

2600 CR 351
Hondo, TX 78861

HEI-26127

June 13, 2017

Diana Wood
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Draft Resolution Plan/Southwest Gulf Railroad

Ms. Wood:

Being an active member of the Medina County Historical Commission and a member and past officer of the Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society, I find it amazing that so little value is given to historical areas, landmarks and artifacts by developers and industry. If there is a profit to be made by developing property around and over anything historical, they will work out a way to get around the protection afforded the valued historical element. Such is the case with the Quihi-New Fountain and Upper Quihi area of Medina County, Texas. The Southwest Gulf Railroad and their rail spur to transport quarried limestone material from the quarry located in upper Quihi to a junction with the Union Pacific Railroad at Dunlay, Texas, will travel over one of the most valued historical areas in the state of Texas. Most all of Texas has historical value, but this area is as premier as it can get. It is deemed to be eligible for the National Register of Historical Places.

There were several rail routes proposed for the SGR spur and the one chosen by SGR is the second worst route. The only logical route with the least damaging effect on the Upper Quihi area would be the route connecting the quarry site to the Old Medina Lake Dam rail line site to the Dunlay station route.

Overall, all the surveyed routes are damaging, but this route would be the better choice. The noise, dust and sight of a train hauling limestone rock product through this area is appalling, but if it is to be, use the least offensive route.

Thank you for allowing the public in the Quihi & New Fountain area of Medina County to express their concerns and wishes.

Sincerely,



Scott & Jacque Conrad

cc: Medina County Historical Commission
Texas Historical Commission
Advisory Council on Historical Preservation