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# Tap Pilam – Coahuiltecan Nation

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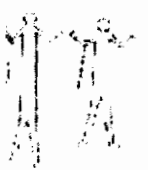
# E1-3206  
D7W  
PD 34284

October 15, 2007



Victoria Rutson  
Section of Environmental Analysis, Chief  
U.S. Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Charlene Dwin Vaughn  
Assistant Director  
Federal Permitting, Licensing, & Assistance Section  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Old Post Office Building  
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Ste. 803  
Washington, DC 20004



F. Lawrence Oaks  
Executive Director  
Texas Historic Commission  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

RE: U.S. STB Finance Docket No. 34284  
Southwest Gulf Railroad-Construction & Operation-Medina County, Texas  
NHPA Section 106 Consultation

Dear Consulting Parties

The following remarks constitute the official position statement of the Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation of Texas.



Based on the Panama Payaya Tribe of the Tap Pilam Nation intensive study of the many official documents to include: SGR "Supplemental Draft environmental impact statement," multiple maps, research papers, i.e. "A cultural resources reconnaissance survey for an Eastern Route," Etc., produced by GTI. All of their resource together, helped the Nation to come to the following conclusions:

- (1) The Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation wishes to withdraw any prior opposition statement that was entered into the record with regards to the Eastern bypass route in any of the proceeding of this permitting process.
  - (2) The Nation is directing this official position statement to the STB, THC, and ACHP due to their jurisdiction concerning the permitting process.
  - (3) Tap Pilam Nation is in favor of the proposed Eastern Bypass Route, as proposed by SGR over any other alignment proposed by any other parties.
  - (4) Tap Pilam Nation, through its Tribal leadership state that the Eastern Bypass Route will cause the least amount of destruction to our sacred ancestral cenotes, cultural deposits, burials and any funerary objects.
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(5) Tap Pilam Nation states that at a minimum, the Final E.I.S., appears to take great care in keeping safe the locations of our Ancestral sacred sites, sensitive spiritual resources, i.e., sacred cenotes, burial grounds, that are located near or along the Eastern Bypass Route and in and around the Quarry.

(6) Tap Pilam request that the STB keep the our community actively included through this permitting process.

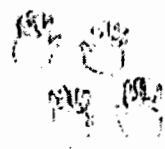
(7) Tap Pilam request that as a verified Aboriginal Tribe of Texas, that, in the event that human remains or funerary objects are encountered on or along this propose route or in the quarry: that we will be notified immediately prior to any removal of same so that our spiritual leaders can perform Traditional funerary rites, and be able to participate in the primary role in the disposition of said human remains, along with Texas Antiquity authorities.



In conclusion, these position statements are presented with the benefit of the entire official research records, in addition with the research conducted by our Tribal researchers of the Tap Pilam Nation using our reference material independent of all others, we therefore respectfully request that the STB, THC, and ACHP approve the Eastern bypass route as proposed by SGR and Vulcan Material Inc.

Respectfully,

Raymond Hernandez  
Tap Pilam Nation  
Tribal Council Representative  
Historic & Cultural Preservationist



C.C. AITSCM  
C.C. SGR Esquire  
C.C. File/Archives



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