

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATING FM 907  
AS THE SANTA ANA NATIONAL WILDLIFE TRAIL**

**WHEREAS**, of the 550 national wildlife refuges in the United States, Hidalgo County's Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge is the foremost birding site in South Texas and is one of the most biologically diverse areas encompassing 2,088 acres of land known as the "Jewel of the National Wildlife Refuge System;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Lower Rio Grande Valley has about 540 bird species and 330 butterfly species making it a prime nature tourism destination in North America, with bird watching tour groups regularly visiting the refuge and 85 other locales listed on the Valley Birding and Butterfly map published yearly by the Valley Partnership; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rio Grande Valley is listed in the top 30 birding destinations in the world with eleven unique biotic communities identified by U.S. Fish & Wildlife biologists, including five examples of these habitats which are connected by FM 907; and

**WHEREAS**, nature tourists annually represent 25 percent of Lower Rio Grande Valley tourism, spending \$307 million in goods, generating economic output of \$463 million, paying more than \$10 million in local sales and hotel taxes, and sustaining 6,613 full time jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary route used by visitors and tourist to reach the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge is FM 907, which connects the refuge on Military Highway in the City of Pharr, to Business 83, Expressway 83 and Highway 495 in the City of Alamo, and to FM 1925 in the City of Edinburg; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the lack of signage on valley expressways for the refuge it makes it difficult for thousands of people to locate the most diverse national wildlife lands in the United States, therefore designating FM 907 as the Santa Ana National Wildlife Trail will benefit tourists and locals alike.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby support the designation of appropriate signage to establish FM 907 as the Santa Ana National Wildlife Trail, which will aid tourists visiting the wildlife refuge and other nature tourist destinations in the Rio Grande Valley.

Dated this 31<sup>st</sup>, day of March 2015.

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RAMON GARCIA  
County Judge

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A.C. CUELLAR, JR.  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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JOE M. FLORES  
County Commissioner, Pct.3

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JOSEPH PALACIOS  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

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Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.  
County Clerk