

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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#EI-26300

May 11, 2018

Diana Wood
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: *Project Review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Mitigation Status Update and Vegetative Buffer, Southwest Gulf Railroad, Medina County, Texas*
(See also THC Track #201704530, #201707114)

Ms. Wood:

Thank you for the project information regarding the above-referenced project, which we received via email on April 23, 2018. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The review staff, led by Casey Hanson, Justin Kockritz and Sara Ludueña, has completed its review of the information regarding the required mitigation agreed to by the parties involved in this undertaking as well as the schematic proposed vegetative buffer. We appreciate you providing an update on the status of the various mitigation measures and we look forward to reviewing the exhibit and educational materials when a draft is complete. In terms of the vegetative buffer, we agree that the approach of planting two staggered rows of low trees is appropriate, and the species described will create a sufficient visual buffer between the historic resources and the rail line.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If you have any questions concerning our comments on the potential effects of the project on historic properties, please contact Sara Ludueña at 512-463-8952 or sara.luducna@thc.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



Sara Ludueña, South Texas Project Reviewer
For: Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: David H. Coburn, Steptoe & Johnson, LLP (e-mail)
Robert Hancock, Chair, Medina County Historical Commission

MW/sl

