TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM
ARCHEOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) Cultural Resources Investigations of Corridor C State Highway 29 Bypass Project Williamson County, Texas
County (ies) Williamson County
USGS Quadrangle Name and Number Weir, Texas (3097-314) and Hutto, Texas (3097-311)
UTM Coordinates Zone 14N E 635179.31 N 3389686.59
Location Project is approximately 4.39 miles (7 kilometers) east of Georgetown, Texas
Federal Involvement ☒ Yes ☐ No
Name of Federal Agency U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Agency Representative

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

Owner (Controlling Agency) Williamson County Representative Dan Gattis, County Judge Address 710 South Main Street, Suite 101 City/State/Zip Georgetown, Texas 78626
Telephone (include area code) Email Address

III. PROJECT SPONSOR (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)

Sponsor Same as above
Representative
Address
City/State/Zip
Telephone (include area code) Email Address

PROJECT INFORMATION

I. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (ARCHEOLOGIST)

Name same Laura I. Acuña
Affiliation Atkins North America, Inc.
Address 15900 La Cantera Parkway, Suite 26200
City/State/Zip San Antonio, Texas 78256
Telephone (include area code) 210-828-9494 Email Address Laura.Acuna@atkinsglobal.com

(OVER)

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork July 2018
Requested Permit Duration 5 Years 0 Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) See attached

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility Atkins, SNC-Lavalin Archeology Laboratory
Permanent Curatorial Facility Center for Archeological Studies at Texas State University

IV. LAND OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Dan Gattis, as legal representative of the Land Owner, Williamson County, do certify that I have reviewed the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be preformed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Owner, Sponsor, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of the permit.
Signature _____ Date _____

V. SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, same as above, as legal representative of the Sponsor, _____, do certify that I have reviewed the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be performed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Sponsor, Owner, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.
Signature _____ Date _____

VI. INVESTIGATOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, Laura I. Acuña, as Principal Investigator employed by Atkins North America, Inc. (Investigative Firm), do certify that I will execute this project according to the submitted plans and research design, and will not conduct any work prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Principal Investigator (and the Investigative Firm), as well as the Owner and Sponsor, are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.
Signature Laura I. Acuña Date 07/17/2018

Principal Investigator must attach a research design, a copy of the USGS quadrangle showing project boundaries, and any additional pertinent information. Curriculum vita must be on file with the Division of Antiquities Protection.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Reviewer _____ Date Permit Issues _____
Permit Number _____ Permit Expiration Date _____
Type of Permit _____ Date Received for Data Entry _____

Texas Historical Commission
Archeology Division
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
Phone 512/463-6096
www.thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Field Survey Investigations

Atkins archaeologists will conduct an intensive pedestrian archaeological field survey with shovel testing within the entire APE (area of potential effects) that will be of sufficient intensity to determine the nature, extent, and, if possible, significance of any cultural resources located within the project area. The survey will meet the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) minimum archaeological survey standards for the proposed investigations. The minimum survey standards require 16 shovel tests per 1-mile, 30-m (100-ft) transect. The archaeological field crews will judgmentally employ shovel testing to probe for subsurface cultural materials, and will visually inspect the ground surface and any available cut bank exposures. The frequency and intensity of the shovel testing regime will be keyed to the level of disturbance of the proposed project area and the nature of the soils, geology, and topography. Shovel tests will consist of excavating in 20-cm arbitrary levels to a 1-meter (m) depth or to pre-Holocene deposits, whichever comes first, and screening the matrix through ¼-inch mesh, unless it is dominated by clay; clay soils will be hand sorted and visually inspected for the presence of cultural materials. Atkins will plot each shovel test location using a sub-meter GPS receiver, and record each test on appropriate project field forms. Any areas determined in the field to be sufficiently deflated, disturbed and/or contaminated as to not require shovel testing will be documented and the reason for not conducting shovel tests in that area shall be explained in the report.

During the survey, all located cultural resources will be fully defined within the APE. Field crews will explore any archaeological sites encountered during the investigations to the maximum extent possible (within the APE) and with consideration to land access constraints. Sites will be defined by a minimum of six shovel tests except in areas where ground surface visibility is greater than 30 percent or where precluded by soil conditions, disturbances, or project boundaries. Site features, settings, and representative cultural materials will be photographed, mapped, and marked with a GPS device. A detailed plan map of each site will be produced using standard techniques and features. Site boundaries will be documented using sub-meter GPS receiver. A State of Texas Archeological Site Form will be filled out for each site identified and submitted to Texas Archeological Research Laboratory for the assignment of a trinomial. All shovel tests will be immediately backfilled upon completion of documentation and before additional shovel tests are dug.

.

Backhoe Trenching Investigations

The project contains areas with the potential for deeply buried cultural deposits, specifically multiple stream crossings along the San Gabriel River and Mankins Branch. Based on the review of the project area, mechanical excavations are recommended along these areas. Atkins proposes to employ mechanical excavations in the form backhoe trenching as project impacts will exceed 1 m (3.2 feet [ft]) in depth. Backhoe trenches will be judgmentally placed on either side of the stream crossings within the APE based on the level of disturbance and the archeological potential as determined by the results of the

background review and shovel testing. Backhoe trenches will be 7 to 10 m (22.9 to 32.8 ft) long and approximately 0.75 m (2.5 ft) wide. The depth will be at minimum 1.2 m (4 ft) deep to observe and record the soil profile, then to the depth of proposed impacts. The excavations may be extended vertically or horizontally to sufficiently record any cultural resource materials and features within the APE and depth of project impacts. The excavations will be monitored by an experienced archaeologist with profiles and walls examined for cultural materials. Excavations will be recorded on standardized forms with the stratigraphy recorded and detailed for each trench. Any cultural materials or features will be mapped and photographed. The soils and back dirt of the excavations will be examined and selectively screened to assess the presence or absence of cultural materials

The work will be performed in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations (29 CFR Part 1926). Should the need to assess the potential for buried deposits deeper than 1.8 m (6 feet) below surface be required, Atkins will assess the back dirt from the deeper deposits and selectively screen, or employ additional safety measures such as step-backing the trench under OSHA standards to assess the profiles. All the trenches will be backfilled and leveled upon completion.

Should an archaeological site be discovered during the proposed investigations, Atkins will assess the extent of the resource within the APE, document and photograph the findings, and record the site under state guidelines. Site documentation will follow the THC standards for site recording and may include additional trenches or other methods to define the site boundaries. The sites will be assessed for potential significance to determine if non-avoidance, additional work, or avoidance strategies are required to proceed with the project. The State of Texas Archaeological Site Data Form will be completed for each site encountered during investigations with a detailed map of the site. The site(s) will be plotted on USGS 7.5-minute topographic map(s) using a standard sub-meter accurate, hand-held, Trimble GPS unit and appropriate project maps for planning purposes.

Atkins is proposing a non-collection survey for all of the work performed for the project. The artifacts will be analyzed, documented, and tabulated in the field. Diagnostic artifacts will be described in detail and photographed in the field, then reburied. However, if a significant or rare diagnostic artifact or resource is found, Atkins may consider the collection of the artifact to assess the site’s significance.