



**Bexar County Environmental Services Section**  
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April 6, 2011

To: Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (SEP-HCP) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Biological Advisory Team (BAT)

From: Andrew Winter, Bexar County SEP-HCP Coordinator

Re: Current Progress and Next Steps for the SEP-HCP

Dear CAC and BAT members,

Thank you for all your time and hard work in guiding the SEP-HCP over the last 15 months and for your continued help as we move together into the application phase. Your advice to Bexar County (County) and the City of San Antonio (City) have been vital to development of the SEP-HCP. Your participation in this process helps ensure the range of community interests are openly considered and vetted as we create a local solution to endangered species issues in the region.

During the last year, we have gathered your input on components of the SEP-HCP through the discussions and actions taken during your open meetings, through your subcommittee and small group discussions. As expected, the range of opinions and ideas for various components of the plan are as diverse as the backgrounds and interests of the committee members. Biological, financial, and regulatory considerations all influence what this plan can and should accomplish. As we all know, finding a workable compromise to this complex set of issues and constraints is both challenging and time-consuming.

To meet the schedule, the County has directed the consultant team to consider the committees' input received thus far and prepare a first draft of the SEP-HCP that meets the purpose and need for a regional solution, complies with applicable law, and is practical to implement. Now we are asking the CAC, BAT, and City and County staffs to review the plan and provide comments to the County. Next, the County will direct the consultant team to revise the draft plan to address the comments received, as the County determines appropriate. The County, with assistance from the City, will consider the committee recommendations and will make a final decision about submitting the plan to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for further processing.

If the County decides to continue with the permit application, there will be additional opportunities for the committees and public to comment on the revised draft plan and the associated Environmental Impact Statement. In order to address additional comments from the community, it is possible that a final plan that is acceptable to both the County, the City and the Service may not be ready until 2012.

Again, thank you for your continued good work on the SEP-HCP, and we look forward to a successful conclusion.

Thank You,

  
Andy

## **CHARGE TO THE SEP-HCP CAC**

Bexar County proposes to charge the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (SEP-HCP) with the following tasks:

- Recommend the overall vision, goals, and objectives of the SEP-HCP, including assistance with the recovery of threatened and endangered species; and reducing the associated pressures on Camp Bullis and aid in maintaining its training mission.
- Recommend a preferred alternative for each of the SEP-HCP major framing issues, including:
  - Boundaries of the Plan Area
  - Species to be Covered for Incidental Take
  - Activities to be Covered for Incidental Take
  - Conservation Strategy, and
  - Funding Strategy.
- Recommend the form and level of mitigation required of plan participants, and the methods for determining such requirements.
- Recommend a plan for consideration by Bexar County and the City of San Antonio prior to its submittal to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the basis for a permit application.

The landowner members of the CAC will appoint one member of the Biological Advisory Team.

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Rec'd from Jonathan Lutz  
on 3-22-11  
(for next CAC mtg)

I would like to propose that SEP-RHCP Citizen Advisory Committee make a formal request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department (Allison Arnold) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Richard Heilbrun) to schedule and conduct meetings with the elected officials of the counties named in the SEP-RHCP to assist in the education of what a Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (just the facts) truly is. Allison and Richard should also explain how Bexar County got to the point that we need a Plan in place.

This does not include representatives of Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, our consultants nor our Co-Chairs of the CAC. This should be a presentation of facts delivered by the experts on Regional Habitat Conservation Plans. This should not be a presentation of our "plan" but it should explain what a plan is and what it is designed to accomplish.