



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



JAN 31 2007

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Ms. Victoria Rutson
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, STB Finance Docket No. 34284
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
ATTN: Rini Ghosh, Attorney-Adviser

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the **Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR) New Rail Line Construction, Medina County, Texas**. The Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the document, and offers no comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Following are our comments regarding Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act.

SECTION 4(f) COMMENTS

The document does not contain a Section 4(f) Evaluation, nor does it mention whether or not one may be needed for this project. While the Department recognizes and appreciates that you are planning to prepare a Programmatic Agreement to minimize harm to cultural resources in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and other agencies, we are concerned that you do not address Section 4(f) resources. Without a Section 4(f) Evaluation, or a clear reason Section 4(f) is not presented in the document, we cannot concur that there is no feasible or prudent alternative to the Preferred Alternative selected in the document, and that all measures have been taken to minimize harm to these resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this document.

Sincerely,

Willie R. Taylor
Director, Office of Environmental
Policy and Compliance