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January 22, 2007

Ms. Rini Ghosh,
Section on Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket 34284
Vulcan Materials Company, Southwest Gulf Railroad
Proposed Rail Line, Quihi, Medina County

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

In response to the Section on Environmental Analysis' (SEA) request for comments on the Supplementary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), we the members of the Medina County Historical Commission (MCHC) wish to present the following information.

On July 17, 2003, the Medina County Historical Commission passed a resolution stating that it has a "commitment to the preservation, study and recognition of the county's cultural heritage". Attached is a copy of that resolution. Our position has not changed. Therefore, we urge the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to designate a route that is not harmful to the historic and archeological resources located in the Quihi Historic District, The New Fountain Historic District, and the Upper Quihi Historic District.

We support the statement that these areas are eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (Volume II, F1). The removal of the threat of the railroad from the historic areas would facilitate their listing, and would encourage the efforts to complete the work necessary for obtaining the designation for the NRHP.

In addition, the Medina County Historical Commission concurs with the STB's findings that the eastern routes prove to be less harmful to the historic and archeological resources, and preserve the aesthetic value to the cultural landscape. The village of Quihi has been designated by Preservation Texas as being an endangered historic site, entirely because of the threat of the proposed Vulcan quarry and railroad project to its historic resources.

In Volume I, Chapter 6, (page 6-43), the SEA states that 2 of the eastern routes are the "environmentally preferable alternatives out of the eight alternatives studied in the environmental review", and we agree. We appreciate the opportunity to comment, and appreciate your efforts and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Karen Muennink

Laura Maney

The Medina County Historical Commission Members
Encl. Resolution of July 17, 2003

Robert N Hancock
Dorella Hancock
Janelle W. Taylor
Jan Rios
Patricia Pizzini
Fred Kline



MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEDINA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HONDO, TEXAS 78861

RESOLUTION NO. 2

A RESOLUTION OF MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION URGING VULCAN MATERIALS TO CONSIDER PROTECTING THE HISTORIC RESOURCES OF THE QUIHI AREA IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PROPOSED RAILROAD AS IT RELATES TO ITS PROPOSED QUARRYING ACTIVITIES IN THAT PART OF MEDINA COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the Medina County Historical Commission has a continuing commitment to the preservation, study, and recognition of the county's cultural heritage.

WHEREAS, the Commission is aware of the plans of Vulcan Materials to construct a railroad through the Quihi area related to its proposed quarrying activities in that part of Medina County; and

WHEREAS, Quihi is a highly important historic area of Medina County, representing a settlement established in 1846, and is marked by the presence of numerous homes and buildings of that period; and

WHEREAS, there are also important prehistoric archeological sites, as old as 10,000 years, in the area; and

WHEREAS, the Commission urges the Surface Transportation Board to use all proper review procedures during its consideration of the Vulcan applications for its railways and proposed alternative routes.

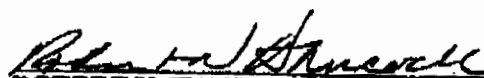
WHEREAS, this will involve detailed consultation with the Texas Historical Commission, charged with the implementation of Section 106 regulations related to cultural resources.

WHEREAS, the Commission will monitor the process and will receive the comments of concerned citizens of the Quihi area during all phases of cultural resource studies related to this project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION:

Section 1. That the Directors of the Commission urge the Vulcan Materials Company to consider preserving the historic resources in the Quihi area of Medina County, Texas while planning the construction of the railroad for their proposed quarrying activities.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 17th day of July, 2003.


ROBERT N. HANCOCK, Chairman
Medina County Historical Commission