

L&G Engineering

Transportation Consultants

May 26, 2021

The Honorable Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Pct. 2
c/o Armando Garza Jr.
300 West Hall Acres
Pharr, Texas 78577

RE: County: Hidalgo
TxDOT CSJ No. 0921-02-404
Eldora Rd: FM 3362 (Jackson Rd.) to Veterans Blvd. (I Road)
Parcel No.: 40

Dear Commissioner Cantu:

Attached herewith is a counter-offer as submitted by R. Craig Blackwell, and wife, Linda Blackwell, owners of Parcel 40 on May 21, 2021. L & G Engineering has reviewed the aforementioned and hereby recommends that counteroffer be **approved**. Attached also is the N-9, Administrative Settlement Evaluation and Approval Form.

L & G Engineering believes the counteroffer is a valuation, legal and cost savings issue. More importantly due to recent court awards on similar projects and the cost to litigate through the Special Commissioners' Hearing we recommend that the counteroffer of **\$11,137.20** be accepted.

Please review these documents and feel free to contact me at (956) 585-1909 if you wish to discuss this matter personally.

Sincerely,

Fernando "Fred" Hererra
Right of Way Administrator

Attachments: As noted.
cc: File



HIDALGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE EVALUATION AND APPROVAL FORM

ROW CSJ: 0921-02-404

Highway: El Dora Road

Parcel No.: 40

Owner's Name: R. Craig Blackwell, and wife Linda
Blackwell

Approved Offer: \$7,098.00

Owner's Counteroffer: \$11,137.20

County: Hidalgo

Project Limits: From FM 3362 (Jackson Rd.)
To Veterans Blvd. (I Road)

Date Offer Sent: 4/24/2021

Date Counteroffer Received: 5/21/2021

Factors considered in evaluation:

1. Valuation Issues

- a. Reconciliation of all available appraisals, including Owner's.
- b. Other: Property owner feels that their property is was undervalued.

2. Legal Issues

- a. Analysis of recent court awards on similar properties or projects.
- b. Analysis of recent court decisions which may affect the outcome of a condemnation action.
- c. Analysis of previously unlitigated issues.
- d. Other: _____

3. Cost Savings

- a. Approximate cost to litigate through Special Commissioners' Hearing \$20,000.00
- b. Approximate additional cost to litigate through jury trial \$40,000.00
- c. Other: _____

4. Timing Issues

- a. Maintain project schedule: Yes
Possession of this property is needed by: 6/2021
Projected possession date, if settled is: 6/2021
Projected possession date, if condemned is: 11/2021
Letting date: 12/2021
- b. Other: _____

5. Other Issues

** The following documents have been considered and are incorporated by reference: appraisals, appraisal review form, owner's counteroffer and supporting documentation, negotiator's log, and _____

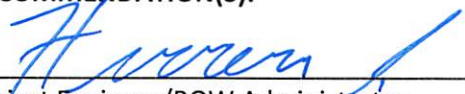
Analysis and Conclusion:

Our approval/ disapproval recommendation is based on the items checked above and has been evaluated as follows: (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Parcel 40 is a partial acquisition containing 5,280 sq. ft. parcel of land being within the limits of the map Lot 113, Kelly-Pharr Subdivision, Hidalgo, County, Texas. On April 24, 2021, Acquisition Provider, L & G Engineering, made an offer of \$7,098.00 to property owners Mr. R. Craig Blackwell, and wife, Linda Blackwell, via certified mail. On May 19, 2021, Mr. Blackwell called L & G Engineering and we discussed the offer and appraisal. He stated that he had just received his tax documents from Hidalgo County and appraisal district and that he felt his land was being undervalued. He also stated that he would be submitting a counter offer. Mr. Balckwell called in again on 5/21/2021, and also emailed his counter offer. After discussion and review by the evaluation team, it is the recommendation that the administrative settlement be approved. The property owner states that the his property was undervalued and feels that the market value he was offered, was too low according to his documents. Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell submitted a counter offer for \$11,137.20, The difference between the approve value versus the property owner's counter offer is (difference of \$4,039.20) does not warrant the risk and added expenses associated with standard eminent domain proceedings. accepting said counter offer will help avoid project time delays, and associated condemnation proceedings, thus resulting in a cost saving to the county.

This administrative settlement of \$ 11,137.20 is / is not recommended for approval as being reasonable, justified, prudent and in the public interest.

RECOMMENDATION(S):



Project Engineer/ROW Administrator

5/27/21

Date

RPIC/Authorized Pct. Representative

Date

COUNTY APPROVAL:

County Judge

Date

County: Hidalgo
CCSJ: 0921-02-409
HIGHWAY: Eldora Road
LIMITS: Jackson Road to Veteran's Boulevard (I Road)

EXHIBIT: A
FIELD NOTES FOR PARCEL 40

Being a 5,280 square feet or 0.121 of one acre tract of land, situated in Lot 113, Kelly-Pharr Subdivision, as recorded in Volume 3, Page 133, of the Deed Records, Hidalgo County, Texas, being out of a called 1.03 acre tract of land conveyed to R. Craig Blackwell and Linda A. Blackwell by a "Special Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien (Vendor's Lien Reserved and Assigned to Third Party Lender)", dated February 18, 2008 and recorded on February 27, 2008, as described in Document Number 1860829, of the Official Records, Hidalgo County, Texas, said 5,280 square feet or 0.121 of one acre tract of land being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a set 5/8-inch iron rod with plastic cap stamped "ROWSS PROP COR", being the Northwest corner of said called 1.03 acre tract of land, being the common corner of said called 1.03 acre tract of land and a called 0.485 acre tract of land conveyed to Daniel de la Rosa and wife, Maria Zulema de la Rosa by a "Correction Gift Deed", dated September 23, 1987 and recorded on November 19, 1987, as described in Volume 2523, Page 716, of the Official Records, Hidalgo County, Texas, and being on the common line of said 1.03 acre tract of land and a called 1.00 acre tract of land (Tract 1) conveyed to Star Trail Holdings, LLC by a "Warranty Deed", dated November 30, 2018 and recorded on December 3, 2018, as described in Document Number 2969607, of the Official Records, Hidalgo County, Texas;

Thence, South 08°30'20" West, a distance of 300.00 feet, along the common line of said called 1.03 acre tract of land and said called 1.00 acre tract of land (Tract 1), to a set 5/8-inch iron rod (N=16,607,631.693, E=1,094,330.771) with plastic cap stamped "ROWSS PROP COR", being 40.00 feet left from centerline station 147+34.91, and being the **POINT OF BEGINNING** of this herein described tract of land;

1. **Thence**, South 81°29'40" East, a distance of 132.00 feet, over and across said called 1.03 acre tract of land, to a set 5/8-inch iron rod with plastic cap stamped "ROWSS PROP COR", being on the common line of said called 1.03 acre tract of land and a called 1.03 acre tract of land conveyed to Silvestre de la Rosa, Jr., a single man by a "Special Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien", dated September 27, 2013 and recorded on October 30, 2013, as described in Document Number 2459941, of the Official Records, Hidalgo County, Texas;
2. **Thence**, South 08°30'20" West, a distance of 40.00 feet, along the common line of said called 1.03 acre tract of land and said Silvestre de la Rosa, Jr. tract of land, to a point for corner, being the common corner of said called 1.03 acre tract of land and said Silvestre de la Rosa, Jr. tract of land, and being the centerline of Eldora Road (width varies);

3. **Thence**, North 81°29'40" West, a distance of 132.00 feet, along the common line of said called 1.03 acre tract of land and the centerline of Eldora Road (width varies), to a point for corner, being the common corner of said called 1.03 acre tract of land and said called 1.00 acre tract of land (Tract 1);
4. **Thence**, North 08°30'20" East, a distance of 40.00 feet, along the common line of said called 1.03 acre tract of land and said called 1.00 acre tract of land (Tract 1), to the **POINT OF BEGINNING**, containing a computed area of 5,280 square feet or 0.121 of one acre.

Bearings based on the Texas Coordinate System, South Zone, NAD83 (NA2011), adjusted to surface using a grid to surface adjustment factor of 1.00004.

A plat of even survey date herewith accompanies this description.

I, Juan E. Galvan, a Registered Professional Land Surveyor, hereby certify that the legal description hereon and the accompanying plat represent an actual survey made on the ground under my supervision.

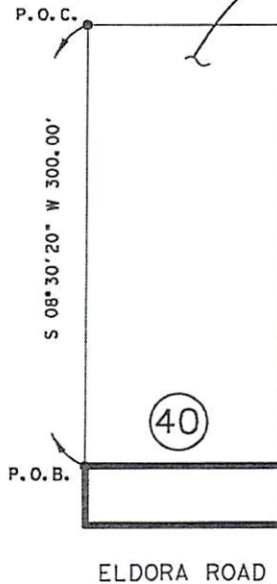


Juan E. Galvan 07/14/2020
Registered Professional Land Surveyor
Texas Registration No. 4011



R. CRAIG BLACKWELL AND LINDA A. BLACKWELL
 DOCUMENT NO. 1860829 O.R.H.C.
 DATED FEBRUARY 18, 2008
 RECORDED FEBRUARY 27, 2008
 CALLED 1.03 ACRES

PARENT TRACT INSET
 PARCEL 40
 N.T.S.



I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PLAT SHOWN HEREON CONFORMS TO THE CURRENT GENERAL RULES OF PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES AS PROMULGATED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYING.

Juan E. Galvan
 JUAN E. GALVAN, R.P.L.S. #4011 07/14/2020



EXISTING	TAKING	REMAINING	
		LEFT	RIGHT
1.03 AC.	0.121 AC.	0.909 AC.	
	5,280 SQ. FT.		

NOTES:

- ALL BEARINGS AND COORDINATES ARE BASED ON THE TEXAS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, SOUTH ZONE, NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1983,(NA2011). ALL DISTANCES AND COORDINATES SHOWN ARE SURFACE AND MAY BE CONVERTED TO GRID BY DIVIDING BY AN ADJUSTMENT FACTOR OF 1.00004.
- INDICATES A 5/8 INCH IRON ROD SET WITH A PLASTIC CAP STAMPED "ROWSS PROP COR"
- INDICATES A FOUND 1/2 INCH IRON ROD, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
- A METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTION ACCOMPANIES THIS PLAT.

DATE: JUNE 22, 2020

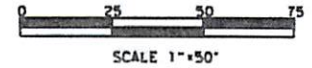
RIGHT OF WAY SKETCH
 SHOWING PROPERTY OF
 PARCEL 40
 ELDORA ROAD
 JACKSON RD. TO VETERANS BLVD.(I RD.)
 HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

ROW SURVEYING SERVICES, LLC.
 900 S. STEBBY RD. SUITE 13
 MISSION, TEXAS 78572
 TEL: 1 800 424-3132

TBPLS REG. FIRM# 10193886
 RCSJ: 0921-02-404 CCSJ: 0921-02-409

EXHIBIT _____

KELLY-PHARR SUBDIVISION
 LOT 113
 VOLUME 3 PAGE 133, D.R.H.C.



DANIEL DE LA ROSA AND WIFE, MARIA
 ZULEMA DE LA ROSA
 VOLUME 2523 PAGE 716 O.R.H.C.
 DATED SEPTEMBER 23, 1987
 RECORDED NOVEMBER 19, 1987
 CALLED 0.485 ACRES

SILVESTRE DE LA ROSA JR., A SINGLE
 MAN
 DOCUMENT NO. 2459941 O.R.H.C.
 DATED SEPTEMBER 27, 2013
 RECORDED OCTOBER 30, 2013
 CALLED 1.03 ACRES

TRACT I
 STAR TRAIL HOLDINGS, LLC
 DOCUMENT NO. 2969607 O.R.H.C.
 DATED NOVEMBER 30, 2018
 RECORDED DECEMBER 03, 2018
 CALLED 1.00 ACRES

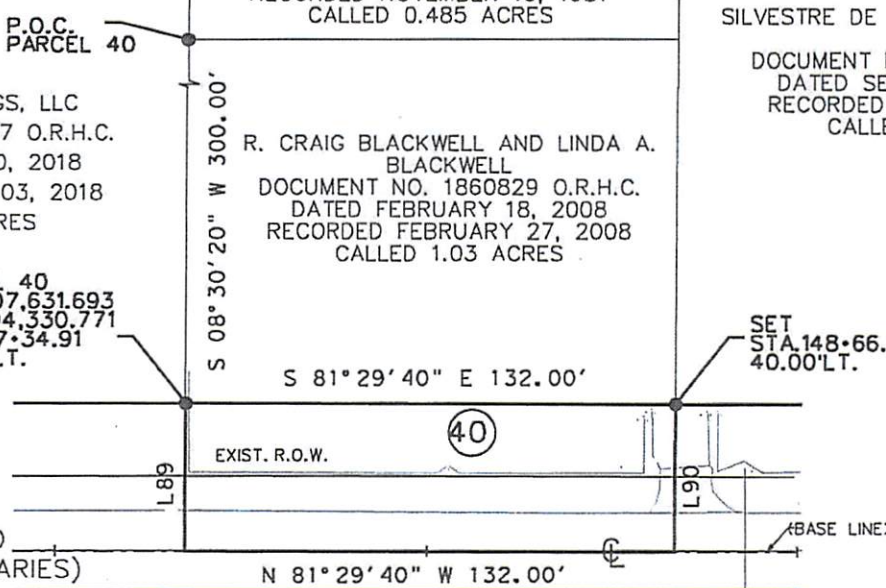
R. CRAIG BLACKWELL AND LINDA A.
 BLACKWELL
 DOCUMENT NO. 1860829 O.R.H.C.
 DATED FEBRUARY 18, 2008
 RECORDED FEBRUARY 27, 2008
 CALLED 1.03 ACRES

LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE (FT)
L89	N 08° 30' 20" E	40.00'
L90	S 08° 30' 20" W	40.00'

P.O.B.
 PARCEL 40
 N=16,607.631.693
 E= 1,094,330.771
 STA.147+34.91
 40.00'LT.

SET
 STA.148+66.90
 40.00'LT.

ELDORA ROAD
 (RIGHT-OF-WAY VARIES)



LEGEND

- | | |
|--|--|
| CENTER LINE | |
| PROPERTY LINE | |
| LOT LINE | |
| PARCEL NUMBER | |
| RIGHT OF WAY | |
| POINT OF COMMENCING | |
| POINT OF BEGINNING | |
| DEED RECORDS | |
| HIDALGO COUNTY OFFICIAL RECORDS | |
| HIDALGO COUNTY MAP RECORDS | |
| HIDALGO COUNTY IRON ROD FOUND | |
| SET 5/8 INCH IRON ROD WITH PLASTIC CAP | |
| STAMPED "ROWSS PROP COR" | |
| FOUND 1/2 INCH IRON ROD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED | |
| OVERHEAD ELEC. | |
| WIRE FENCE | |
| WOODEN FENCE | |
| WATER LINE | |
| GAS LINE | |
| EASEMENT LINE | |

NOTES:

1. ALL BEARINGS AND COORDINATES ARE BASED ON THE TEXAS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, SOUTH ZONE, NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1983, (NAD2011). ALL DISTANCES AND COORDINATES SHOWN ARE SURFACE AND MAY BE CONVERTED TO GRID BY DIVIDING BY AN ADJUSTMENT FACTOR OF 1.00004.
2. A METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTION ACCOMPANIES THIS PLAT.
3. SURVEYED ON THE GROUND 2018-2020.

DATE: JUNE 22, 2020

**PLAT OF SURVEY
 PARCEL 40
 FOR ELDORA ROAD**

A 0.121 AC. (5,280 SQ.FT.)
 TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN LOT 113, KELLY-PHARR
 SUBDIVISION, DESCRIBED IN VOLUME 3, PAGE 133, DEED
 RECORDS, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS.

EXHIBIT —

PAGE 4 OF 4

RIGHT OF WAY SKETCH
 SHOWING PROPERTY OF
 PARCEL 40
 ELDORA ROAD
 JACKSON RD. TO VETERANS BLVD. (1 RD.)
 HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

ROW SURVEYING SERVICES, L.L.C.
 900 S. STEWART RD. SUITE 13
 MISSION, TEXAS 78147
 TEL: 19361 424-3732

TBPLS REC. FIRM# 10193886
 RCSJ: 0921-02-404 CCSJ: 0921-02-409



REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL REPORT - TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Address of Property: 717 E Eldora Road, Pharr, Texas	District: 21
Property Owner: Craig E & Linda Blackwell	Parcel: 40
Address of Property Owner: 1420 West Iris Avenue, Mcallen, Texas 78501	ROW CSJ: 0921-02-404
Occupant's Name: Craig E Blackwell & Linda Blackwell	Federal Project No: N/A
Whole: <input type="checkbox"/> Partial: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acquisition	Highway: Eldora Road
	County: Hidalgo

Purpose of the Appraisal

The purpose of this appraisal is to estimate the market value of the fee simple title to the real property to be acquired, encumbered by any easements not to be extinguished, less oil, gas and Sulphur. If this acquisition is of less than the whole property, then any special benefits and /or damages to the remainder property must be included in accordance with the laws of Texas.

Market Value

Market value is defined as follows: "Market Value is the price which the property would bring when it is offered for sale by one who desires, but is not obliged to sell, and is bought by one who is under no necessity of buying it, taking into consideration all of the uses to which it is reasonably adaptable and for which it either is or in all reasonable probability will become available within the reasonable future."

Certificate of Appraiser

I hereby certify:

That it is my opinion the total compensation for the acquisition of the herein described property is \$7,098 as of December 22, 2020, based upon my independent appraisal and the exercise of my professional judgment;

That on December 22, 2020 & November 24, 2020, I personally inspected in the field the property herein appraised; that I afforded Craig E & Linda Blackwell, the property owner or the representative of the property owner, the opportunity to accompany me at the time of the inspection;

That the comparables relied upon in making said appraisal were as represented by the photographs contained in the appraisal report and were inspected on November 24, 2020;

That I have not revealed and will not reveal the findings and results of such appraisal to anyone other than L&G Consulting Engineers, Inc. and the proper officials and Hidalgo County and/or their representatives, or officials of the Federal Highway Administration until authorized by State officials to do so, or until I am required to do so by due process of law, or until I am released from this obligation by having publicly testified to such findings;

That my compensation is not contingent upon the reporting of a predetermined value or direction in value that favors the cause of the client, the amount of the value estimate, the attainment of a stipulated result, or the occurrence of a subsequent event.

The appraiser has considered access damages in accordance with Section 21.042(d) of the Texas Property Code, as amended by SB-18 of the Texas 82nd Regular Legislative Session and finds as follows:

1. Is there a denial of direct access of the parcel? No (yes or no)
2. If so, is the denial of direct access material? No (yes, no, or not applicable)
3. The lack of any access denial or the material impairment of direct access on or off the remaining property affects the market value of the remaining property in the sum of \$ 0 .

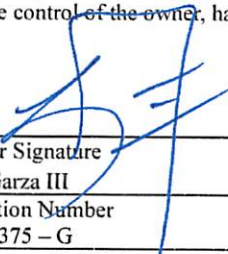
I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief:

That the statements of fact contained in this report are true and correct;

That the reported analysis, opinions and conclusions are limited only by the reported assumptions and limiting conditions, and are my personal, unbiased professional analysis, opinions, and conclusions;

That I have no present or prospective interest in the property that is the subject of this report, and I have no personal interest or bias with respect to the parties involved;

That my analysis, opinions and conclusions were developed, and this report has been prepared in conformity with the appropriate State laws, regulations, and policies and procedures applicable to the appraisal of right-of-way for such purposes, and that to the best of my knowledge no portion of the value assigned to such property consists of items which are non-compensable under the established law of said State, and any decrease or increase in the fair market value of subject real property prior to the date of valuation caused by the public improvement for which such property is to be acquired, or by the likelihood that the property would be acquired for such improvement, other than that due to the physical deterioration within the reasonable control of the owner, has been disregarded in estimating the compensation for the property.



 Appraiser Signature
 Leonel Garza III

 Certification Number
 TX 1328375 - G

 Date: January 11, 2021

To the best of my knowledge, the value does not include any items which are not compensable under State law.	
<i>Harvey L. Heersson</i>	1/24/2021
Reviewing Appraiser	Date



* A 5 *

TABULATION OF VALUES (continued)

Parcel: 40

Highway: Eldora Road

ROW CSJ: 0921-02-404

III. Damages and Enhancements

Total Non-Exempt Damages	Enhancements	Exempt Damages	Net Damages
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24.00	\$24.00

IV. Sign Values

Item No.	Sign Owner	Type Construction	Improvement Value	Retention Value	Bisect. Cat.
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total			\$0.00	\$0.00	

V. Recapitulation

Date:	12/22/2020			Recommended Value
Appraiser's Name:	Leonel Garza III			
Value of Whole Property	\$141,021.00			\$141,021.00
Parcel Area: 2,640 Net sf.				
VALUE FOR PARCEL				
Land: per_sf. \$1.50	\$3,960.00			\$3,960.00
Easement	\$0.00			\$0.00
Improvements	\$3,114.00			\$3,114.00
Net Damages or (Enhancements)	\$24.00			\$24.00
OAS Value(s)	\$0.00			\$0.00
TOTAL COMPENSATION	\$7,098.00			\$7,098.00

Calculations for Net Damages or (Enhancements) considers Direct Access Denial damages.

TABULATION OF VALUES (continued)

Parcel: 40

Highway: Eldora Road

ROW CSJ: 0921-02-404

VI. Comments and Conclusions on Values in the Appraisal Report

Appraiser: Leonel Garza III
Effective Date of Report: December 22, 2020
Report Dated: January 11, 2021
Review Appraiser: Harvey L. Heerssen
Effective Date of Review: January 16, 2021

Parcel 40 is a partial taking of 0.121 acres (5,280 sf.) situated in Lot 113, Kelly-Pharr Subdivision, as recorded in Volume 3, Page 133, of the Deed Records, Hidalgo County, Texas, said being out of a called 1.03 acre tract of land conveyed to R. Craig Blackwell and Linda A. Blackwell by a Special Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien dated February 18, 2008 and recorded on February 27, 2008 as described in Document Number 1860829 of the Official Records, Hidalgo County, Texas.

The whole property of 1.03 acres is located along the north line of Eldora Road approximately 0.11 miles west of Veterans Boulevard, ('I' Road), Pharr, Texas. The whole is improved land containing a single family residence, storage shed and related site improvements. The residence and shed are not impacted by the proposed acquisition. The total acquisition of 5,280 sf. includes an amount of 2,640 square feet within the existing right of way having no value. The square footage within the existing right of way was provided by the surveyor to the appraiser.

The appraiser Leonel Garza III has selected three (3) recent sales to value the whole tract at \$1.50 per sf. The highest and best use is for residential purposes. There are no market damages to the remainder land.

The appraiser has considered access damages in accordance with Section 21.042(d) of the Texas Property Code, as amended by SB18 of the Texas 82nd Regular Legislative Session. The result of the findings is that there is no denial of direct access nor material impairment of direct access on or off the remaining property that affects the market value of the remaining property. Therefore, there are no access damages to the remainder property.

The report prepared by the appraiser Leonel Garza III is an Appraisal Report presented on TxDOT form ROW-A-5 and appears to comply with USPAP and the Texas Department of Transportation's Appraisal and Review Manual. The appraisers' opinion and conclusions appear to be well supported by information contained within this appraisal report. It is recommended that the total value of \$7,098.00 be approved for negotiations and acquisition.

VII. Justification and Explanation for Credit if Retained.

Retentions of \$1.00 are applied to each site improvement to encourage retention and removal.

TABULATION OF VALUES (continued)

Parcel: 40

Highway: Eldora Road

ROW CSJ: 0921-02-404

VIII. Conditions

Values for signs, if any, are applicable only if sign owner has compensable interest.

Fencing is applicable only to actual cost or lump sum fencing on 90-10 Right of Way projects and State cost participation in fences to be in accordance with State's Right of Way Manual.

The values indicated hereon have been approved on the basis that all improvements within the taking will be acquired in the name of the State through negotiation.

IX. Reviewing Appraisers' Statements

Reviewing Appraiser's Statement

It is my opinion that the appraiser's report for this parcel appears adequately supported and in compliance with all appropriate appraisal standards, laws, and regulations, and I recommend this appraisal for use by the appropriate Agency Official and his/her assigns. I have no direct or indirect present or contemplated future personal interest in such property or in any benefit from the acquisition of the parcel. To the best of my knowledge, the value does not include any items that are not compensable under State law.

Reviewing Appraiser

Date

Henry L. Newman

Contract Reviewing Appraiser (if applicable)

1/24/2021

Date

Division Reviewing Appraiser (if applicable)

Date

X. Approval of Values

Richard F. Lewis

County/City Representative

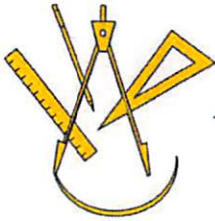
3/23/21

Date

ROW Staff Representative

Date

APPROVED BY
COMMISSIONERS COURT
ON: *2/9/21* *[Signature]*



L&G Engineering

Transportation Consultants

April 20, 2021

**Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested No.
7019 0700 0000 7795 0048**

County: Hidalgo
Federal Project No.: N/A
Highway: El Dora Road

ROW CSJ: 0921-02-404
Parcel: 40
From: FM 3362 (Jackson Road)
To: Veterans Blvd. (I Road)

R. Craig Blackwell, and wife, Linda A. Blackwell
1420 West Iris Avenue
McAllen, Texas 78501

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Blackwell:

In acquiring property for the highway system of Texas, the Texas Department of Transportation (the "Department") and Hidalgo County (the "County") follow a definite procedure for appraising the land needed and for handling personal negotiations with each owner. As has been or will be explained by the County's negotiator, Fernando Herrera, Jr., a portion of your property located on Eldora Road, as described in the enclosed property description, is to be acquired for the construction or improvement of the above-referenced highway project.

We believe at this stage of the purchase process it is mutually beneficial to confirm that, based on an appraisal, the County is authorized to offer you \$ **7,098.00** for your property, which includes \$ **7,074.00** for the property to be purchased and \$ **24.00** for damages to your remaining property. This amount is the total amount of just compensation for all interests in the portion of your property to be acquired, as determined in accordance with State law, less oil, gas and sulphur, subject to clear title being conveyed to the County. In accordance with State law, it is the policy of the Department/County to negotiate with the fee owner(s) of the real property with the understanding that you will, in turn, negotiate with any lessee or other party who may own any interest in the land or improvements, with the exception of public utility easements, which will be handled separately by the Department/County.

This offer to purchase includes the contributory values of the improvement(s) listed below, which are considered to be part of the real property. Since the improvement(s) must be removed, it is the policy of the Department/County to permit owners who convey voluntarily to the State to thereafter retain the improvement(s), if they wish to do so. The retention values shown below are the estimated amounts the improvement(s) would bring if sold on public bids. If you wish to retain title to any of the following improvement(s) and remove it (them) from the right of way, the amount of the above offer must be reduced by the appropriate retention amount(s). This option to retain the improvement(s) does NOT apply should it become necessary for the County to acquire the real property by eminent domain.

<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Amount to be Subtracted if Retained</u>
A. Fencing – Cedar	\$ 1.00
B. Driveway-Caliche	\$ 1.00
C. Water Spigot-Galvanized	\$ 1.00
D. Landscaping-Pigmy Date Palm Trees (7)	\$ 1.00

If you wish to accept the offer based upon this appraisal, please contact Fernando Herrera, Jr., as soon as possible at (956) 585-1909, so that the process of issuing your payment may be started. If you are not willing to accept this offer, you may submit a written request for administrative settlement/counteroffer, setting forth a counteroffer amount and the basis for such amount, provided such settlement request is received in writing within 30 days from the date of this letter. Please note that your opportunity to submit an administrative settlement shall be forfeited if such a settlement request is not received by the Department /County within the 30 day time deadline. In the event the condition of the property changes for any reason, the County shall have the right to withdraw or modify this offer.



After the date of payment of the purchase price, or the date of deposit in court of funds to satisfy the award of compensation as determined through eminent domain proceedings to acquire real property, you will be reimbursed for any fair and reasonable incidental expenses necessarily incurred in transferring title to the property for use by the Texas Department of Transportation/Hidalgo County. Expenses eligible for reimbursement may include (1) recording fees, transfer taxes and similar expenses incidental to conveying the real property to the County and (2) penalty costs for prepayment of any preexisting recorded mortgage entered into in good faith encumbering the real property. Voluntary unnecessary expenses or expenses incurred in clearing questionable title will not be eligible for reimbursement. Eligible incidental expenses will be reimbursed upon submission of a claim supported by receipted bills or other evidence of actual expenses incurred. You may file a written request for review if you believe that the Department/County failed to properly determine the eligibility for, or the amount of, incidental expenses to be reimbursed. There is no standard form on which to request a review of a claim; however, the claim must be filed with this office within six months after you are notified of the Department's/County's determination on any claim for reimbursement.

You may be entitled to additional payments and services under the State's Relocation Assistance Program. It is emphasized, however, that any benefits to which you may be entitled under this program will be handled entirely separate from and in addition to this transaction. You will receive a brochure entitled "*Relocation Assistance*" which will inform you of eligibility requirements, payments and services which are available.

You have the right to discuss with others any offer or agreement regarding the Department's/County's acquisition of the subject property, or you may (but are not required to) keep the offer or agreement confidential from others, subject to the provisions of Chapter 552, Government Code (the Public Records Act) as it may apply.

Attached is a copy of the Texas Department of Transportation brochure entitled "*Right of Way Purchase*" which we trust will give you a better understanding of the procedures followed by the Department/County in purchasing property. We respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you or to otherwise discuss and answer any questions you may have regarding the details of the type of facility to be built, or concerning the County's offer or proposed purchase transaction. Also, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Herrera at the telephone number provided above regarding any question you may have.

Please see the enclosed copy of the Texas Landowner Bill of Rights.

Finally, we enclose copies of all appraisal reports relating to your property being acquired which were prepared in the ten (10) years preceding the date of this offer and produced or acquired by the State/County, including the appraisal on which this offer is based.

Sincerely,



Right of Way Manager or other signatory

ENCLOSURES:
Appraisal Report(s)
Landowner Bill of Rights
Brochure ("*Right of Way Purchase*")