available.** Also, please note, identification of a species in a given area does not necessarily mean the species currently exists at the point or area indicated.

LEGAL STATUS AND CONSERVATION RANKS

FEDERAL STATUS (as determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service)

LE	Listed Endangered
LT	Listed Threatened
PE	Proposed to be listed Endangered
PT	Proposed to be listed Threatened
PDL	Proposed to be Delisted (Note: Listing status retained while proposed)
SAE, SAT	Listed Endangered on basis of Similarity of Appearance, Listed Threatened on basis of Similarity of Appearance
DL	Delisted Endangered/Threatened
C	Candidate. USFWS has substantial information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list as threatened or endangered. Data are being gathered on habitat needs and/or critical habitat designations.
C*	C, but lacking known occurrences
C**	C, but lacking known occurrences, except in captivity/cultivation
XE	Essential Experimental Population
XN	Non-essential Experimental Population
Blank	Species is not federally listed

TX PROTECTION (as determined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

E	Listed Endangered
T	Listed Threatened
Blank	Species not state-listed

GLOBAL RANK (as determined by NatureServe)

G1	Critically imperiled globally, extremely rare, typically 5 or fewer viable occurrences
G2	Imperiled globally, very rare, typically 6 to 20 viable occurrences
G3	Very rare and local throughout range or found locally in restricted range, typically 21 to 100 viable occurrences
G4	Apparently secure globally
G5	Demonstrably secure globally
GH	Of historical occurrence through its range
GU	Possibly in peril range-wide, but status uncertain
G#G#	Ranked within a range as status uncertain
GX	Apparently extinct throughout range
Q	Rank qualifier denoting taxonomic assignment is questionable
#?	Rank qualifier denoting uncertain rank
C	In captivity or cultivation only
G#T#	"G" refers to species rank; "T" refers to variety or subspecies rank

STATE (SUBNATIONAL) RANK (as determined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

S1	Critically imperiled in state, extremely rare, vulnerable to extirpation, typically 5 or fewer viable occurrences
S2	Imperiled in state, very rare, vulnerable to extirpation, typically 6 to 20 viable occurrences
S3	Rare or uncommon in state, typically 21 to 100 viable occurrences
S4	Apparently secure in State
S5	Demonstrably secure in State
S#S#	Ranked within a range as status uncertain
SH	Of historical occurrence in state and may be rediscovered
SU	Unrankable – due to lack of information or substantially conflicting information
SX	Apparently extirpated from State
SNR	Unranked – State status not yet assessed
SNA	Not applicable – species id not a suitable target for conservation activities
?	Rank qualifier denoting uncertain rank in State

ELEMENT OCCURRENCE RECORD

Element Occurrence Record (EOR) Spatial and tabular record of an area of land and/or water in which a species, natural community, or other significant feature of natural diversity is, or was, present and associated information; may be a single contiguous area or may be comprised of discrete patches or subpopulations

Occurrence # Unique number assigned to each occurrence of each element when added to the NDD

LOCATION INFORMATION

Watershed Code Eight digit numerical code determined by US Geological Survey (USGS)

Watershed Name of watershed as determined by USGS

Quadrangle Name of USGS topographical map

Directions Directions to geographic location where occurrence was observed, as described by observer or in source

SURVEY INFORMATION

First/Last Observation Date a particular occurrence was first/last observed; refers only to species occurrence as noted in source and does not imply the first/last date the species was present

Survey Date If conducted, date of survey

EO Type State rank qualifiers:

M	Migrant – species occurring regularly on migration at staging areas, or concentration along particular corridors; status refers to the transient population in the State		
B	Qualifier indicating basic rank refers to the breeding population in State		
N	Qualifier indicating basic rank refers to the non-breeding population in State		
EO Rank			
A	Excellent	AI	Excellent, Introduced
B	Good	BI	Good, Introduced
C	Marginal	CI	Marginal, Introduced
D	Poor	DI	Poor, Introduced
E	Extant/Present	EI	Extant, Introduced
H	Historical/No Field Information	HI	Historical, Introduced
X	Destroyed/Extirpated	XI	Destroyed, Introduced
O	Obscure	OI	Obscure, Introduced

EO Rank Date Latest date EO rank was determined or revised

Observed Area Acres, unless indicated otherwise

COMMENTS

Description General physical description of area and habitat where occurrence is located, including associated species, soils, geology, and surrounding land use

Comments Comments concerning the quality or condition of the element occurrence at time of survey

Protection Comments Observer comments concerning legal protection of the occurrence

Management Comments Observer comments concerning management recommendations appropriate for occurrence conservation

DATA

EO Data Biological data; may include number of individuals, vigor, flowering/fruitlet data, nest success, behaviors observed, or unusual characteristic, etc.

SITE

Site Name Title given to site by surveyor

MANAGED AREA INFORMATION

Managed Area Name Place name or (on EOR printout) name of area when the EO is located within or partially within an area identified for conservation, such as State or Federal lands, nature preserves, parks, etc.

Alias Additional names the property is known by

Acres Total acreage of property, including non-contiguous tracts

Manager Contact name, address, and telephone number for area or nearest area land steward

Please use one of the following citations to credit the source for the printout information:

Texas Natural Diversity Database. [year of printouts]. Wildlife Diversity Program of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. [day month year of printouts].

Texas Natural Diversity Database. [year of printouts]. Element occurrence printouts for [scientific name] *records # [occurrence number(s)]. Wildlife Diversity Program of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. [day month year of printouts]. *Use of record #'s is optional.

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U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Federal Aviation Administration
Southwest Region, Airports Division
Texas Airports Development Office

FAA-ASW-650
2601 Meacham Boulevard
Fort Worth, Texas 76137

August 5, 2013

RECEIVED

AUG 06 2013

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mr. Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

Re: **Section 106 Consultation - Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (Austin, TX)
General Aviation Development**

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

The City of Austin, Texas, Department of Aviation (DoA) is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval of proposed improvements at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS). The proposed improvements include the construction of two Fixed Base Operator (FBO) facilities located in the Southeastern portion of the airport. The proposed development would consist of a number of aircraft hangars as well as construction of parking aprons, taxi-lanes/taxi-ways, and other associated infrastructure. A connected action to the FBO development is the relocation of an FAA electrical duct-bank outside of the FBO development area. The FAA has determined these actions comprise an undertaking in accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 800.3.

As part of its environmental review of those improvements, FAA seeks your concurrence on the undertaking's Area of Potential Effect (APE) and its Determination of No Adverse Effect, per 36 CFR, Sections 800.4(a) and 800.4(d)(1), respectively.

I have included two attachments for your review and concurrence. Attachment A presents the APE, the area where the undertaking would include ground disturbance, grading, paving, noise and visual effects. Attachment B, THC Coordination / Cultural Resources, includes results of prior correspondence between the DoA and your office. The previous coordination, although dated, concluded separately that the undertaking(s) would not cause any adverse effects.

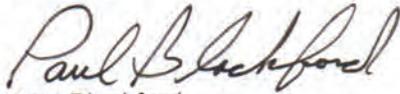
Based on the enclosed previous correspondence between the City of Austin and the Texas Historical Commission (THC), FAA has concluded that there are no historical properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition we have concluded that there are no archaeological sites identified within the APE.

As a result of these conclusions, FAA has determined that the proposed undertaking will not affect any properties listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP under 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1). In

compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA, FAA requests THC's concurrence with this determination.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 817-222-5607 or via email me at paul.blackford@faa.gov.

Sincerely,



Paul Blackford
Environmental Protection Specialist

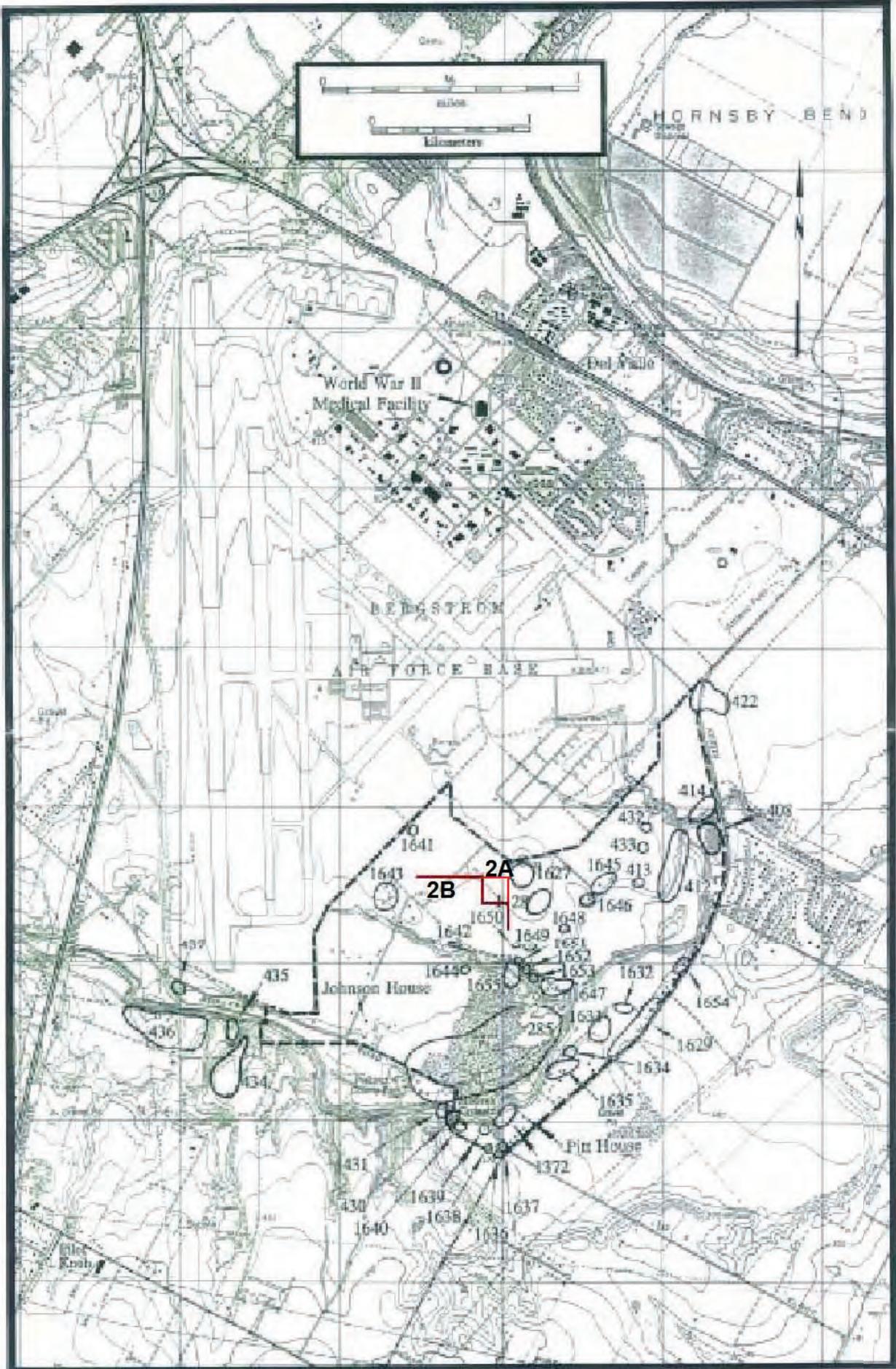
Attachments:

Attachment A: Area of Potential Effect

Attachment B: Previous THC Coordination / Cultural Resources

CONCUR	
by _____	
for Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer	
Date _____	<u>8/30/13</u>
Track# _____	





— Proposed Duct Bank Alignment

Proposed Austin Municipal Airport
 Archeological Survey Project Area
 Showing Location of Cultural Resource Sites

From USGS Montpelier 7.5" Quad

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 12276
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512)463-6100

DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES PROTECTION
and
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
and
NATIONAL REGISTER DEPARTMENT

September 15, 1993

Mr. Bill Perkins
Senior Project Manager
ASW-652
Federal Aviation Administration
Southwest Region Airport Division
Forth Worth, Texas 761933-0611

Re: Comments on "Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment for the Proposed Reuse of Bergstrom AFB and Adjoining Areas, Travis County, Texas (AF, F2, F14, F16, F20, F31, N2, N10, D2)

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the project referenced above. The Department of Antiquities Protection reviews archeological properties; the National Register Department reviews buildings, structures, objects, and districts for eligibility while the Department of Architecture reviews effects on eligible properties.

After reviewing the "Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment for the Proposed Reuse of Bergstrom Air Force Base and Adjoining Areas, Travis County, Texas," the Department of Antiquities Protection recommends that archeological testing be conducted at sites 41TV285, 41TV412, 41TV1372, 41TV1631, and 41TV1635 to determine their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP] and their worthiness for State Archeological Landmark designation. We also recommend that additional historic archival studies be conducted for 41TV431, 41TV1631 and 41TV1635 to assist us in our determinations of eligibility. At this time our department is unable to provide comments on sites 41TV432, 41TV1632, and 41TV1644. Therefore, we recommend that additional information regarding site size (horizontal and vertical dimensions) and site integrity be submitted to our department for review and comments.

The archaeological testing should be undertaken by a qualified professional archeologist and the investigations should be specified in a testing plan submitted for our review and comments. In general, field examination should include a geomorphological analysis of the area and of deposits exposed in test units. Collection of materials present in these tests is required and these materials should be curated according to 36CFR79. A report of investigation should also be produced in conformance with the *Secretary of Interior's Guidelines: Archaeology and Historic Preservation*. The archeological consultant has requested a meeting with members of our staff to discuss the test investigations. We look forward to discussing these issues at your earliest convenience.

With regard to the cemetery, 41TV413, the Department of Antiquities Protection also recommends that this site be avoided and preserved. If avoidance is not possible, a permit application must be submitted to our office (*Texas Natural Resource Code Section 191.093*) prior to exhumation of human remains and relocation of the cemetery. A professional archeologist should map the cemetery and document the gravestones and other associated cultural features. Additional arrangements must be made with the county coroner or mortician, local law enforcement officials, and possibly the district judge under the legal auspices of the *Health and Safety Code Chapters 694-712*.

The Department of Antiquities Protection has determined that archeological sites 41TV408, 41TV414, 41TV422, 41TV433, 41TV434, 41TV434, 41TV435, 41TV436, 41TV437, 41TV1627, 41TV1628, 41TV1629, 41TV1630, 41TV1633, 41TV1634, 41TV1641, 41TV1642, 41TV1644, 41TV1646, 41TV1647, 41TV1648, 41TV1650, 41TV1651, 41TV1652, 41TV1653, 41TV1654, and 41TV1655 are ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and we request the concurrence of the Federal Aviation Administration that no further work is needed at these sites.

The National Register Department has also reviewed this report. We will need more information before we can provide determinations of eligibility on this project. Photodocumentation for each building and structure at each property must be provided. Because capturing adequate photographs of some buildings is often difficult, THC staff will visit the project area soon to become better acquainted with these properties.

The format of the report makes it difficult to find buildings and structures within the individual property discussions. We appreciate the Appendix that attempt to sort this out; however, Structures 1 through 13 are not paired with a numbered site, while the others (excluding the Johnson House, the Pitt House, and Building 3920) are. This makes it difficult to get a context of each property. Early in the report the figure of 29 buildings is reported, but we can't figure where this number comes from. Perhaps a list that identifies the properties with buildings and structures and a site number could be produced.

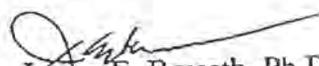
Substantively the report includes brief, but good, information regarding the agricultural context of the county. Unfortunately, the bibliography does not include references to the "historic period." In addition, the contextual information and the individual property information are void of analysis regarding vernacular architecture. Numerous articles and books are available that pertain to this topic and it should be discussed when appropriate and applied to these buildings and structures. Such publications should also appear in the bibliography.

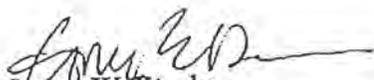
Although determinations of eligibility have not been finalized for buildings in this study, the Department of Architecture recognizes the potential for adverse effects to historic resources. Ways to minimize or mitigate adverse effects include avoidance, moving historic buildings, and documenting buildings through historical research, photography, and measured drawings. When the historic resources are identified and the details of the airport expansion are defined, SHPO staff can visit the site to determine appropriate mitigative measures.

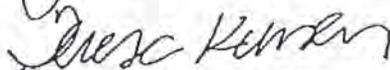
For questions about the archeological review contact Sergio Iruegas, Department of Antiquities Protection, 512/463-5419. For questions about National Register eligibility of buildings, structures, objects, or districts, contact Amy Dase, National Register Department, 512/463-6094. For questions about effect to buildings, structures, objects, or districts contact Tere Kinsey, Department of Architecture, 512/463-6183.

Thank you for your interest in the cultural heritage of Texas, and for your compliance with this federal review process.

Sincerely,


James E. Bruseth, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

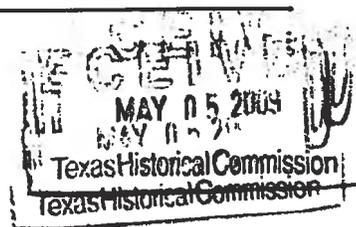

James W. Steely
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer


Stanley O. Graves, AIA
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
JB/SI/AD/TK



City of Austin

Aviation Department
Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
3600 Presidential Blvd., Ste. 411, Austin, Texas 78719
512/530-2242 Fax: 512/530-6660



April 28, 2009

Mr. Mark H. Denton
Team Leader, State and Federal Review Section
Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

**Re: Request for State and Federal Environmental Review
General Aviation South Tract at Austin Bergstrom International Airport**

Dear Mr. Denton,

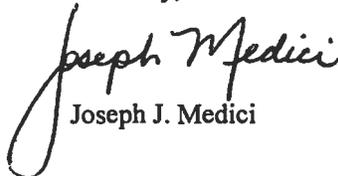
The City of Austin Aviation Department is soliciting proposals from qualified and experienced commercial aeronautical developers and development teams to develop a tract of land of approximately 23 acres at the Airport for a fixed base operator (FBO) facility. The site is envisioned to support hangar development, a GA terminal facility, aircraft tie-downs, fueling operations, office structures, and associated infrastructure. The site is located adjacent to and north of the Ascend Austin LLC., development site (THC track #200903692) and south of existing general aviation facilities in the 4300 to 5105 block of General Aviation Avenue.

The Aviation Department is seeking a categorical exclusion from a formal environmental assessment as provided for in Order 5050.4B (FAA Airport Environmental Handbook). Part of the requirements for a categorical exclusion includes determining if the project will have any negative impacts on cultural or historic resources.

Enclosed with this correspondence are the documents required by the THC for project reviews. We are seeking your concurrence on the absence of historical and/or cultural impacts from this project. Please provide your concurrence or review comments to me in writing by May 28, 2009. If we do not hear from you by this date, we will assume that you have no comments and we will proceed with this project as scheduled.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (512) 530-6563 or via e-mail at: joseph.medici@ci.austin.tx.us. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Joseph J. Medici

Enclosures

Cc: Document Control

NO SURVEY REQUIRED PROJECT MAY PROCEED	
by	
to	F. Lawrence Oaks State Historic Preservation Officer
Date	3-22-09
Track#	200908009



Record of Conversation

Between: Tonya Summers, USFWS and Charlie Cummings, RS&H

Date: June 12, 2013

Phone Conversation

Project: Austin-Bergstrom General Aviation Development (GA Development & Ductbank Relocation)

I called Tonya Summers to explain further details of the expanded EA to include GA development. She confirmed that no coordination was required with USFWS since there are no known threatened or endangered species located on the Proposed Action Site.

Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc.
8140 North MoPac Expressway
Building 2, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78717
By:Charlie Cummings

Record of Conversation

Between: Melissa Blair, NRCS and Natalie Deschappelles, RS&H

Date: October 11, 2012

Phone Conversation

Project: Austin-Bergstrom General Aviation Development (Ductbank Relocation)

Land on Airport property is classified as prime farmland based on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey. On Wednesday, October 10, 2012, I left a message the NRCS to inquire about the farmland classification and to determine the next step for coordination required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Ms. Melissa Blair, the Public Affairs Specialist returned my call on October 11, 2012 and was not familiar with NEPA or the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA). She provided the phone numbers to the Farm Protection Agency, Texas Land Trust Council, Farmland Information Center, and Farm Service Agency. She then spoke with her supervisor, Michael, who told her that the Farm Service Agency would be the best number to call.

---END OF CONVERSATION---

The next course of action is to coordinate with the Farm Service Agency.

Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc.
8140 North MoPac Expressway
Building 2, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78717
By: Natalie Deschappelles

Record of Conversation

Between: Rubin Hernandez, FSA and Natalie Deschappelles, RS&H

Date: October 11, 2012

Phone Conversation

Project: Austin-Bergstrom General Aviation Development (Ductbank Relocation)

After the conversation with Melissa Blair at the NRCS, I contacted the Farm Service Agency and spoke with Mr. Rubin Hernandez. I described to Mr. Hernandez the Proposed Action located on Austin-Bergstrom International Airport property and my research on the Web Soil Survey (WSS) showed that the study area was classified as prime farmland. He said that while it is classified as farmland, it is no longer considered farmland since it is on airport property. Mr. Hernandez said that he thought that classification had been removed from the WSS. Mr. Hernandez said that FPPA does not apply and that no further coordination was required.

---END OF CONVERSATION---

Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc.
8140 North MoPac Expressway
Building 2, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78717
By: Natalie Deschappelles

Record of Conversation

Between: Greg Easley, TCEQ, Nicholas Kozlik, RS&H

Date: October 19, 2012

E-mail Correspondence

Project: Austin-Bergstrom General Aviation Development (Ductbank Relocation)

Greg Easley with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division was contacted for comment on the Proposed Action at Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA). After explaining the range of alternatives associated with the Proposed Action he indicated that a coordination package for the Proposed Action at ABIA was not necessary.

Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc.
8140 North MoPac Expressway
Building 2, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78717

By: Nicholas Kozlik

E-mail correspondence with Gregg Easley is attached to this record of conversation.

Kozlik, Nick

From: Kozlik, Nick
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 10:56 AM
To: Kozlik, Nick
Subject: RE: Austin Bergstrom International Categorical Exclusion

From: Gregg Easley [<mailto:gregg.easley@tceq.texas.gov>]
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 12:54 PM
To: Kozlik, Nick
Subject: Re: Austin Bergstrom International Categorical Exclusion

Mr. Kozlik,

A coordination package for the proposed action at ABIA does not need to be sent to the TCEQ Water Quality Division. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,

Gregg Easley
Team Leader
Standards Implementation Team
Texas Commission On Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087, MC-150
Austin, TX 78711-3087

512-239-4539 (phone)
512-239-4420 (fax)
gregg.easley@tceq.texas.gov

Nick Kozlik, LEED Green Associate

Aviation Consultant
369 Pine Street, Suite 610
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: 415-986-1702 / Mobile: 904-451-0992
Nick.Kozlik@rsandh.com



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