Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties

Common Name	Scientific Name	Species Group	Listing Status
black-capped Vireo	*Vireo atricapilla*	Birds	E
golden-cheeked warbler (=wood)	*Dendroica chrysoparia*	Birds	E
whooping crane	*Grus americana*	Birds	E, EXPN

Darren Schubert 5523

From: Jarvis, Jonathan H. [jonathan@austin.utexas.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2013 3:47 PM
To: Darren Schubert 5523
Subject: GIS Data: LCRA Blumenthal #131356
Attachments: TARL_14AUG2013.zip

Darren:

The shapefiles containing the archeological site location data for your study area are attached in a zip file. The standard caveat applies: site location information is protected by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), Title III §304 and by the Texas Antiquities Code §191.004, and is not intended for public distribution. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Cheers,
Jonathan

Jonathan H. Jarvis, MLA, M.S., RPA
Archeologist, etc.
Texas Archeological Research Laboratory
The University of Texas at Austin
Phone: 512/471-5959
www.utexas.edu/research/tarl/
www.texasbeyondhistory.net

Philosophìa Krateìto Photôn

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

September 12, 2013

rob.reid@powereng.com

Mr. Rob Reid
Power Engineers
7600 N. Capital of Texas Hwy Bldg. 2 #320
Austin TX 78731

Re: Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project in Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties, Texas
TCEQ Public Information Request number PIR 14-13523

Dear: Mr. Reid

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has received your request for information under the Texas Public Information Act. After reviewing the appropriate resources of the TCEQ, we have been unable to locate any responsive records in the possession of the TCEQ concerning the above referenced site.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at (210) 403-4070 or e-mail at: evelyn.lopez@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Lopez
PIR Coordinator
San Antonio Region 13

Texas Department of Transportation

AVIATION DIVISION
125 E. 11TH STREET • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 • 512/416-4500 • FAX 512/416-4510

August 20, 2013

Mr. Rob Reid
Power Engineers, Inc.
7600B N. Capitol of Texas Highway
Suite 320
Austin, Texas 78731

Dear Mr. Reid:

I received your letter dated August 15, 2013 concerning Powers Engineers project number 131356.

Title 14, US Code, Part 77 of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) requires notice to the FAA if the facility to be constructed fits either of the below listed conditions:

77.9 a. Any construction or alteration that is more than 200 ft. AGL (Above Ground Level) at its site.

77.9 b.(1) 100 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 20,000 ft. from the nearest point of the nearest runway of each airport described in paragraph (d) of this section with its longest runway more than 3,200 ft. in actual length, excluding heliports.

(2) 50 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 10,000 ft. from the nearest point of the nearest runway of each airport described in paragraph (d) of this section with its longest runway no more than 3,200 ft. in actual length, excluding heliports.

(3) 25 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 5,000 ft. from the nearest point of the nearest landing and takeoff area of each heliport described in paragraph (d) of this section

There are no public use airports or heliports in or near the study area. The US National Park Service operates the private Johnson City airport (0TE7) located at airport reference point 30-15-06.5260N / 098-37-21.1120W. If this project involves any construction within 20,000 feet of 0TE7, contact the NPS at Superintendent, LBJ Historical Park, PO Box 329, Johnson City, TX 78636, Phone 830-868-7128.

The Stonewall VHF Omnidirectional Range / Tactical Aid to Navigation (VORTAC) ground based air navigation aid is located at 30-12-24.334N / 098-42-20.719W. This VORTAC transmits continuously in the VHF and UHF frequency range. If this project

involves any construction within 20,000 feet of this VORTAC, file with the FAA electronically at http://oeaaa.faa.gov.

Additionally, if the criterion of FAR 77.9 is met, the FAA must be notified in four copies using FAA Form 7460-1, "Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration". This form, supporting documents, and how to file electronically are available at http://oeaaa.faa.gov

Sincerely,

William B. Gunn
Compliance

Lisa Barko Meaux 5507

From: Lance Wenmohs [Lance.Wenmohs@LCRA.ORG]
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 4:01 PM
To: Jessica Melendez; Lisa Barko Meaux 5507; Denise Williams 5511; Austin Streetman 6426
Subject: FW: VORTAC - Blumenthal Electric Tansmission Line Project proposed BY LCRA TSC

Some information from Bill Gunn (TXDOT Aviation)

From: William Gunn [mailto:William.B.Gunn@txdot.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 3:15 PM
To: Lance Wenmohs
Subject: RE: VORTAC - Blumenthal Electric Tansmission Line Project proposed BY LCRA TSC

Lance, this is from FAA Order 6820.10. It seems that as long as the transmission line run is more than 2 nautical miles (12,152 feet) from the VOR site, you would be OK and not required to file an FAA from 7460-1 just for the VOR. Criteria of 20,000 feet for airports remains.

3. Very High Frequency Omni-Directional Radio Range and Tactical Air Navigation Aid (VOR/TACAN). Usually, there should be no reflecting structures or heavy vegetation (trees, brush, etc.) within a 1,000 foot radius of the VOR or the TACAN antenna. Interference may occur from large structures or powerlines up to 2 NM from the antenna. Wind turbines are a special case, in that they may cause interference up to 8 NM from the antenna. (Refer to FAAO 6820.10, VOR, VOR/DME, and TACAN Siting Criteria).

From: Lance Wenmohs [mailto:Lance.Wenmohs@LCRA.ORG]
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 1:21 PM
To: William Gunn
Subject: VORTAC - Blumenthal Electric Tansmission Line Project proposed BY LCRA TSC

Mr. Gunn - Thanks for sending along TXDOT's response to the consultation letter sent by Power Engineers regarding the Blumenthal Transmission line project [see attached]. I had a few questions about the VORTAC mentioned in your letter (see attached) and specifically with whom LCRA might communicate at FAA regarding proximity of the proposed Blumenthal transmission line to the Stonewall VORTAC. I understand you are out until Wednesday. Thank you in advance for your help.

Lance Wenmohs
Manager, Siting & Certification
Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)

phone: 512.578.4495
cell: 512.636.5930
email: lance.wenmohs@lcra.org

POWER ENGINEERS, INC.

7600B N CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY
SUITE 320
AUSTIN, TX 78731 USA

PHONE 512-795-3700
FAX 512-795-3704

POWER ENGINEERS

August 15, 2013
(Via Mail)

ENERGY
FACILITIES
COMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL

Mr. Greg Miller
Director, Planning & Programming
Texas Department of Transportation
Department of Aviation
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701-2483

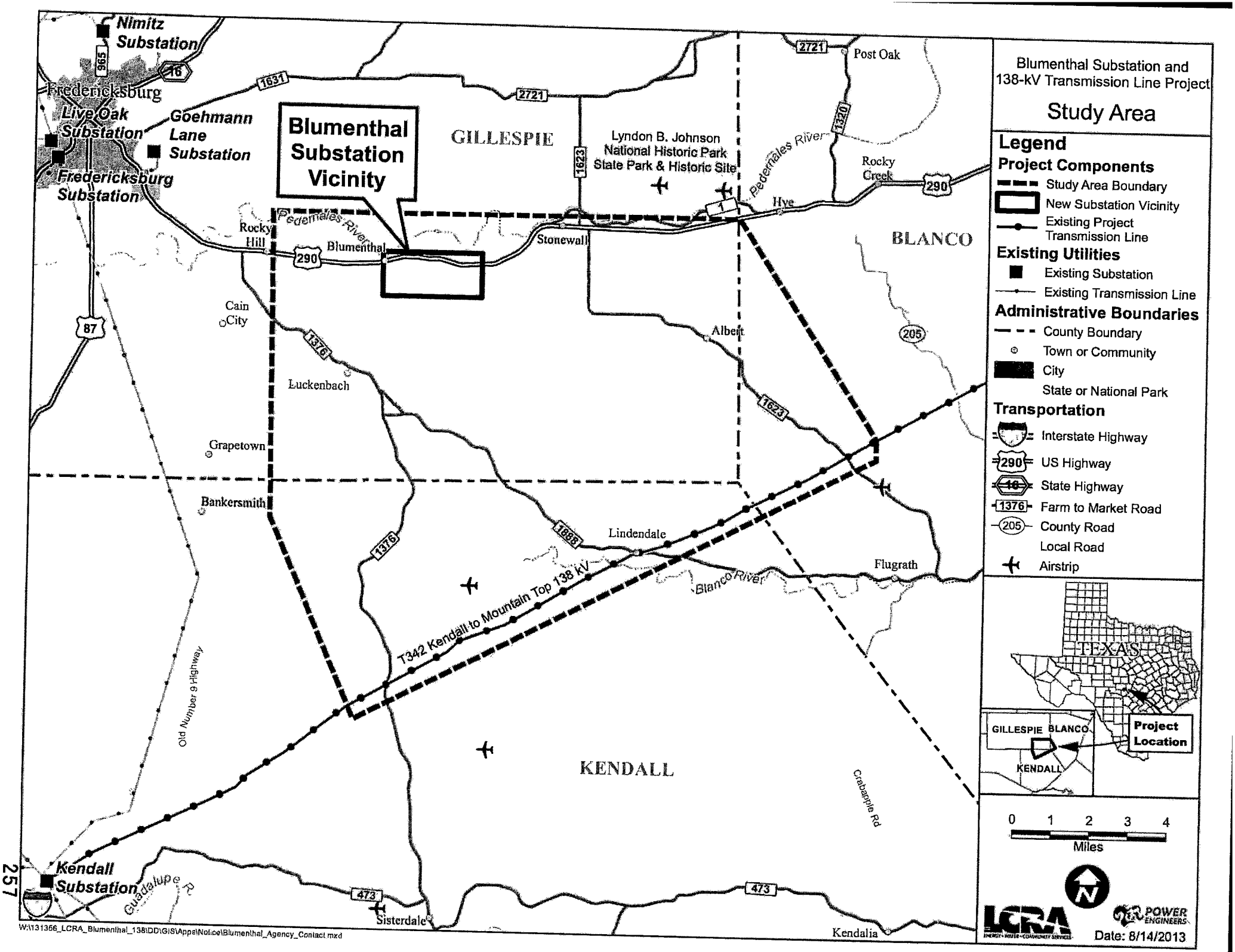
Re: Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project
Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties, Texas
POWER Engineers Project No. 131356

Dear Mr. Miller:

LCRA Transmission Services Corporation (TSC) and Central Texas Electric Cooperative (CTEC) are working together to add electric infrastructure needed to serve a growing area east of Fredericksburg. LCRA TSC is proposing to build a new single circuit 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Gillespie County and, depending upon the final route, in a portion of eastern Blanco or northern Kendall counties. The new transmission line will connect the planned CTEC Substation (to be located in eastern Gillespie County in the general vicinity of Blumenthal, and is presently named Blumenthal Substation) and LCRA TSC's existing Kendall to Mountain Top 138-kV transmission line (T-342), which is located in northern Kendall and western Blanco Counties. The entire project will be about 10 to 15 miles long, depending on the final route. The project is needed to help maintain electric system reliability and meet the growing demand for electricity in CTEC's service area. The location of the project study area is shown on the enclosed map.

POWER Engineers, Inc. (POWER) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Alternative Route Analysis for LCRA TSC to support its application for an amendment to its existing Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC). POWER is gathering data on the existing environment and identifying environmental and land use constraints within the study area that will be used in the creation of an environmental and land use constraints map. POWER will also identify potential alternative route segments that consider environmental and land use constraints.

We are requesting that your agency/office provide information concerning environmental and land use constraints or other issues of interest to your agency/office within the study area. Your input will be an important consideration in the delineation and evaluation of alternative routes and in the assessment of potential impacts of those alternative routes. In addition, we would appreciate receiving information about any permits, easements, or other approvals by your agency/office that you believe could affect this project, or if you are aware of any major proposed development or construction in the study area. Upon certification of a final route for the proposed project, LCRA TSC will identify and obtain necessary permits, if required, from your agency/office.


Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project
Study Area
Legend
Project Components
Study Area Boundary
New Substation Vicinity
Existing Project Transmission Line
Existing Utilities
Existing Substation
Existing Transmission Line
Administrative Boundaries
County Boundary
Town or Community
City
State or National Park
Transportation
Interstate Highway
US Highway
State Highway
Farm to Market Road
County Road
Local Road
Airstrip
Blumenthal Substation Vicinity
Nimitz Substation
Live Oak Substation
Goehmann Lane Substation
Fredericksburg Substation
Kendall Substation
Fredericksburg
GILLESPIE
BLANCO
KENDALL
Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Park State Park & Historic Site
Pedernales River
Blanco River
Rocky Hill
Blumenthal
Stonewall
Hye
Post Oak
Rocky Creek
Cain City
Albert
Luckenbach
Grapetown
Bankersmith
Lindendale
Flugrath
T342 Kendall to Mountain Top 138 kV
Old Number 9 Highway
Crabapple Rd
Guadalupe R.
Sisterdale
Kendalia
TEXAS
Project Location
0 1 2 3 4
Miles
Date: 8/14/2013
W:\131366_LCRA_Blumenthal_138\DD\GIS\Appsl\Notice\Blumenthal_Agency_Contact.mxd

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

August 23, 2013

Rob Reid
Power Engineers, Inc.
7600B N. Capital of Texas Hwy, Suite 320
Austin, Texas 78731-1190

Re: Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138kV Transmission Line Project
POWER Engineers, Inc. Project No. 131356
Blanco, Gillespie and Kendall Counties, Texas

Dear Mr. Reid:

On behalf of Commissioner Patterson, I would like to thank you for your letter concerning the above referenced project.

Using your map depicting the project preliminary study area, it does not appear that the General Land Office will have any environmental issues or land use constraints at this time.

When a final route for this proposed project has been determined, please contact me and we can assess the route and determine if the project will cross any streambeds or Permanent School Fund (PSF) land that would require an easement from our agency.

In the interim, if you would like to speak to me further on this project, I can be reached by email at glenn.rosenbaum@glo.texas.gov or by phone at (512) 463-8180.

Again, thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Glenn Rosenbaum

Glenn Rosenbaum
Team Leader, Right-of-Way Deptartment
Asset Inspection

Texas General Land Office
Stephen F. Austin Building • 1700 North Congress Avenue, Texas 78701-1495
Post Office Box 12873 • Austin, Texas 78711-2873
Phone: 512-463-5001 • 800-998-4GLO
www.glo.state.tx.us

August 23, 2013

Rob Reid
Power Engineering, Inc.
7600B N. Capital of Texas Hwy
Austin, TX 78731

Re: Project review under the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas: Proposed Blumenthal Substation and Transmission Line Project, Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties (LCRA: 201311318)

Dear Mr. Reid,

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The review staff, led by Tiffany Osburn, has completed its review. According to our maps, the proposed transmission line project will cross an area containing several previously recorded archeological sites. Much of the study area, however, has never been surveyed by a professional archeologist and is likely to contain additional historic and archeological resources.

We recommend consulting with a professional archeologist early in your route selection process to allow avoidance of recorded archeological resources. Your archeologist should also identify areas high probability areas (HPAs) for further investigation and submit their scope of work for our concurrence once the route is selected. You can obtain lists of most professional archeologists in Texas on-line at www.rpanet.org or http://www.council oftexasarcheologists.org. Please note that other professional archeologists meeting the qualifying standards may be used; see these standards at http://www.cr.nps.gov /local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm.

Additionally, if there any buildings or structures 45 years or older that are directly or indirectly affected by the project, as determined by the area of potential effects (APE), these should be documented in the submission. Documentation should include detailed site aerial photographs or maps of the project location with notations of all buildings or structures in relation to the project location and/or APE, and high resolution colored photographs of all buildings or structures in the project area and/or APE.

Thank you for your assistance in this state review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Tiffany Osburn at 512/463-8883.

Sincerely,

for
Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer

MW/to

Lisa Barko Meaux 5507

From: Lisa Barko Meaux 5507
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2013 9:43 AM
To: 'Jessica.Schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov'
Cc: Rob Reid 6908; 'Lance Wenmohs'; Gaston Jones; Austin Streetman 6426
Subject: Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project

Jessica,
Good morning, Rob Reid asked that we provide you shapefiles for the proposed substation boundary as well as the study area boundary.
At this time the exact location of the Blumenthal Substation is undetermined. LCRA and POWER are looking at potential sites within the box along US Highway 290. Shapefiles for the "Substation Vicinity" box and the study area boundary are provided.
Please contact me or Rob if you need additional information or have any questions. Thank you in advance for your review of the Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project.
Lisa

Blumenthal Study Area and Sub ...

Lisa Barko Meaux
Project Manager
Central Region Env Svc PM Group Houston
509 N. Sam Houston Parkway East, Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77060
281-765-5507
713-962-8476 cell
mailto:lisa.barko@powereng.com

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Chairman-Emeritus
Fort Worth

Carter P. Smith
Executive Director

October 3, 2013

Mr. Rob Reid
Project Director
POWER Engineers, Inc.
7600B N. Capital of Texas Hwy.
Suite 320
Austin, TX 78731

RE: Preliminary Information Request for Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Transmission Services Corporation's (TSC) Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138-kilovolt Transmission Line Project; Blanco, Gillespie, and Kendall Counties, Texas (POWER Engineers, Inc. Project No. 131356)

Dear Mr. Reid:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) received the preliminary information request regarding the above-referenced proposed transmission line project. TPWD staff has reviewed the information provided and offers the following comments concerning this project.

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-7409 in any return correspondence regarding this project.

Project Description

LCRA TSC is proposing to build a new single-circuit 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Gillespie County and, depending on the final route, in a portion of eastern Blanco or northern Kendall Counties. The new transmission line will connect the planned Central Texas Electric Cooperative (CTEC) Substation (to be located in eastern Gillespie County in the general vicinity of Blumenthal, and is presently named Blumenthal Substation) and LCRA TSC's existing Kendall to Mountain Top 138-kV transmission line (T342) which is located in northern Kendall and Western Blanco Counties. The entire project will be about 10 to 15 miles long depending on the final route.

4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744-3291
512.389.4800
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

POWER Engineers, Inc. (POWER) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Alternative Route Analysis for LCRA TSC to support its application for an amendment to its existing Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) from the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC). POWER is gathering data on the existing environment and identifying environmental and land use constraints within the study area that will be used in the creation of an environmental and land use constraints map. POWER will also identify potential alternative route segments that consider environmental and land use constraints.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends using existing facilities whenever possible. Where new construction is the only feasible option, TPWD recommends routing new transmission lines along existing roads, pipelines, transmission lines, or other utility rights-of-way (ROW) and easements to reduce habitat fragmentation. By utilizing previously disturbed, existing utility corridors, county roads, and highway ROW, adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources would be mitigated by avoiding and/or minimizing the impacts to undisturbed habitats. Please see the attached *TPWD Recommendations for Electrical Transmission/Distribution Line Design and Construction.* Please review the recommendations and incorporate these measures into design and construction plans.

Managed Areas

The following publicly managed areas tracked by TPWD are present within the project study area. A map showing these managed areas is attached for your reference.

Lyndon B. Johnson State Park (TPWD)
Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area (TPWD)*

*Located just outside of the study area

Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code provides that a department, agency, political subdivision, county, or municipality of this state may not approve any program or project that requires the use or taking of public lands unless it holds a public hearing and determines that there is "no feasible and prudent alternative to the use or taking of such land", and the project "includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the land...resulting from the use

or taking." Lands owned by TPWD are not subject to the condemnation authority granted by Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA). An easement required for a transmission line on TPWD property must be approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission after holding a public hearing as required by Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Chapter 26.

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Park (National Park Service)

Please note that Chapter 26 of Parks and Wildlife Code also applies to Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Park managed by the National Park Service (NPS). Coordination with the Grants-In-Aid Branch of TPWD and the NPS park administrators is necessary to prevent conversion of grant assisted lands to other than public outdoor recreation use – as prohibited by Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends avoiding route placement in or near public recreation areas, in particular those owned or managed by TPWD. TPWD is concerned with the placement of transmission lines in close proximity to these sites and the potential for visual impacts to the view shed. Therefore, TPWD recommends considering route alternatives that avoid areas that are owned or managed by this agency.

Federal Laws

Endangered Species Act

Federally-listed animal species and their habitats are protected from "take" on any property by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Take of a federally-listed species can be allowed if it is "incidental" to an otherwise lawful activity and must be permitted in accordance with Section 7 or 10 of the ESA. Federally-listed plants are not protected from take except on lands under federal/state jurisdiction or for which a federal/state nexus (i.e., permits or funding) exists. Any take of a federally-listed species or its habitat without the required take permit (or allowance) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is a violation of the ESA.

The Texas Natural Diversity Database (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.

TXNDD records within and adjacent to the study area are shown on the attached map for your reference. Records on that map are labeled using their Element Occurrence Identification (EOID) number. That number corresponds to the EOID field on the attached TXNDD report.

Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*) – Federal- and State-listed Endangered

According to the TXNDD there is one occurrence of the federal- and state-listed endangered Black-capped Vireo (BCVI) located east of the study area in Blanco County.

The BCVI requires broadleaf shrub vegetation reaching to ground level for nesting cover. They typically nest in shrublands and open woodlands with a distinctive patchy structure. In the Edwards Plateau Region, BCVI habitat occurs where soils, topography, and land use produce scattered hardwoods with abundant low cover. Common broadleaved plants in BCVI habitat in this region include: Texas (Spanish) oak, Lacey oak, shin oak, Durand (scaleybark) oak, live oak, mountain laurel, evergreen sumac, skunkbush sumac, flameleaf sumac, redbud, Texas persimmon, Mexican buckeye, elbowbush and agarita. Although Ashe juniper is often part of the plant composition in vireo habitat, preferred areas usually have a low density and cover of juniper. Habitat loss or alteration is the main reason why the BCVI is endangered.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends POWER and LCRA TSC avoid routing the proposed transmission line through suitable habitat for the BCVI. Even if habitat for this species would not be directly impacted by vegetation removal, if nesting pairs are present in the surrounding vegetation they could be disrupted by noise and activity during

construction. Because the definition of take in the ESA includes harming or harassing a listed species, this disturbance could constitute a violation of the ESA.

The USFWS should be contacted for species occurrence data, guidance, permitting, survey protocols, and mitigation for this federally-listed species. Please note that disturbance within 300 feet of BCVI habitat could still be considered take according to the ESA.

Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*) – Federal- and State-listed Endangered

According to the TXNDD there is one occurrence of the federal- and state-listed endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) located east of the study area in Blanco County.

GCWAs nest only in Central Texas in mixed Ashe juniper and oak woodlands in ravines and canyons. GCWAs eat insects and spiders found on the leaves and bark of oaks and other trees. They use long strips of Ashe juniper bark and spider webs to build their nests. They come to Texas in March to nest and raise their young, and leave in July to spend the winter in Mexico and Central America.

In addition to the known occurrence just outside of the study area, a review of a predictive habitat model for the GCWA (Diamond, et al. 2007. *Range-wide Modeling of Golden-cheeked Warbler Habitat.* Section 6 Project E-72-R, Final Report, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas) also indicates that suitable habitat for the GCWA may be present within and adjacent to the study area. A map denoting the areas containing a high potential for suitable habitat is attached for your reference. TPWD notes that although suitable habitat for the GCWA may not be present in the areas proposed for construction, suitable habitat for this species may be present in the surrounding area.

Please be aware that GCWAs have been found in patches of habitat smaller than 12 acres. With increasingly fragmented habitat, smaller patches may become more important to warblers, particularly those located near areas of occupied habitat.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends POWER and LCRA TSC avoid routing the proposed transmission line through suitable habitat for the GCWA. Even if habitat for this species would not be directly impacted by vegetation removal, if nesting pairs are present in the surrounding vegetation they could be disrupted by noise and activity during construction. Because the definition of take in the ESA includes harming or harassing a listed species, this disturbance could constitute a violation of the ESA.

The USFWS should be contacted for species occurrence data, guidance, permitting, survey protocols, and mitigation for this federally-listed species. Please note that disturbance within 300 feet of GCWA habitat could still be considered take according to the ESA.

Clean Water Act

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act establishes a federal program to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into the waters of the United States, including wetlands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Environmental Protection Agency are responsible for regulating water resources under this act. Although the regulation of isolated wetlands has been removed from the USACE permitting process, both isolated and jurisdictional wetlands provide habitat for wildlife and help protect water quality.

As seen on the attached Water Resources map, several water crossings, springs, and wetlands are located within the project study area.

Recommendation: If the proposed project would impact waterways or associated wetlands, TPWD recommends POWER consult with the USACE for potential impacts to waters of the United States including jurisdictional determinations, delineations, and mitigation. All waterways and associated floodplains, riparian corridors, springs, and wetlands, regardless of their jurisdictional status, provide valuable wildlife habitat and should be protected to the maximum extent possible. Natural buffers contiguous to any wetlands or aquatic systems should remain undisturbed to preserve wildlife cover, food sources, and travel corridors. During construction, trucks and equipment should use existing bridge or culvert structures to cross creeks, and equipment staging areas should be located in previously disturbed areas outside of riparian corridors.

Destruction of inert microhabitats in waterways such as snags, brush piles, fallen logs, creek banks, pools, and gravel stream bottoms should be avoided, as these provide habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species and their food sources. Erosion controls and sediment runoff control measures should be installed prior to construction and maintained until disturbed areas are permanently revegetated using site-specific native vegetation. Measures should be properly installed in order to effectively minimize the amount of sediment and other debris entering the waterway.

Ecologically Significant Stream Segment

The project study area contains the Pedernales River and the Blanco River which have both been designated as Ecologically Significant Stream Segments (ESSS). The designation is based on:

Pedernales River:

- Biological function – National Wild and Scenic Rivers System nominee for outstandingly remarkable wildlife values and significant natural areas
- Riparian conservation area – Pedernales Falls State Park; Stonewall Park; Lyndon B. Johnson State Park; Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Park
- High water quality/exceptional aquatic life/high aesthetic value – exceptional aesthetic value

Blanco River:

- Riparian conservation area – Blanco State Park
- High water quality/exceptional aquatic life/high aesthetic value – high water quality and exceptional aquatic life use

TPWD has identified ESSSs 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 ESSS 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 POWER and LCRA TSC avoid impacts to the Pedernales River and the Blanco River due to their ecological significance.

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 USFWS Migratory Bird Office can be contacted at (505) 248-7882 for more information on potential impacts to migratory birds.

As discussed above, several streams and wetlands are located within the project study area. Please note that birds typically establish flight corridors along and within river and creek drainages. There is potential for electrocution and collision of large-bodied waterfowl and avian predators with electrical wires near these water features.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends POWER and LCRA TSC route the transmission line to avoid crossing or disturbing water resources in the project area to the extent feasible. Lines that cross or are located near rivers, creeks, drainages, and wetlands should have line markers installed at the crossings or closest points to the drainages to reduce potential collisions by birds flying along or near the drainages.

For additional information, please see the guidelines published by USFWS and the Avian Power Lines Interaction Committee (APLIC) in the updated guidance document *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: State of the Art in 2012*. This manual, released on December 20, 2012, identifies best practices and provides specific guidance to help electric utilities and cooperatives reduce bird collisions with power lines. A companion document, *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines*, was published by APLIC and the USFWS in 2006. For more information on both documents, please visit www.aplic.org.

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.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – State-listed Threatened

Suitable habitat for the Bald Eagle may be present at the Pedernales River and the Blanco River. Although the Bald Eagle is no longer federally-listed threatened, this species remains state-listed threatened and receives protection under the U.S. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Under this act eagles are protected from disturbance which is defined as: "*To agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) a decrease in it productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.*"

Recommendation: TPWD recommends that construction crews be made aware of the potential for Bald Eagles to be in the area during the winter months and instructed to avoid any disturbance of Bald Eagles if they occur in the vicinity of the project. If Bald Eagles are present within the project area, TPWD recommends following guidelines for minimizing disturbance to both nesting and wintering Bald Eagles. These guidelines can be found at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_0013_bald_eagle_mgmt.pdf. As previously stated in the MBTA section of this letter, please see the guidelines published by USFWS and the APLIC in the updated guidance document *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: State of the Art in 2012.*

State Law

Parks and Wildlife Code, Section 68.015

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/.

Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) – State-listed Threatened

Suitable habitat for the Texas horned lizard may be present in the project study area. Texas horned lizards are generally active in this part of Texas from mid-April through September. At that time of year, they may be able to avoid slow (less than 15 miles per hour) moving equipment. The remainder of the year, this species hibernates only a few inches underground and they will be much more susceptible to earth-moving equipment and compaction. Construction in these areas could harm hibernating lizards. Horned lizards are active above ground when temperatures exceed 75 degrees Fahrenheit. If horned lizards (nesting, gravid females, newborn young, lethargic from cool temperatures or hibernation) cannot move away from noise and approaching construction equipment in time, they could be affected by construction activities.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends POWER and LCRA TSC avoid disturbing the Texas horned lizard and colonies of its primary food source, the Harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex* sp.), during clearing and construction. The presence of Harvester ant nests is a useful indication that the Texas horned lizard may occupy the site. TPWD recommends a biological monitor be present during construction to try to relocate Texas horned lizards if found. If the presence of a biological monitor during construction is not feasible, state-listed threatened species observed during construction should be allowed to safely leave the site or be relocated by a permitted individual to a nearby area with similar habitat that would not be disturbed during construction.

A mixture of cover, food sources, and open ground is important to the Texas horned lizard and Harvester ant. TPWD recommends disturbed areas within suitable habitat for the Texas horned lizard be revegetated with site-specific native, patchy vegetation rather than sod-forming grasses.

False spike mussel (*Quadrula mitchelli*) – State-listed Threatened
Golden orb (*Quadrula aurea*) – 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

The waterways within the project study area may provide suitable habitat for the protected mussel species listed above.

> **Recommendation:** As previously mentioned, TPWD recommends POWER and LCRA TSC take measures to avoid impacts to aquatic and riparian habitats, which would minimize impacts to aquatic species including rare freshwater mussels.

Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) – State-listed Threatened

The project study area may provide suitable habitat for the Zone-tailed Hawk. This species is often found in arid open country, including open deciduous or pine-oak woodlands, and often near water.

> **Recommendation:** TPWD recommends that construction crews be made aware of the potential for the Zone-tailed Hawk to be in the area, specifically near water, and instructed to avoid any disturbance of Zone-tailed Hawks if they occur within the vicinity of the project. As previously stated in the MBTA section of this letter, please see the guidelines published by USFWS and the APLIC in the updated guidance document *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: State of the Art in 2012*.

Rare Species/Special Features

In addition to state- and federally-protected species, TPWD tracks special features, natural communities, and rare species 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 a review of TXNDD information and recent aerial photographs, the following rare species and special features could potentially be impacted by project activities:

Rare Species
Western Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*)*
Hill Country wild-mercury (*Argythamnia aphoroides*)
Blanco River Springs salamander (*Eurycea pterophila*)
Guadalupe bass (*Micropterus treculi*)
Cave myotis bat (*Myotis velifer*)

Special Features
Bat roost

Vegetation Community
Rush-Sedge Series (*Juncus* spp. series)

*No TXNDD records within or adjacent to the study area, but suitable habitat may still be present

The Western Burrowing Owl is a ground-dwelling owl that uses the burrows of prairie dogs and other fossorial animals for nesting and roosting. The Western Burrowing Owl is protected under the MBTA, and take of these birds, their nests, and eggs is prohibited. Potential impacts to the Western Burrowing Owl could include habitat removal as well as displacement and/or destruction of nests and eggs if ground disturbance occurs during the breeding season.

Recommendation: If mammal burrows would be disturbed as a result of the proposed project, TPWD recommends the burrows be surveyed for burrowing owls. If nesting owls are found, disturbance should be avoided until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged.

A TXNDD record for the Guadalupe bass is located just outside of the study area within the Pedernales River. One TXNDD record for the Blanco River Springs salamander is located within the study area and an additional record for this species is located just outside of the study area. Both TXNDD records for the Blanco River Springs salamander are within springs associated with the Blanco River.

Recommendation: As previously mentioned, TPWD recommends POWER and LCRA TSC take measures to avoid impacts to aquatic and riparian habitats, which would minimize impacts to species such as the Guadalupe bass and the Blanco River Springs salamander.

TPWD also recommends that POWER and LCRA TSC 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.

TXNDD records for a bat roost and the Cave myotis bat are located just outside of the study area within the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends that POWER and LCRA TSC avoid routing the proposed transmission line through areas that may contain suitable habitat for bats, such as caves, culverts, and bridges. If bats are found within the proposed project limits, TPWD recommends non-harmful exclusion devices be used to exclude bats from the structure prior to disturbance. If a maternity colony is present, exclusion activities should occur between September and May to avoid separating lactating females from nursing pups.

Two TXNDD records for Hill Country wild-mercury are located within the study area.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends that POWER and LCRA TSC avoid routing the proposed transmission line through areas that may contain suitable habitat for Hill Country wild-mercury. If suitable habitat cannot be avoided and plants are found in the path of construction, this office (512-389-4571) should be contacted for further coordination and possible salvage of plants and/or seeds for seed banking. Plants not in the direct path of construction should be protected by markers or fencing and by instructing construction crews to avoid any harm.

Recommendation: Please review the TPWD county lists for Gillespie, Kendall, and Blanco Counties, 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/gis/ris/es/. If during construction, the project area is found to contain rare species, natural plant communities, or special features, TPWD recommends that

precautions be taken to avoid impacts to them. The USFWS should be contacted for species occurrence data, guidance, permitting, survey protocols, and mitigation for federally-listed species. For the USFWS threatened and endangered species lists by county, please visit http://www.fws.gov/endangered/.

Determining the actual presence of a species in a given area depends on many variables including daily and seasonal activity cycles, environmental activity cues, preferred habitat, transiency and population density (both wildlife and human). The absence of a species can be demonstrated only with great difficulty and then only with repeated negative observations, taking into account all the variable factors contributing to the lack of detectable presence. If encountered during construction, measures should be taken to avoid impacting wildlife.

Vegetation

Based on a review of the Ecological Mapping Systems of Texas (also known as the Texas Ecological Systems Classification Project), the following ecological systems are found within the project study area:

- Barren
- Blackland Prairie: Disturbance or Tame Grassland
- Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper/Live Oak Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper/Live Oak Slope Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper Motte and Woodland
- Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper Slope Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Deciduous Oak/Evergreen Motte and Woodland
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Ashe Juniper Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Ashe Juniper Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Deciduous Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Hardwood/Ashe Juniper Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Hardwood Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Herbaceous Vegetation
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Love Oak Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Live Oak Motte and Woodland
- Edwards Plateau: Live Oak Slope Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Oak/Ashe Juniper Slope Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Oak/Hardwood Motte and Woodland

- Edwards Plateau: Oak/Hardwood Slope Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Post Oak Motte and Woodland
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Ashe Juniper Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Ashe Juniper Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Deciduous Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Hardwood/Ashe Juniper Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Hardwood Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Herbaceous Vegetation
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Live Oak Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Savanna Grassland
- Edwards Plateau: Shin Oak Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Shin Oak Slope Shrubland
- Llano Uplift: Grassland
- Llano Uplift: Live Oak/Woodland
- Llano Uplift: Mesquite/Whitebrush Shrubland
- Llano Uplift: Post Oak Woodland
- Native Invasive: Deciduous Woodland
- Native Invasive: Juniper Shrubland
- Native Invasive: Mesquite Shrubland
- Open Water
- Row Crops
- Southwest: Tobosa Grassland
- Urban High Intensity
- Urban Low Intensity

A map of the ecological systems in the study area is attached for your reference. Additional information about the Ecological Mapping Systems of Texas, including a link to download digital data, can be found at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gis/gallery/.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends POWER and LCRA TSC minimize impacts to native vegetation to the extent feasible during project design and construction. Unavoidable loss of native vegetation should be mitigated by revegetating areas disturbed by project activities with site-specific native species. A list of native plant species suitable for use in the project area can be developed to fit your specific site needs using the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Native Plant Database at http://www.wildflower.org/plants/.

Mitigation Plan

TPWD recommends POWER and LCRA TSC prepare a mitigation plan to provide compensatory mitigation for those habitats where impacts from the transmission line cannot be avoided or minimized. This would include impacts to species and habitats covered under federal law (wetlands and associated habitats, threatened or endangered species) and state resource habitat types not covered by state or federal law (riparian areas, native prairies). At a minimum, TPWD recommends a replacement ratio of 1:1 for state resource habitat types. For more detailed suggestions or information regarding a mitigation plan, please contact this office.

Please provide a copy of the EA to TPWD for review and comment prior to application to the PUC for a CCN. I appreciate the opportunity to provide preliminary input on potential impacts related to this project, and I look forward to reviewing the EA. Please contact me at (512) 389-8054 or Jessica.schmerler@tpwd.texas.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jessica E. Schmerler

Jessica E. Schmerler
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

JES:gg.ERCS-7409

Attachments (7)

cc: Mr. Mohammed Ally, PUC (w/out attachments)

TPWD Recommendations for Electrical Transmission/Distribution Line Design and Construction

Construction of the line should be performed to avoid adverse impacts not only to the environment but the local bird populations and to restore or enhance environmental quality to the greatest extent practical. In order to minimize the possible project effects upon wildlife, the following measures are recommended.

TPWD recommends that each electrical company develop an Avian Protection Plan to minimize the risks to avian species that are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Avian Electrocution Risks

Birds can be electrocuted by simultaneously contacting energized and/or grounded structures, conductors, hardware, or equipment. Electrocutions may occur because of a combination of biological and electrical design. Biological factors are those that influence avian use of poles, such as habitat, prey and avian species. The electrical design factor is most crucial to avian electrocutions is the physical separation between energized and/or grounded structures, conductors, hardware, or equipment that can be bridges by birds to complete a circuit. As a general rule, electrocution can occur on structures with the following:

- Phase conductors separated by less than the wrist-to-wrist or head-to-foot (flesh-to-flesh) distance of a bird;
- Distance between grounded hardware (e.g. grounded wires, metal braces) and any energized phase conductor that is less than the wrist-to-wrist or head-to-foot (flesh-to-flesh) distance of a bird (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 2006).

To protect raptors and eagles, procedures should be followed as outlined in:

Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006. by Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). 2006. Distributed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC).

Mitigating Bird Collisions with Power Lines: the State of the Art in 1994.
Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). 1994. Edison Electric Institute. Washington D.C.

Line alterations to prevent bird electrocutions should not necessarily be implemented after such events occur, as all electrocutions may not be known or documented. Incorporation of preventative measures along portions of the routes that are most attractive to birds (as indicated by frequent sightings) prior to any electrocutions is much preferred.

Preventative measures include: phase covers, bushing cover, arrester covers, cutout covers, jumper wire hoses, and covered conductors. In addition, perch discouragers may be used to deter birds from landing on hazardous (to birds) pole locations where isolate, covers, or other insulating techniques cannot be used (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 2006).

Use wood or non-conducting cross arms, for distribution lines, to minimize the possibility of electrical contact with perching birds.

When possible, for distribution lines, install electrical equipment on the bottom cross arm to allow top cross arm for perching.

TPWD recommends using nest management strategies which include installing nesting platforms on or near power structures to provide nesting sites for several protected species while minimizing the risks of electrocution, equipment damage, or outages (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 2006).

Avian Collision Risks

Birds typically establish flight corridors along and within river and creek drainages. Transmission lines that cross or are located very near these drainages should have line markers installed at the crossings or closest points to the drainages to reduce the potential of collisions by birds flying along or near the drainage corridors.

If transmission lines are located in an area with tall trees, the height of the transmission line should not be taller than the trees to reduce collision risks.

Transmission lines should be located to avoid separating feeding and nesting areas. If this cannot be avoided lines should be clearly marked to minimize avian collisions with the lines (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 1994).

Transmission lines should be buried, when practical, to reduce the risks of avian collisions.

Habitat Impacts

Construction should avoid identified wetland areas. Coordination with appropriate agencies should be accomplished to ensure regulatory compliance. Construction should occur during dry periods.

Construction should attempt to minimize the amount of flora and fauna disturbed. Reclamation of construction sites should emphasize replanting with native grasses and leguminous forbs.

Existing rights-of-way should be used to upgrade facilities, where possible, in order to avoid additional clearing and prevent adverse impacts associated with habitat loss and fragmentation of existing blocks of wooded habitat.

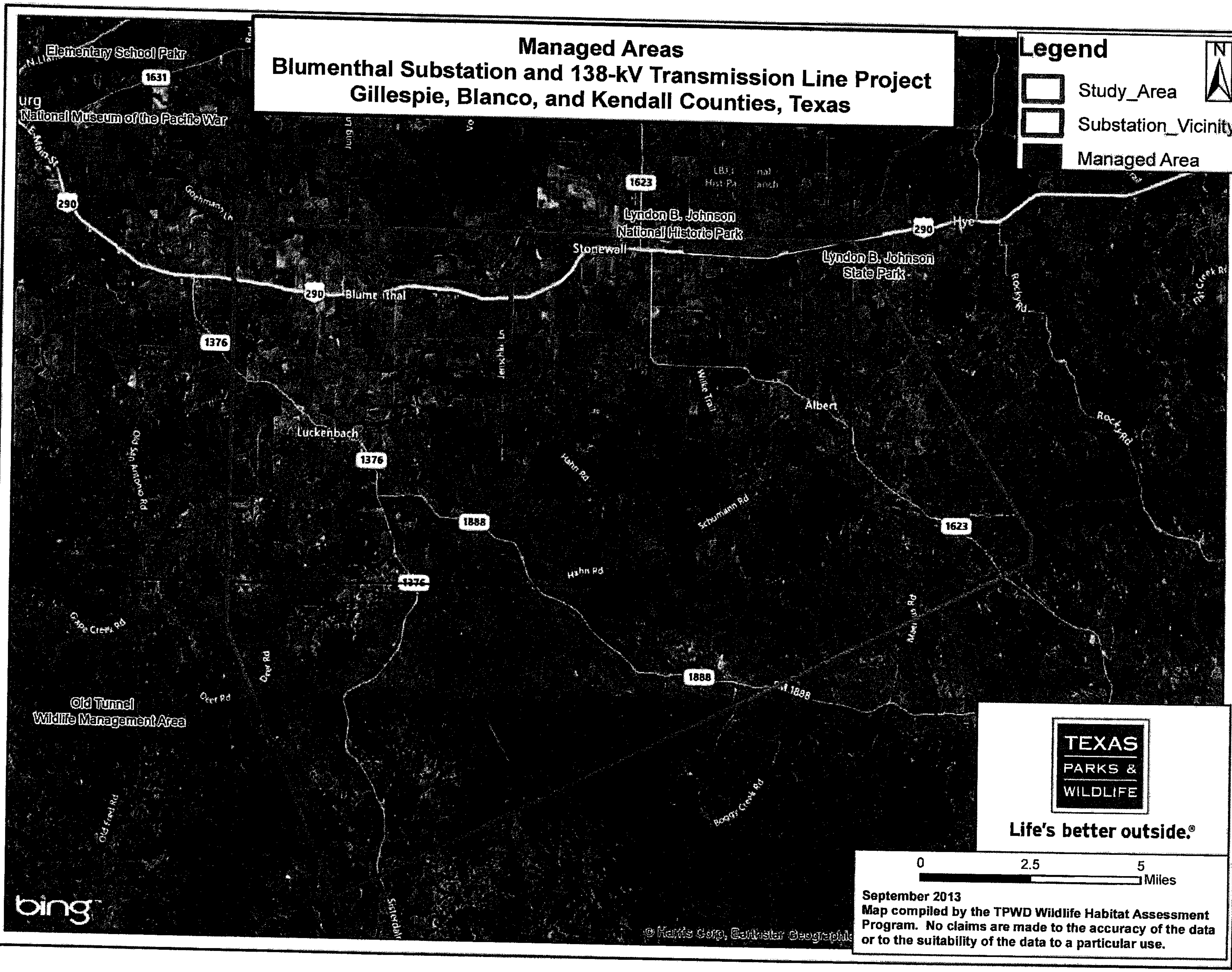
Forest and woody areas provide food and cover for wildlife, these cover types should be preserved. Mature trees, particularly those which produce nuts or acorns, should be retained. Shrubs and trees should be trimmed rather than cleared.

Transmission lines should be designed to cross streams at right angles, at points of narrowest width, and/or at the lowest banks whenever feasible to provide the least disturbance to stream corridor habitat.

Implementation of wildlife management plans along rights-of-way should be considered whenever feasible.

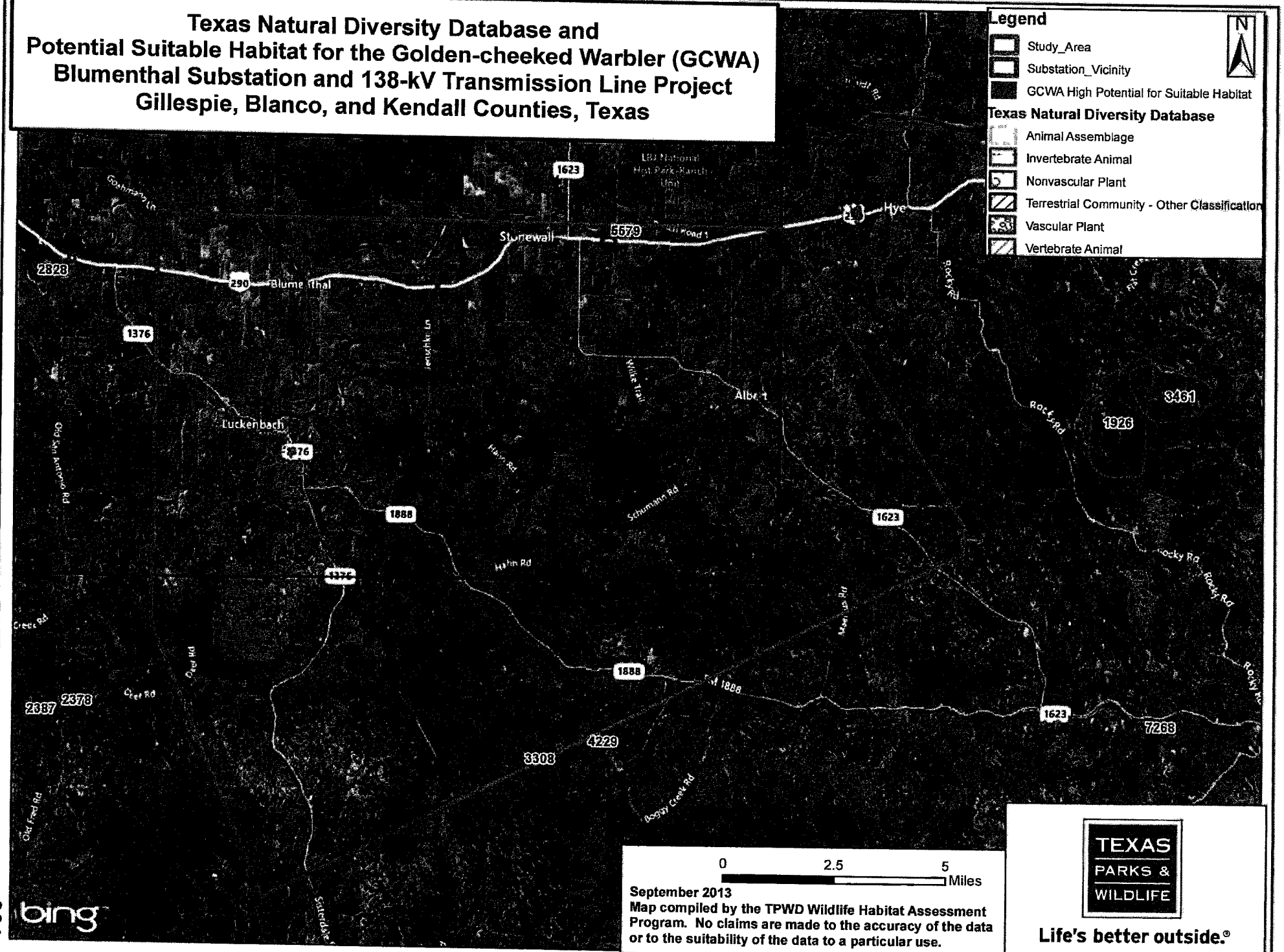
All pole design should be single phase (without arms), where possible, to preserve the aesthetics of the area.

Managed Areas
Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project
Gillespie, Blanco, and Kendall Counties, Texas



September 2013
Map compiled by the TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program. No claims are made to the accuracy of the data or to the suitability of the data to a particular use.

Texas Natural Diversity Database and Potential Suitable Habitat for the Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project Gillespie, Blanco, and Kendall Counties, Texas



September 2013
Map compiled by the TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program. No claims are made to the accuracy of the data or to the suitability of the data to a particular use.

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

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TXNDD Tracked Species in Project Area

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 4229

Scientific Name **Argythamnia aphoroides**

Common Name **Hill Country wild-mercury**

Global Rarity Rank	State Rarity Rank	Federal Status	State Status
G2	S2		

First Observation Date	Survey Date	Last Observation Date
4/15/2003	4/15/2003	4/15/2003

EO Data

DOZENS OF PLANTS AT EACH OF TWO SITES, NO CENSUS ATTEMPTED; STEMS NUMEROUS (MORE THAN 10) PER CLUMP, CONSPICUOUSLY GRAY-GREEN; STAMENS CONSISTENTLY 10; SOME PLANTS ANDROGYNOUS!

General Description

AT AREA A, OCCURS IN THE GROUND LAYER OF A STRIP OF DECIDUOUS FOREST ON GENTLE TO MODERATE LOWER SLOPES OF A FAIRLY MESIC LIMESTONE CANYON NEAR CONTACT OF EDWARDS AND UPPER GLEN ROSE FORMATIONS, IN SOILS THAT ARE A MIX OF CLAY AND COLLUVIAL RUBBLE (PLACED WITHIN AN ECKRANT MAPPING UNIT IN SOIL SURVEY); CANOPY COVERAGE IS FAIRLY HIGH, PROBABLY MORE THAN 75% AT PERHAPS 10 METERS; DOMINANTS INCLUDE QUERCUS BUCKLEYI, PRUNUS SEROTINA SSP EXIMIA, JUGLANS MAJOR; THE UNDERSTORY IS GENERALLY OPEN, ALTHOUGH THICKETS FORM ALONG THE ROADCUT; JUNIPERUS ASHEI IS CONSPICUOUSLY RARE OR ESSENTIALLY ABSENT; PARTHENOCISSUS QUINQUEFOLIA MAY BE DOMINANT IN GROUND LAYER; AT AREA B, OCCURS IN A SHORT TO MIDGRASS GRASSLAND ON UPPER SLOPES JUST BELOW THE PROPERTY'S LEVEL HIGHEST PLATEAU SURFACE; COVER BY GRASSES AND FORBS IS NATURALLY RATHER SPARSE DUE TO SHALLOW CHERTY SOILS (ECKRANG-COMFORT ASSOCIATION) AND BEDROCK EXPOSURES (CHERTY BAND OF FORT TERRETT MEMBER OF THE EDWARDS); COVER BY TREES AND LARGER WOODY PLANTS IS MINIMAL IN IMMEDIATE AREA AND SUPPRESSED BY PERIODIC MAINTENANCE OF MAJOR OVERHEAD POWERLINE; DOMINANT SPECIES IS PROBABLY SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM, BUT ARGYTHAMNIA APHOROIDES OCCURS MORE OFTEN IN GRASSLESS SPOTS, WITH TETRANEURIS SCAPOSA, GLANDULARIA BIPINNATIFIDA, ALLIUM DRUMMONDII, VALERIANELLA AMARELLA, SEDUM NUTTALLIANUM, AND YUCCA RUPICOLA

Protection Comments

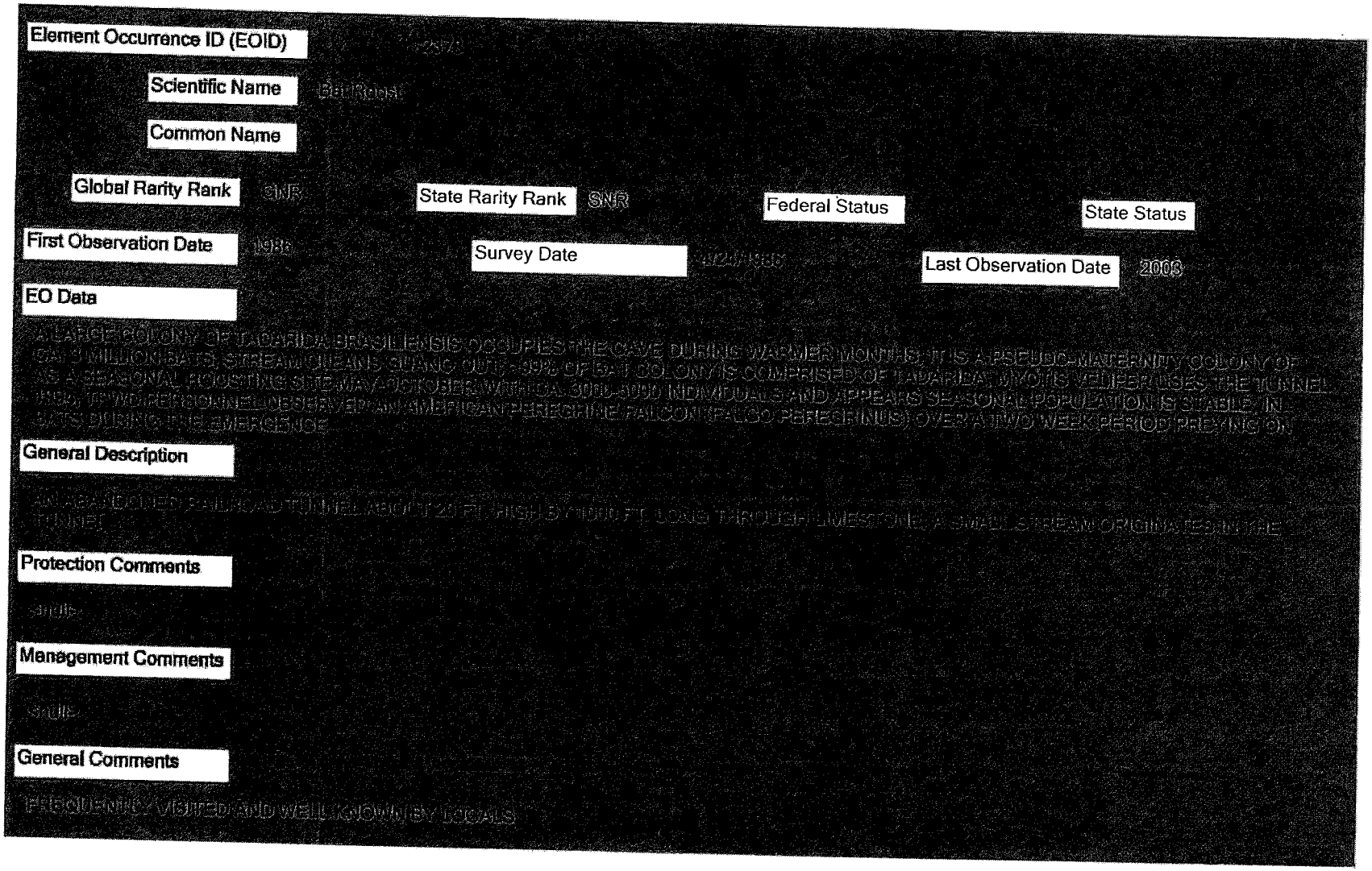
<null>

Management Comments

<null>

General Comments

<null>


Element Occurrence ID (EOID)
Scientific Name
Common Name
Global Rarity Rank
SNR
State Rarity Rank
SNR
Federal Status
State Status
First Observation Date
1986
Survey Date
Last Observation Date
2003
EO Data
A LARGE COLONY OF TADARIDA BRASILIENSIS OCCUPIES THE CAVE DURING WARMER MONTHS. THIS APSEUDO-MATERNITY COLONY OF
AS A SEASONAL ROOSTING SITE MAY-OCTOBER WITH CA. 3000-5000 INDIVIDUALS AND APPEARS SEASONAL POPULATION IS STABLE. IN
PEREGRINUS) OVER A TWO WEEK PERIOD PREYING ON
General Description
A LARGE DOMED RAILROAD TUNNEL ABOUT 20 FT. HIGH BY 1000 FT. LONG THROUGH LIMESTONE. A SMALL STREAM ORIGINATES IN THE
Protection Comments
Management Comments
General Comments
FREQUENTLY VISITED AND WELL KNOWN BY LOCALS

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 3308

Scientific Name Eurycea pterophila

Common Name Blanco River Springs Salamander

Global Rarity Rank G2 State Rarity Rank S2 Federal Status State Status

First Observation Date 7/19/1990 Survey Date 7/19/1990 Last Observation Date 7/19/1990

EO Data

19 July 1990: 5 specimens were collected.

General Description

Spring

Protection Comments

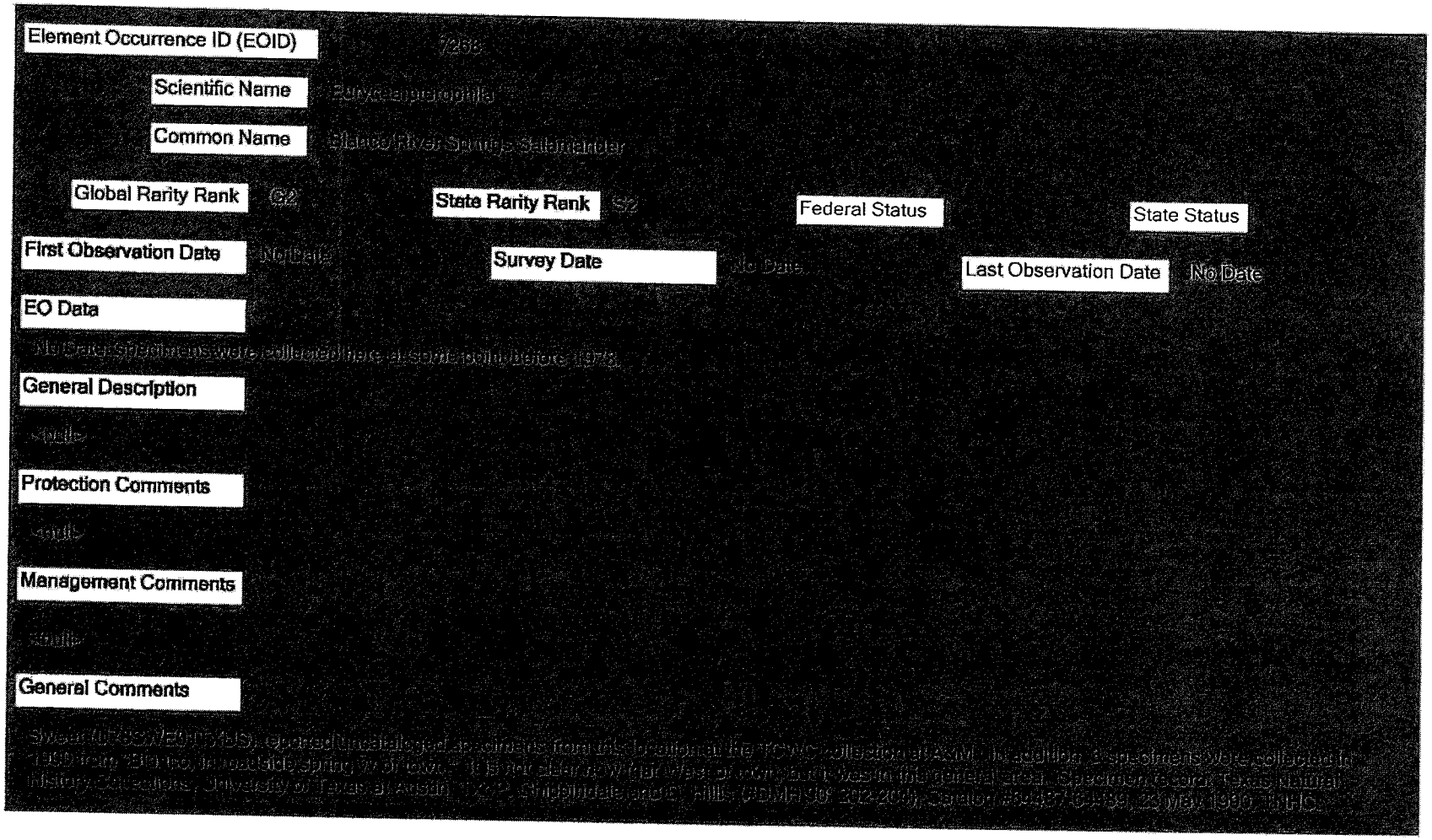
<null>

Management Comments

<null>

General Comments

<null>


Element Occurrence ID (EOID)
7268
Scientific Name
Eurycea pterophila
Common Name
Blanco River Springs Salamander
Global Rarity Rank
G2
State Rarity Rank
S2
Federal Status
State Status
First Observation Date
No Date
Survey Date
No Date
Last Observation Date
No Date
EO Data
No Date: Specimens were collected here at some point before 1978.
General Description
<null>
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 5579

Scientific Name Juncus spp. series

Common Name Rush-sedge Series

Global Rarity Rank G4 State Rarity Rank S3 Federal Status State Status

First Observation Date <null> Survey Date 5/21/1991 Last Observation Date 5/21/1991

EO Data

NOT SURVEYED; NEED PERMISSION OF LANDOWNER (UNKNOWN)

General Description

GRAMINOID-DOMINATED WETLAND IN FIELD CULTIVATED IN DRY YEARS; WATER LILIES PRESENT IN WET YEARS (PER WESTLUND); IN MAY 1991 ELEOCHARIS QUADRANGULATA, PHALARIS CAROLINIANA, CAREX BRITTONIANA, LIMNOSCIADIUM PINNATUM WERE ABUNDANT (AS VISIBLE FROM HIGHWAY)

Protection Comments

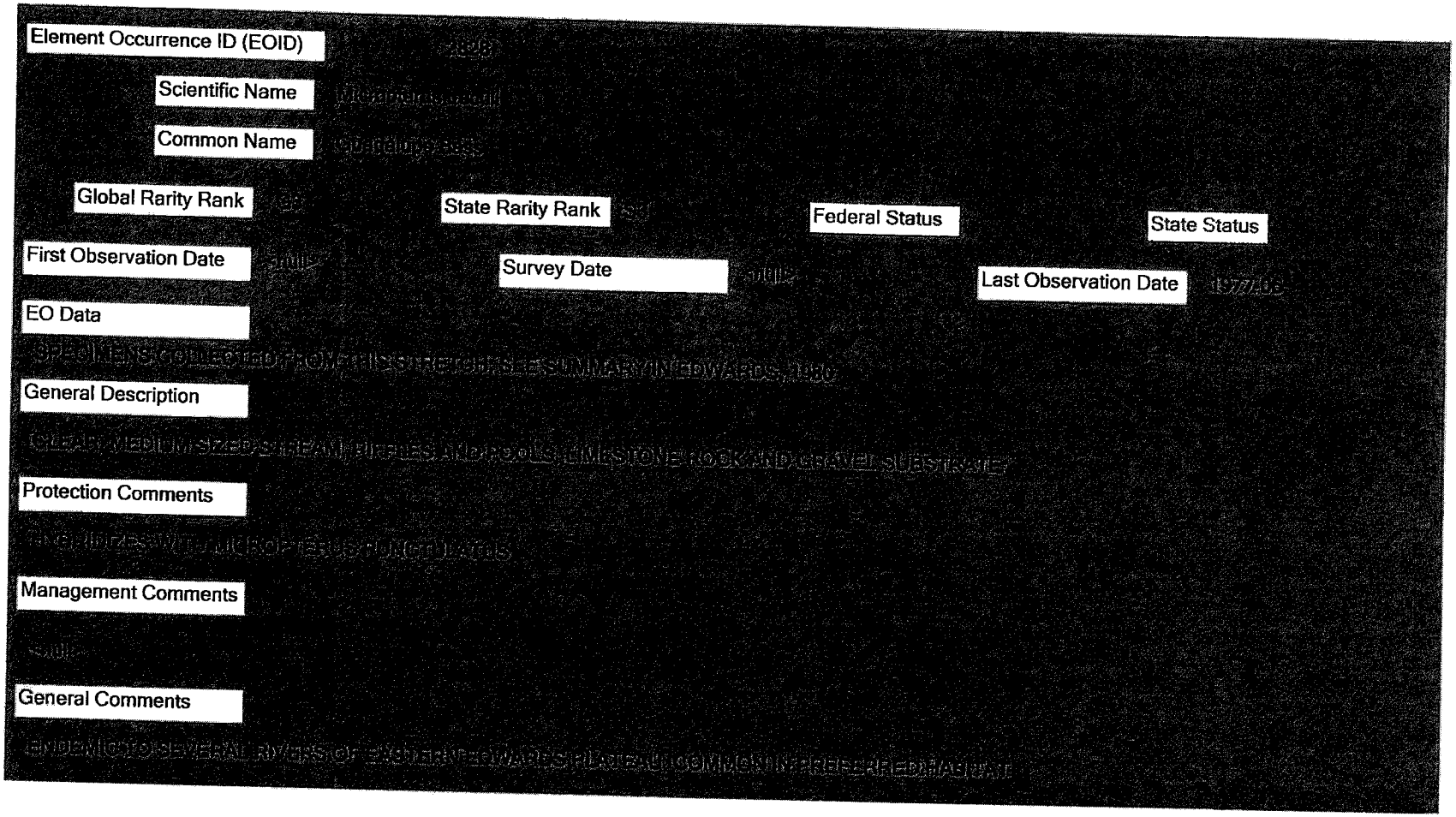
<null>

Management Comments

<null>

General Comments

FAVORITE COLLECTING SITE FOR MARSHALL JOHNSTON, BOB O'KENNON, BURFORD WESTLUND AND OTHERS; NOT VISITED BY TPWD


Element Occurrence ID (EOID)
Scientific Name
Common Name
Global Rarity Rank
State Rarity Rank
Federal Status
State Status
First Observation Date
Survey Date
Last Observation Date
EO Data
General Description
Protection Comments
Management Comments
General Comments

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 2387

Scientific Name Myotis velifer

Common Name Cave Myotis Bat

Global Rarity Rank G5 State Rarity Rank S4 Federal Status State Status

First Observation Date 1994 Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 2001

EO Data

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 3000-5000 BATS SEASONALLY ROOST IN THE RAILROAD TUNNEL FROM MAY-OCTOBER; SEASONAL POPULATION APPEARS TO BE STABLE

General Description

ABANDONED RAILROAD TUNNEL ABOUT 20' HIGH AND 1000' LONG THROUGH LIMESTONE; A SMALL STREAM ORIGINATES IN TUNNEL

Protection Comments

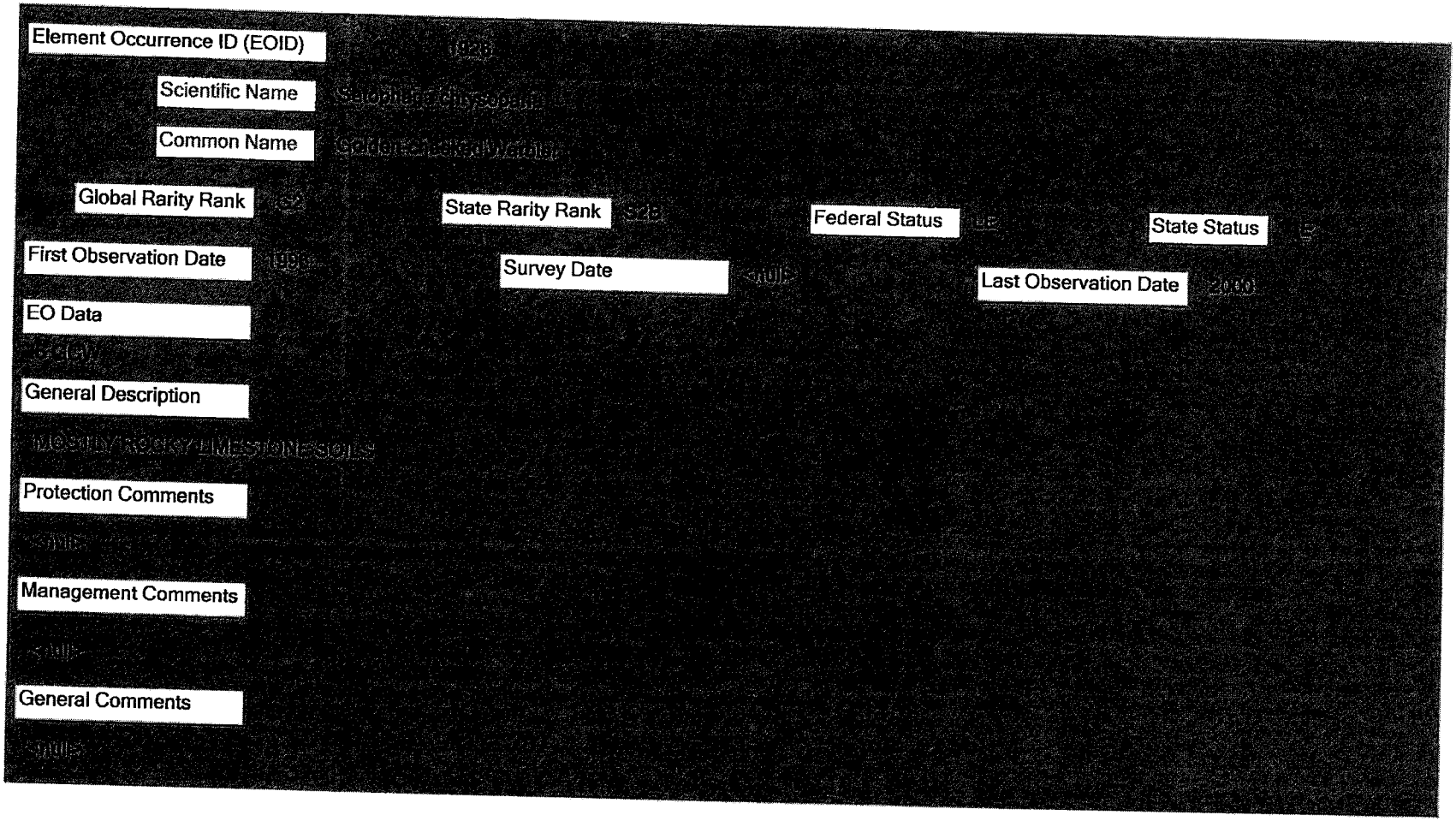
<null>

Management Comments

<null>

General Comments

<null>


Element Occurrence ID (EOID)
Scientific Name
Common Name
Global Rarity Rank
State Rarity Rank
Federal Status
State Status
First Observation Date
Survey Date
Last Observation Date
EO Data
General Description
Protection Comments
Management Comments
General Comments

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 3461

Scientific Name Vireo atricapilla

Common Name Black-capped Vireo

Global Rarity Rank G2G3 State Rarity Rank S2B Federal Status LE State Status E

First Observation Date 1996 Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 2000-06

EO Data

2000, 14 MALE AND 3 FEMALE BCV OBSERVED

General Description

MOSTLY ROCKY LIMESTONE SOILS AND SHIN OAK IS THE DOMINANT SHRUB

Protection Comments

<null>

Management Comments

<null>

General Comments

<null>

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/fruiting 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

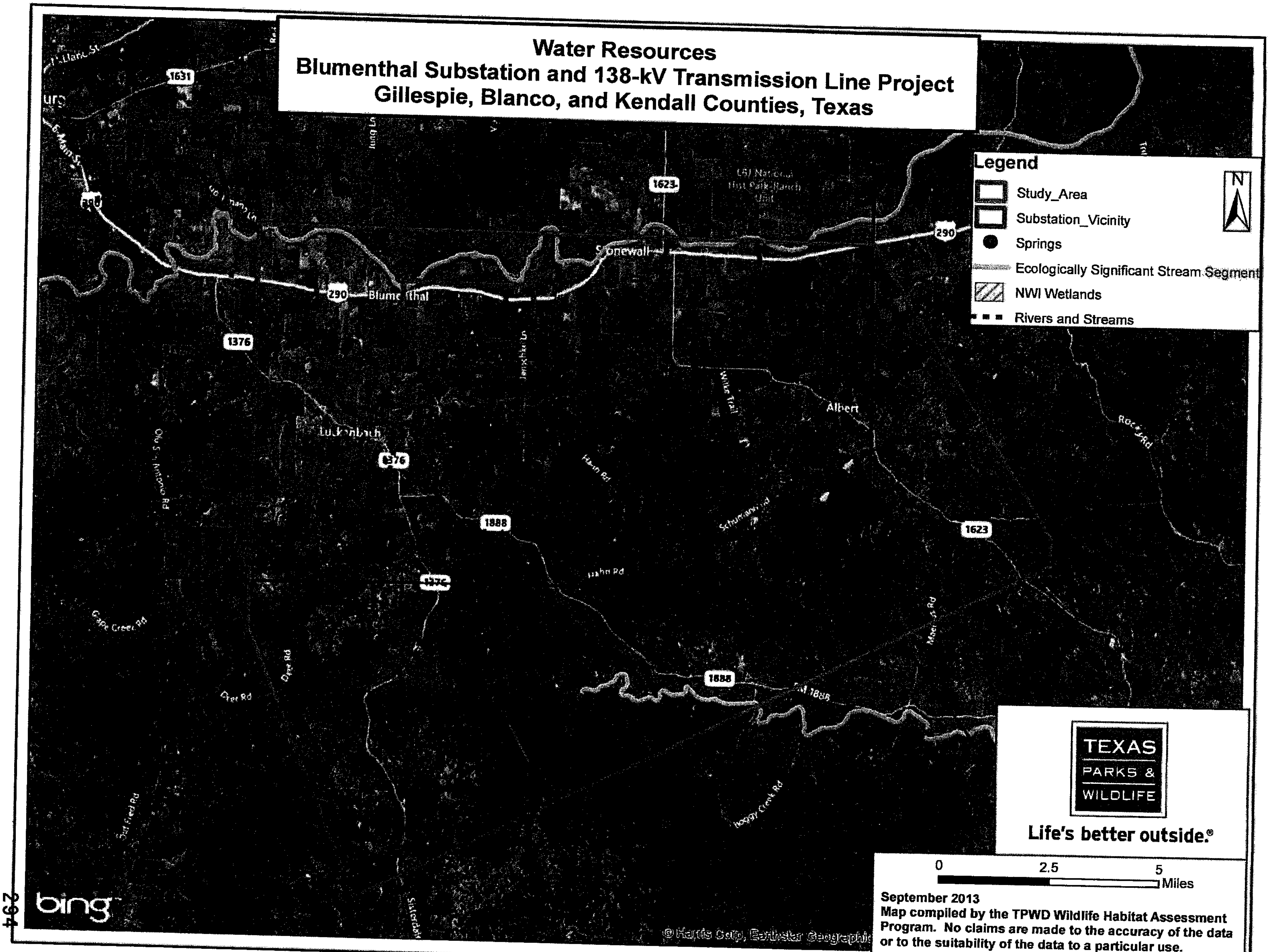
Manager Contact name, address, and telephone number for area or nearest area land steward

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.

Revised 1 Apr 2008


Water Resources
Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project
Gillespie, Blanco, and Kendall Counties, Texas
Legend
Study_Area
Substation_Vicinity
Springs
Ecologically Significant Stream Segment
NWI Wetlands
Rivers and Streams
N
1631
290
1376
1623
1888
Blumenthal
Stonewall
Albert
Luckenbach
Wilke Trail
Hahn Rd
Schumann Rd
Rocky Rd
Old San Antonio Rd
Grape Creek Rd
Dye Rd
Sisterdale
Hoggy Creek Rd
TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE
Life's better outside.®
0
2.5
5
Miles
September 2013
Map compiled by the TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program. No claims are made to the accuracy of the data or to the suitability of the data to a particular use.
bing
© Harris Corp, Earthstar Geographics

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:

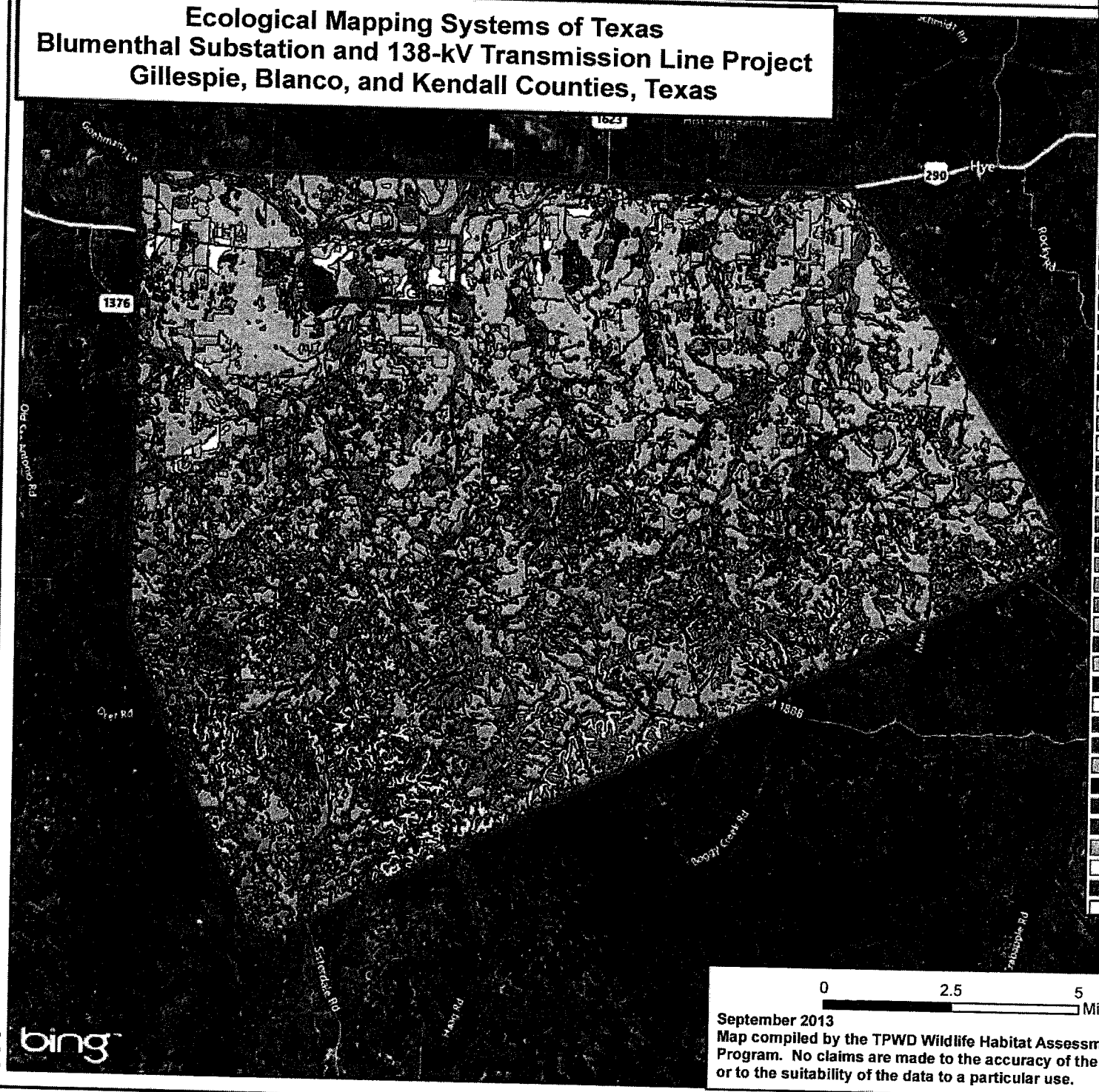
- 1ST Offense = Class C Misdemeanor:
  $25-$500 fine

- 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.

Ecological Mapping Systems of Texas
Blumenthal Substation and 138-kV Transmission Line Project
Gillespie, Blanco, and Kendall Counties, Texas



Legend

- Study_Area
- Substation_Vicinity

Ecological Mapping Systems of Texas

- Barren
- Blackland Prairie: Disturbance or Tame Grassland
- Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper / Live Oak Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper / Live Oak Slope Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper Motte and Woodland
- Edwards Plateau: Ashe Juniper Slope Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Deciduous Oak / Evergreen Motte and Woodland
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Ashe Juniper Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Ashe Juniper Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Deciduous Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Hardwood / Ashe Juniper Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Hardwood Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Herbaceous Vegetation
- Edwards Plateau: Floodplain Live Oak Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Live Oak Motte and Woodland
- Edwards Plateau: Live Oak Slope Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Oak / Ashe Juniper Slope Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Oak / Hardwood Motte and Woodland
- Edwards Plateau: Oak / Hardwood Slope Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Post Oak Motte and Woodland
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Ashe Juniper Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Ashe Juniper Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Deciduous Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Hardwood / Ashe Juniper Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Hardwood Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Herbaceous Vegetation
- Edwards Plateau: Riparian Live Oak Forest
- Edwards Plateau: Savanna Grassland
- Edwards Plateau: Shin Oak Shrubland
- Edwards Plateau: Shin Oak Slope Shrubland
- Llano Uplift: Grassland
- Llano Uplift: Live Oak Woodland
- Llano Uplift: Mesquite / Whitebrush Shrubland
- Llano Uplift: Post Oak Woodland
- Native Invasive: Deciduous Woodland
- Native Invasive: Juniper Shrubland
- Native Invasive: Mesquite Shrubland
- Open Water
- Row Crops
- Southwest: Tobosa Grassland
- Urban High Intensity
- Urban Low Intensity

0 2.5 5 Miles

September 2013

Map compiled by the TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program. No claims are made to the accuracy of the data or to the suitability of the data to a particular use.

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

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Texas Water Development Board

P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

September 6, 2013

Mr. Rob Reid
Project Director, Power Engineers
7600B North Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 320
Austin, TX 78731

Re: Proposed Blumenthal Substation and 138 kV Electric Transmission Line Project, Blanco, Gillespie and Kendall Counties

Dear Mr. Reid:

We were informed of your request for information concerning environmental assessment and alternative route analysis for the proposed 138 kV single circuit transmission line that will connect to the proposed Blumenthal Substation. To plan for the state's water resources and provide affordable water and wastewater services, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) provides planning, geographic data collection and dissemination, and financial and technical assistance services. TWDB is not a regulatory agency and does not issue any permits.

Based on the map and information provided, it appears that the proposed transmission lines would not conflict with any recommended water management strategies in the regional or state water plans. Therefore, we have no specific comments in regard to the proposed project.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (512) 936-0852.

Sincerely,

W. David Meesey
Program Specialist VII
Water Resources Planning and Information

Lisa Barko Meaux 5507

From: Lea Davenport 6900
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 9:56 AM
To: Lisa Barko Meaux 5507; Rob Reid 6908
Subject: FW: Power Engineers Project No. 131356

Here is what she said...

From: Kogutz, Ange [mailto:akogutz@capcog.org]
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 9:53 AM
To: Lea Davenport 6900
Cc: Kogutz, Ange
Subject: Power Engineers Project No. 131356

Good morning Ms. Davenport,

I appreciated the opportunity to speak with you by telephone this morning to further clarify the intent of my message yesterday.
Once again, I apologize for the misunderstanding.

CAPCOG does not, in the usual course of business, perform Environmental Assessments unless asked specifically by the county or city as a special project.

CAPCOG's Regional Services Division coordinates efforts to address issues impacting the overall 10-county region as opposed to local matters.

Thanks again,

CAPCOG

Ange Kogutz

Capital Area Council of Governments
Regional Services Administrative Assistant
Direct: (512) 916-6057 Fax: (512) 916-6001
Email: **akogutz@capcog.org**
www.capcog.org

recd. 8/27/13
L.W.

COUNTY OF KENDALL

201 E. San Antonio St. • Suite 200
Boerne, Texas 78006
Fax 830-249-7442

TERRY A. ANDERSON, P.E.
County Engineer
830-331-8239
terry.anderson@co.kendall.tx.us

23 August 2013

Mr. Lance Wenmohs
Manager, Siting and Certification
Lower Colorado River Authority
P.O. Box 220
Austin, TX 78767

Subject: 138 kV Transmission Line Project to CTEC
Substation in Gillespie County

Dear Mr. Wenmohs:

Thank you for your letter dated 15 August 2013 informing us of the subject project in the planning stages. Since you have an existing 138 kV transmission line called the Kendall-to-Mountain Top (T-342) in the northeastern to northwestern part of Kendall County you know that area is basically undeveloped. As far as I know there are no plans for any new development in the northeastern part of Kendall County.

In general, Kendall County has no environmental or land use constraints. When you reach the point where PUC has approved your preferred route for the transmission line, if it runs through part of Kendall County where County roads exist, you will need to provide me with a *Notice of Proposed Construction on County Right-of-Way* if you cross one of those roads. A copy of this form is attached. I believe it is self-explanatory, but if your Engineer has any questions, please have them call me.

If one of our elected officials has any comments, I will either forward them to you or they may choose to contact you directly.

Sincerely,

Terry A. Anderson

Terry A. Anderson, P.E.

c: Darrel L. Lux, County Judge
Richard Chapman, Commissioner, Pct. 3