

JERRY M. BEARDEN
Mason County Judge
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Mason, Texas 76856
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March 31, 2010

Dr. Benjamin Tuggle
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

We appreciate the position taken by Fish and Wildlife requiring that an environmental impact statement be completed prior to issuance of an incidental take permit to the Lower Colorado River Authority. As we pointed out to you in our first coordination meeting, the proposed CREZ transmission line through Mason County would destroy the uniquely unspoiled environment of the County. Such destruction is unnecessary to accomplish energy goals because there are reasonable alternatives to the route through Mason County.

Because of the speed with which LCRA is pursuing route designation, it is very important that we continue coordination with your agency. We request that your representative(s) meet with the Commission on April 21, 2010 at 10:00a.m. at the Mason County Court House in Mason, Texas. If it is impossible for you to meet on this date, please call me at 325-347-5556, so that we can set a mutually workable date and time.

We will provide further valuable information regarding the environmental destruction that will result from designation of the route through Mason County. We request that you bring to the meeting the following information:

LCRA's application for incidental take permit as it was filed with your agency, including the required HCP as it was filed;

The date on which the application, including the HCP, was filed with your agency;

Correspondence and communications provided to your agency by LCRA in support of its application and HCP;

We enclose a copy of our letter to LCRA regarding the process for reviewing and evaluating its application and HCP. As stated in that letter, the Commission is committed to diligent efforts to assure that the law is obeyed by all parties.

We look forward to our meeting and to continuation of our coordinated discussion of the issues involved in preventing unnecessary destruction of the environment in Mason County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Bearden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jerry" being more prominent than the last name "Bearden".

Jerry Bearden, Chairman, MSRPC

Cc: Thomas Mason, LCRA
Dr. Alfredo "Al" Armendariz, Region 6 EPA Administrator
Clayton Napier, USFWS
Barry Smitherman, Chairman, PUC of Texas
Representative Harvey Hilderbran, District 53
Senator Troy Fraser