

#E1-25833

Wood, Diana

From: Sara Luduena <Sara.Luduena@thc.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 12:08 PM
To: Wood, Diana; Najah Duvall-Gabriel
Cc: Casey Hanson; Justin Kockritz; Bill Martin; Elizabeth Brummett
Subject: Southwest Gulf Railroad - public comment
Attachments: Quihi and New Fountain Historical Society_2017-03-07.pdf

Good morning,

We wanted to let STB and ACHP know that we have been contacted by two representatives of consulting parties this week pertaining to the Southwest Gulf Railroad spur in Medina County near Quihi.

First, we received the attached letter from Lyn Scott Conrad, formerly of the Quihi and New Fountain Historical Society.

Second, we received a couple of calls from Robert Fitzgerald, president of the Medina County Environmental Action Committee voicing concern about the proposed route's impact on the historic integrity and value of this area and requested the opportunity to meet with our staff as well as the STB and ACHP to present what he feels are the full benefits of the eastern bypass route for the railway. Mr. Fitzgerald's phone numbers are 830-741-1295 (cell) and 830-538-9745 (home).

As per Stipulation X of the Programmatic Agreement regarding Resolution of Public Objections, we wanted to make you aware of these two items. If you find that further discussion or a meeting with either or both of these groups would be beneficial, I know that Mr. Fitzgerald at least would be grateful. And please let us know how we can assist.

Thank you,
Sara

Sara Ludueña

Project Reviewer – South Texas Region
Division of Architecture
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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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March 7, 2017

Texas Historical Commission
Bill Martin
SHPO P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711



Re: Draft Cultural Resources Report on Southwest Gulf Railroad Right-Of-Way
STB Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Mr. Martin:

As Past-President of the Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society, I feel it is imperative that I write about the Historical value of the Quihi area of Medina County and the Great State of Texas. All of upper Quihi and Lower Quihi was inhabited by indigenous people for several thousand years. They found this unique area a paradise due to the abundance of good water and game. Their presence is verified by the unbelievable abundance of artifacts that can be found everywhere.

More than three hundred years ago, this was a direct route of Spanish explorers who described the landscape and the names the indigenous people had given to the plants, streams and wildlife. Later Mexican armed forces invaded Texas. In 1842, the Northern Mexican Army under the command of General Adrian Woll, built a road that extended from the Presidio San Juan Baptiste to San Antonio passing through Quihi. The road was later used by settlers moving west, ox drawn freight wagons and the U.S. Army during the Mexican American War in 1846.

After the Texas Revolution, this area was settled by Europeans. Their struggles to survive are verified in their journals. Their old rock homes, many of which are still standing, also verify this.

The proposed Southwest Gulf Railroad will destroy a great portion of this history. Much of history will be shoved aside or completely covered forever. There are historically valuable areas all over Texas, but this is a prime example of one of the best. This is absolutely the worst spot that could have been picked for a railroad spur.

The Conclusion and Recommendations Summary does justice to all the research and surveys that were required. This is no doubt that there will be adverse effects from a railroad. We just cannot keep losing our history.-

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion and feelings. You can rest assured that there are many other people in the Quihi area that feel the same as I, but will sit silent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lyn Scott Conrad".

Lyn Scott Conrad
6522 Thunderbird Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78240