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#E1-943
RQ

July 20, 2004

Dr. Robert T. Fitzgerald
Medina County Environmental Action Association, Inc.
202 CR 450
Hondo, TX 78861

received
8/9/04

Re: ***Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
Southwest Gulf Railroad Company, Medina County (STB/106)***

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald:

We have been working with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) and Southwest Gulf Railroad (SGR) to assess what impact the proposed project may have on historic properties in your area. Our agency would like to update you on our project review for the SGR project in Quihi. Our review staff continues to press for information and documentation to substantiate the rationale for the elimination of the old Medina Dam Route.

Knowing the concern your organization has for this proposed project, it would be of great service to our review staff if your organization has any professionals with expertise in the area of railroad engineering. The documentation and explanations that have been provide so far by the applicant appear to be in order, however, having an expert evaluate the proposed work would only improve our agency's understanding of the situation, as well as, broaden our education with regards to the mechanics of railroad alignments and grade requirements.

We will continue consultation with the project team concerning the direct and indirect impact of this undertaking on the cultural landscape of the historic properties in your area. Please contact Bill Martin at 512/463-5867 if you have additional questions or concerns during this review process.

Yours truly,

F. Lawrence Oaks, State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: John Nau, III, Chair, Texas Historical Commission
Albert Hausser, Texas Historical Commission
Rini Ghosh, Surface Transportation Board
David F. Barton, The Gardner Law Firm, 745 East Mulberry Avenue, Suite 100, San Antonio, TX 78212-3149