

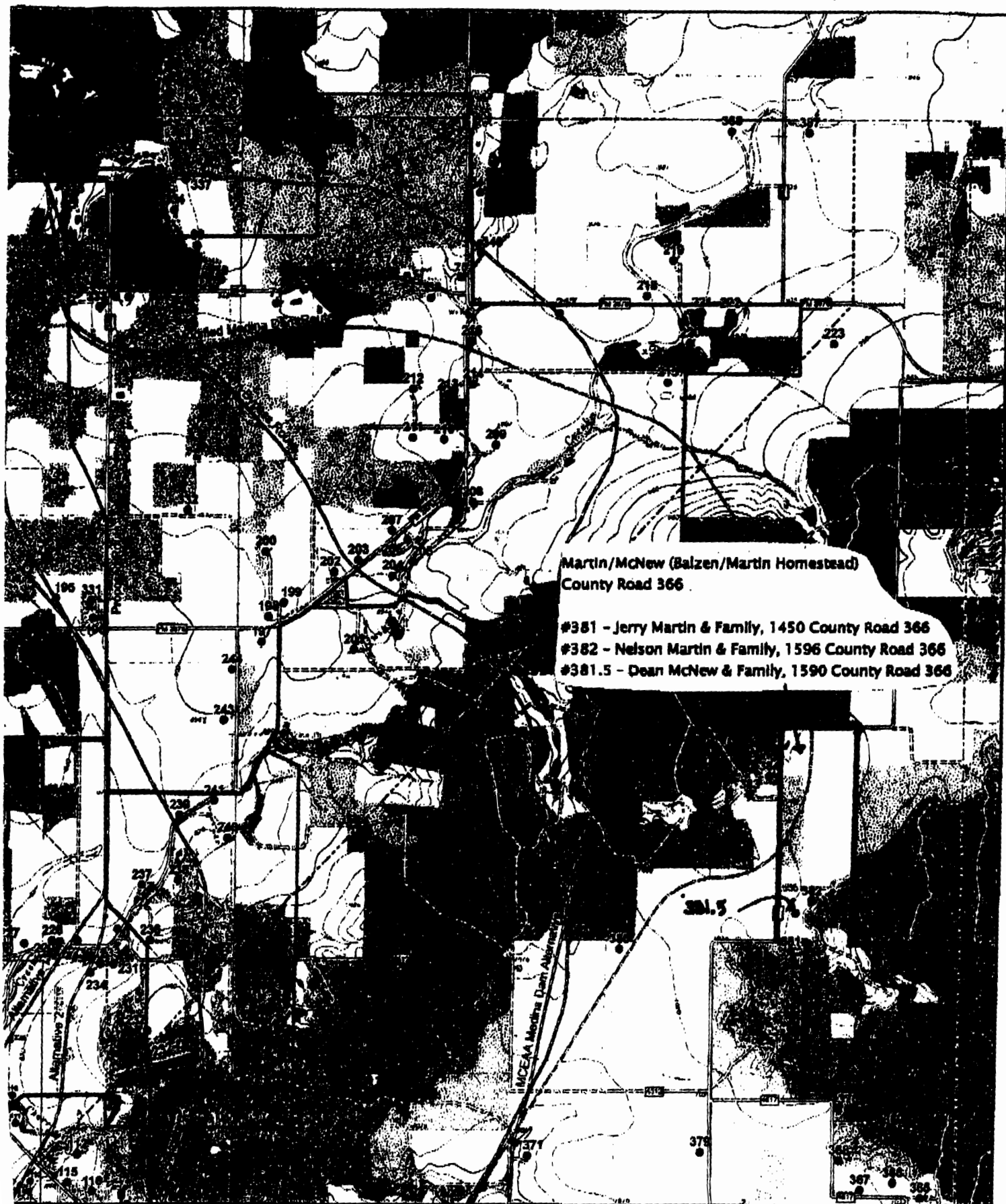
EI - 2912  
CG

**Diana Wood**  
**Section of Environmental Analysis**  
**Surface Transportation Board**  
**FAX: 202-245-0454**

**Re: STB Docket #FD-34284**

**Map with Martin/McNew (Balzen/Martin Homestead) noted per request.**

**Thanks,**  
**Dean and Ronda McNew**  
**1590 County Road 366**  
**Hondo, Texas 78861**  
**deanmcnew@yahoo.com**





Paulette Martin  
<pmartin@hondo.net>  
04/23/2007 11:16 PM

To Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov, Diana.Wood@s  
cc  
bcc

Subject Re: Historic Land Holdings near Eastern Alternat

History:

 This message has been replied to.

Thank you for the great news.

Paulette and Nelson Martin

Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov wrote:

>  
> Dear Dean and Ronda McNew:  
>  
> I am writing you on behalf of Diana Wood at the  
Surface Transportation  
> Board (Board) who asked me to follow up with you  
regarding your historic  
> land holdings within the project area for the  
Southwest Gulf Railroad  
> (SGR) Construction and Operation Exemption in Medina  
County, TX. We are  
> in receipt today of your Fax that shows the location  
of the property in  
> question along County Road 366. We understand that  
you are concerned  
> that the Eastern Routes would impact your farmlands.  
I have analyzed  
> the map and our route maps with your Fax in hand in  
order to determine  
> the nature and extent of any potential impacts to  
your land.  
>  
> Upon reviewing your map it appears that your  
property along County Road  
> 366 lies outside any of the alternatives that have  
been identified by  
> the Board as Environmentally Preferable. The route  
that is closest to  
> your property and would cross your holdings on the  
western end is SGR's  
> Modified Medina Dam Route. This route was dropped  
from consideration by  
> the Board in the Supplemental Draft Environmental  
Impact Statement  
> (SDEIS) that was served on January 29, 2007. The  
two environmentally  
> preferable routes that the Board' Section of  
Environmental Analysis  
> (SEA) proposed be carried forward in the SDEIS are  
the MCEAA Medina Dam  
> Alternative and the Eastern Bypass Route. Both of  
these environmentally  
> preferable routes appear to be located well west of  
your property  
> boundaries.

>  
> The only other route the we are currently  
considering is the Proposed  
> Route with the additional mitigation proposed by  
SGR. However, SEA has  
> yet to decide whether to carry this route forward in  
the Final  
> Environmental Impact Statement. Either way, SGR's  
Modified Medina Dam  
> Route is no longer a route that is under  
consideration by SEA.  
>  
> Please feel free to contact me regarding any further  
clarification that  
> you may need regarding your concerns. However, it  
appear that your  
> property (farm holdings) would be avoided by any  
other current  
> alternatives under consideration.  
>  
> Best Regards,  
>  
> -Catherine Glidden  
> Environmental Protection Specialist  
> Surface Transportation Board  
> Section of Environmental Analysis  
> Washington, DC 20423-0001  
> Phone: (202) 245-0293  
> Fax: (202) 245-0454

202-245-0302 (phone)  
202-245-0454 (fax)

— Forwarded by Diana Wood/STB on 04/23/2007 10:48 AM —



Nelson  
Martin  
<nmartin  
@hondo  
.net>

04/21/20  
07 07:47  
PM

To Diana.Wood@stb.dot.gov

cc Paulette Martin <pmartin@hondo.net>

Subject Southwest Gulf Railroad's Proposed Construction in Medina  
County, TX

We listened in part to the conference call on Friday, April 20, 2007 regarding the \*STB Finance Docket No. 34284 - Southwest Gulf Railroad Company -Construction and Operation Exemption - Medina County, TX\* and would like to clarify statements made by Ronda McNew (sister) regarding the section of our family land, the Martin land which pertains to me, Nelson Martin. When she stated that we have a historical house, we believe the majority participating in the conversation were not sure of the location of this house. This house is on the land we own in Quihi off of FM 2676 west of the Quihi Lutheran church and not on the family land off of County Road 366.

Secondly the farmland that we inherited is not leased/rented. We share crop the land and are active in the day to day maintenance and expenses of the farm. We in turn then receive a percent of the profit or loss after harvest as does the farming operation that assists us with our farmland.

We do have our permanent residence on the family land off of County Road 366. We do not want to imply anything other than what it is. Please pass this on to all who need this information so there is no confusion or misunderstanding.

Thank you for your time and all your work to assure everyone is heard.

Nelson and Paulette Martin

1596 County Road 366  
Hondo, TX 78861

misunderstanding.

Thank you for your time and all your work to assure everyone is heard.

Nelson and Paulette Martin

1596 County Road 366  
Hondo, TX 78861  
830-538-3931  
Fax 830-538-3933



Catherine Glidden/STB

04/23/2007 11:21 AM

To pmartin@hondo.net

cc Diana Wood/STB@STB

bcc

Subject Fw: McNew Email - Southwest Gulf Railroad's Pr  
Construction in Medina County, TX

Dear Nelson and Paulette Martin:

Diana Wood has requested that I contact you regarding your email.  
• Thanks much for providing this information regarding the locations of  
your property holdings. I have been working with Diana on the historic  
preservation issues associated with the project and would like to pin  
down the location of the "historic home" that you sister was referring to  
during the conference call. We need to have some certainty that the  
historic home is not located in the area of the Eastern Alternatives as Ms.  
McNew seemed to imply on the phone. Would it be possible for you to  
send us a map with the location of the historic house marked in some  
fashion? That way, we can have a record of the house location and  
eliminate any uncertainty that we may have missed something when  
doing our surveys of the Eastern Alternatives. Perhaps, you could also  
outline the location of the farmland that you mentioned as well (to the  
east?) including a description of the house associated with that land (I'm  
assuming, based on your email, that the other home is modern).

Would you suggest that we contact Ms. McNew regarding the information  
you provided, or would she agree with the content of your email?

Thanks again for providing this information.

-Cathy

Catherine Glidden  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Surface Transportation Board  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
Washington, DC 20423-0001  
Phone: (202) 245-0293  
Fax: (202) 245-0454

— Forwarded by Catherine Glidden/STB on 04/23/2007 10:54 AM —



Diana  
Wood/STB  
04/23/2007  
10:48 AM

To Catherine Glidden/STB@STB

cc

Subject Fw: McNew Email - Southwest Gulf Railroad's Proposed  
Construction in Medina County, TX

Diana F. Wood  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S.W. Room 1110  
Washington, DC 20423



Paulette Martin  
<pmartin@hondo.net>  
04/23/2007 03:53 PM

To Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov, Nelson Martin -  
<nmartin@hondo.net>  
cc Diana.Wood@stb.dot.gov

bcc

Subject Re: Fw: McNew Email - Southwest Gulf Railroad'  
Construction in Medina County, TX

Dear Ms. Glidden,

First, we would like to say that we stand by the validity of Ronda's read statements. It was not until questions were being addressed that we believe the confusion started and by being an outside listener, we thought we could clarify any issues that we overheard. We were hoping to save you and others working on this project valuable time. The following is directly taken from Ronda's statement that she read on behalf of the Martin family. Please note that her statements were forwarded to Ms. Wood so it could be recorded on the day of the conference call.

"We understand and are a part of the multi-faceted tapestry of the community of Quihi. We also own land in the town of Quihi, which has been in our family since 1855. This land was part of an original Texas land grant and received a Texas Department of Agriculture Family Land Heritage award in 1975. We have an ancestral home on the land and appreciate the value of ancestral Quihi homes, especially since we are direct descendants of the Schweers, Breiten, Saathoff, Lindeburg, and Balzen families."

As you can see from the above, Ronda refers to the ancestral home in Quihi. Her point to be made was in the following statement.

"However, the land grants in Texas were issued to our ancestors for the purpose of farming and ranching. Henri Castro founded Quihi to serve as a farming community for immigrants from Alsace and nearby German states.

An ancestral house is important, but the importance pales in light of ancestral land. Our ancestral land is the true heritage of Texas, the true heritage of our community, and the true heritage

of our family."

To continue Ronda stated to get her point across in reference to historical land vs. historical house.

"In summary, my family sees both sides of the rail line location-problem because we are a part of both sides. However, when having to choose between an ancestral house and ancestral land, we choose the land - the real reason our ancestors came to Quihi."

We have attached the maps showing you where our land is located.

The house we live in is a home we built off of County Road 366. It is here that our farmland dates back to our family, the Martin/Balzen family to 1890. (This land is involved with the eastern routes.)

The historical house is on our land in Quihi along with our farmland which has been in our family, the Martin/Lindeburg family since 1855. (This land is located in the community of Quihi)

Now, with all this said, please remember Ronda's statement regarding our stand on the issue.

"Please consider the bigger picture, the greater good, the better value, and the larger significance of heritage family land when making the decision for location of the rail line and elect not to cross the historic partials of land that are along the proposed eastern routes. The Martin Family requests that the Surface Transportation Board and Texas Historical Commission decide to leave this historic land intact by choosing the Original Proposed Route through Quihi, a decision that will not be regretted."

You may send all related emails to Ronda McNew if you feel it is necessary to help clarify any issues.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nelson and Paulette Martin

Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov wrote:

>  
> Dear Nelson and Paulette Martin:  
>  
> Diana Wood has requested that I contact you  
regarding your email.  
> Thanks so much for providing this information  
regarding the locations of  
> your property holdings. I have been working with  
Diana on the  
> historic preservation issues associated with the  
project and would like  
> to pin down the location of the "historic home"  
that your sister was  
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> Would you suggest that we contact Ms. McNew  
regarding the information  
> you provided, or would she agree with the content of  
your email?  
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> Thanks again for providing this information.  
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> -Cathy  
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> Catherine Glidden  
> Environmental Protection Specialist  
> Surface Transportation Board  
> Section of Environmental Analysis  
> Washington, DC 20423-0001  
> Phone: (202) 245-0293  
> Fax: (202) 245-0454  
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> ----- Forwarded by Catherine Glidden/STB on  
04/23/2007 10:54 AM -----  
> \*Diana Wood/STB\*  
>  
> 04/23/2007 10:48 AM  
>  
>  
> To

> Catherine Glidden/STB@STB  
> cc  
>  
> Subject  
> Fw: McNew Email - Southwest Gulf  
Railroad's Proposed Construction in  
> Medina County, TX  
>  
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>  
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>  
>  
> Diana F. Wood  
> Section of Environmental Analysis  
> Surface Transportation Board  
> 395 E Street S.W. Room 1110  
> Washington, DC 20423  
> 202-245-0302 (phone)  
> 202-245-0454 (fax)  
>  
> ----- Forwarded by Diana Wood/STB on 04/23/2007  
10:48 AM -----  
> \*Nelson Martin <nmartin@hondo.net> \*  
>  
> 04/21/2007 07:47 PM  
>  
>  
> To  
> Diana.Wood@stb.dot.gov  
> cc  
> Paulette Martin <pmartin@hondo.net>  
> Subject  
> Southwest Gulf Railroad's Proposed  
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> misunderstanding.  
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> Thank you for your time and all your work to assure  
everyone is heard.  
>  
> Nelson and Paulette Martin  
>  
> 1596 County Road 366  
> Hondo, TX 78861  
> 830-538-3931  
> Fax 830-538-3933  
>

