



January 18, 2011

Judge Dan A. Gattis, County Judge
Williamson County
Williamson County Courthouse
710 South Main Street #101
Georgetown, TX 78626

Dear Judge Gattis:

In 2009 and again in 2010 severe floods occurred in the Salado Creek watershed, resulting in significant property loss. The occurrence of these floods serves to illustrate the risk to life and property related to major storm events in this uncontrolled watershed. Salado Creek drains an area of over 150 square miles upstream from the village of Salado, in south-central Bell County and north-central Williamson County. Geographically, the watershed is characterized as an area of shallow, rocky soils on steep to rolling topography, generally conducive to a high rate of storm water run-off. Major storm events like those experienced in September 2009, and again in September 2010, can produce sudden, severe floods affecting both private property and public infrastructure downstream.

A second concern relates to the trends in population growth in both Bell and Williamson Counties in recent decades. Both counties have experienced historic growth, much of it occurring in the unincorporated regions of the counties. There is every reason to assume that coming years will bring a continuation of that growth in this region.

In the wake of the recent flood events, Bell County has initiated an effort to execute a comprehensive study of the watershed that will establish a baseline for planning future flood control systems and developing better land-use tools to insure safe growth and development in the watershed. Bell County has explored a number of options for underwriting the costs of this study. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a division of the United States Department of Agriculture, has historically done most of the watershed management work in Texas. But NRCS currently has no funding for planning. However, the agency has the staff and expertise to perform the study. We have identified a source of funding through the Texas Water Development Board for funding fifty percent of the cost of the study. The other fifty percent will be cash and/or in-kind match from local participants.

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The purpose of this letter is to notify you of our intent to pursue this study and to invite you to participate. We feel the study will be of value all entities having jurisdiction in the watershed and sharing the costs will offer economies that would not otherwise be available. I would be happy to meet with you directly to discuss our objective in greater detail. There is some urgency in that the deadline for the grant application is very near so please feel free to contact me at you earliest convenience.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Brown', followed by a horizontal line.

Tim Brown
Bell County Commissioner, Pct. 2
254/933-5102

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
FLOOD PROTECTION PLANNING GRANT

Whereas, Bell County, Texas (the "County") has sustained recent catastrophic flooding from the Salado Creek Watershed (the "Watershed"), resulting in significant loss of property, most recently in September 2010, much within the areas of the Village of Salado; and

Whereas, Salado Creek drains a watershed of over 150 miles, in which no flood control structures exist, has the topography and soil types that are conducive to rapid run-off; and

Whereas, the Bell County Commissioners Court (the "Commissioners Court") has determined that it is important for sound flood disaster planning to have a comprehensive study of the Salado Creek Watershed to serve as a basis for identifying the best options for protecting life and property in the Watershed; and

Whereas, the Commissioners Court believes that the County will continue to experience high growth, much in unincorporated areas, that existing and future development will impact and be impacted by flooding; and

Whereas, the Commissioners Court believes that a Flood Protection Planning Grant from the Texas Water Development Board will assist in the funding of the needed comprehensive study.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS:

1. The County, through the County Judge, is authorized to apply for a Flood Protection Grant from the Texas Water Development Board.
2. The County Judge is authorized to enter into contract with the Texas Water Development Board and is authorized to sign any and all appropriate or necessary documentation in furtherance of the Flood Protection Grant.
3. The County states its intent to commit appropriate matching funds as required by the Grant.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of January, 2011.

County Judge
Bell County, Texas

ATTEST:

County Clerk
Bell County, Texas