



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

March 27, 2007

Harold Weiblen, President
Weiblen Farms
560 County Road 461
Hondo, TX 78861

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284, Southwest Gulf Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX; Request to be a Consulting Party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Dear Mr. Weiblen:

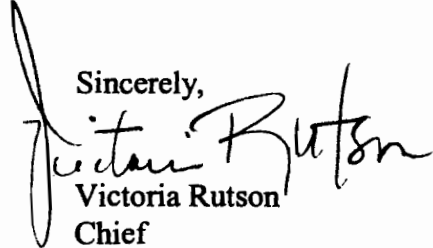
On March 19, 2007, the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) received a verbal request from Mr. Andy Weiblen to designate you as the Weiblen Farms consulting party representative to participate in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) section 106 process. As you know, SEA is conducting an environmental review of the Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related regulations, including NHPA.

We appreciate your interest in our environmental review process and your request to become a consulting party in the NHPA section 106 process. Although your property has not been deemed culturally or historically significant under the NHPA, the large landholdings in your family's possession enable such participation in the NHPA process under the governing regulations. Accordingly, you qualify under 36 CFR 800.2 (c)(5), which states: "Certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking may participate as consulting parties due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties interest."

We are pleased to include you in your capacity as a private landowner as a section 106 consulting party for this proceeding and will ensure that you receive all information regarding the

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ongoing section 106 process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Diana Wood, SEA Project Manager at 202-245-0302.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: F. Lawrence Oaks, Texas Historical Commission
Brad Patterson, Texas Historical Commission