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cc: MR. PAUL HUDSEN - 3279/  
FYI. Tom Torget

## HOPE

### ***Horizon Owners Protecting Our Environment***

An organization representing property owners in The Horizon subdivision

[www.KerrvilleHOPE.com](http://www.KerrvilleHOPE.com)

August 12, 2006

Mr. Dennis Palafox  
Regulatory Case Manager  
Lower Colorado River Authority  
P.O. Box 220  
Austin, TX 78767-0220

Dear Dennis:

At the invitation of *Horizon Owners Protecting Our Environment*, Bill Lindemann, a prominent Texas naturalist, recently inspected the terrain, vegetation and other natural resources within The Horizon subdivision. Mr. Lindemann concluded that LCRA's proposed route sectors B and B1 both would be problematic with respect to creating negative impacts on breeding territories of the endangered golden cheeked warbler. It is his judgment that such problems do not exist with respect to route sector A. He also raises concerns about potential impacts on such tree species as the Texas madrone and big-toothed maple. His August 6, 2006 report is attached for your information.

Mr. Lindemann's experience and expertise are impressive. He is President of the Native Plant Society of Texas, President of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center, and Vice President of the Hill Country Land Trust. Since 1997 he has authored a weekly birding column in the *Kerrville Daily Times*. He is a frequent lecturer at nature centers and adult education classes.

Also attached are notarized affidavits from four Horizon residents certifying that they have – on numerous occasions – observed golden cheeked warblers on their Horizon properties, which are located on sectors B and B1.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Tom Torget  
264 St. Mark Path  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830-257-8966  
[ttorget@ktc.com](mailto:ttorget@ktc.com)

Copies:

Messrs. Joseph Beal, Marcus Pridgeon, Rick Bluntzer  
LCRA Directors

August 6, 2006

To: Horizon Owners Protecting Our Environment

On July 24, Cynthia Johnson, Tom Torget and Nancy Vaughan gave me a tour around your beautiful development and explained some of the options regarding placing a LCRA high-power transmission line from the station located in your development to another station located north of the Guadalupe River. I was asked to give my thoughts regarding the impact of the transmission line on the environment.

There are four possible impacts on the environment and the residents living in the Horizon development: wildlife, water, viewshed and health. It is obvious that the viewshed enjoyed by your residents will be greatly impacted by the erection of the transmission line, and such high-voltage lines could be cause for potential health hazards to those living along and near the power lines. I will confine my remarks to the wildlife and water issues and leave the viewshed and health issues to the residents to take action.

Regarding the impact to the environment, it is fact that the shortest route between the two power stations will cause the least impact on the environment and also be less costly. I did not see where proposed Line A would impact potential endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler's breeding territories, and it would not affect any of the drainages in the development. In contrast, however, proposed lines B-1 and B would greatly impact the warbler and the drainage issues.

Golden-cheeked Warblers prefer deep canyons where old growth ashe juniper and red oaks provide nesting venues — the juniper bark provides nesting material and the oaks provide nesting sites. Although I did not see any warblers (most had departed to their wintering areas in Mexico), I feel certain that these birds do nest in these canyons inside the Horizon development. Cynthia Johnson and others have seen the birds on several occasions. Proposed line B would severely impact the warbler nesting habitat. Proposed B-1 would also impact warbler nesting areas, but to a slightly lesser extent.

These moist slotted canyons also have potential for Texas Madrone and Big-toothed Maple trees; vegetation remaining from the last Ice Age when the area's climate was much more temperate. I did see a Texas Madrone tree, but did not search for the maples. The most diverse native plant habitat would occur near the bottoms of these canyons where there is more water to support plant diversity. Clearing the canyon bottoms for the power lines would destroy this plant diversity which would impact the wildlife that depend on these plants for food and cover in addition to the water.

I feel almost certain that there are springs occurring along the canyons' courses through the Horizon development. Earth moving equipment would likely damage these wet areas taking out the plants and destroying the wet habitats. These types of habitats would take

many tens of years to return, if ever. The earth moving and vegetation removal would also destroy some of the most beautiful natural scenery in the development. It would destroy the beauty and serenity of the impacted canyons within the development as they now exist.

I would recommend that the Horizon Owners Protecting our Environment employ a wildlife biologist to survey the canyons for nesting pairs of warblers and other bird species to document their existence and numbers. I would also have a botanist check for the maple and madrone trees as well as other potential plant species of interest. It might be beneficial to map the existing springs and wet habitats.

If a power line is needed, it is very clear that route A is the only option which avoids severe impact on the natural environment within the Horizon development. The other options identified by LCRA would cause damage to the vegetation, wildlife (animals) and water resources. It appears that the Horizon development was laid out with minimal impact on the environment and it would be a travesty to have the power lines create significant damage to the environment.

Please protect the environment of your beautiful development. All of us must practice good land stewardship to save our Hill Country environment. Best wishes in your quest to save your area's natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Lindemann".

Bill Lindemann

Attachment: Bill Lindemann vitae

**William L. "Bill" Lindemann**

**Born:** October 12, 1937, Gonzales County, Texas

**Graduated** Gonzales High School in 1955

**University of Texas Graduate** (BS-60, MA-63) in geology

**Married for 45 years:** two children, three grandchildren

**Worked for 32 years with Exxon** as Exploration Geologist

**Explored for Oil and Gas, Uranium, Coal, Synthetic Fuels, and Copper**

**Lived in Australia for three years; worked extensively in Indonesia, Thailand and China and other Far East countries.**

**Retired in 1994 to Fredericksburg**

**Have written a weekly birding column in the Fredericksburg Standard Radio-Post and the Kerrville Daily Times since 1997; currently only writing for the Kerrville Daily Times**

**Former President and current President of the Native Plant Society of Texas**

**Awarded the Nancy Benedict Memorial Award by the Native Plant Society of Texas**

**(10/03) for an act of Conservation/Public Service for establishing the Fredericksburg**

**Nature Center and the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center organization**

**President of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center**

**(FNC currently operating nature trails in Lady Bird Johnson City Park, Fredericksburg)**

**Also serves on the Board of Directors for the Hill Country Historical Foundation, and the Hill Country Land Trust (serving as a Vice-president).**

**Frequent speaker in the Hill Country on natural history subjects to schools, garden clubs, professional and service organizations**

**Teach classes on birding and nature at nature centers and adult education schools**

**Current interest: Promoting historical and natural preservation in the Texas Hill Country through education, outreach and example.**

**Note: Currently compiling a field guide for the wildflowers of the Trans-Pecos region.**

**The book will have a minimum of 600 species with each species having a photograph of the flower, a scan of a leaf, a Texas distribution map, the bloom period, current taxonomy and a brief text to help identify the plant.**

**William L. Lindemann**

**884 Loudon Road**

**Fredericksburg, Texas 78624**

**Telephone: 830-997-8917**

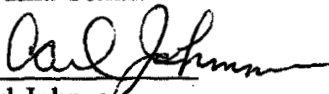
**E-mail: wlljhl@ktc.com**

**AFFIDAVIT**

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF KERR

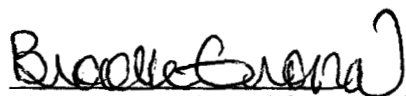
Carl Johnson and Cynthia Johnson state as follows:

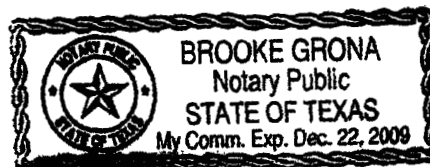
We have on three separate occasions observed male golden cheek warblers on our property at 2016 Landmark Rd, Kerrville Texas in the Horizon development. These sightings occurred April 2006, May 2005, and April 2000. Both of us are experienced birders with a life list of 635 North American birds and have observed golden cheek warblers numerous times at Lost Maples State Park, Fort Hood, and the Walker Ranch, Medina Texas.

  
Carl Johnson

  
Cynthia Johnson

Sworn to before me by Carl Johnson and Cynthia Johnson this 9 day of August, 2006.

  
Notary Public in and for Kerr County, Texas.



## AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF KERR

Patrick and Dorothy Cass  
314 St. Mark Path  
Kerrville, TX 78028

This affidavit is to verify and record that we have seen male golden cheeked warblers, an endangered species, on our property at 314 St. Mark Path, Kerrville, Texas in the Horizon subdivision. Our sightings occurred in April 2005, May 2006, and June 2006 at the bird watering stations we have placed on our property. While not expert birders, we are experienced and were able to reference the sightings in several professional birding guides. In addition, we downloaded several bird song packages of the golden cheeked warbler and can report that we have heard this song while on our property in the evenings on several occasions in June 2006.

Signature: Patrick Cass

Signature: Dorothy Cass

Sworn to me by Patrick Cass and Dorothy Cass this 12 day of August, 2006.

Notary Public in and for Kerr County, Texas

Bill O. Bull

