

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM
ARCHEOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) Williamson County Ronald Reagan Widening
County (ies) Williamson
USGS Quadrangle Name and Number Leander NE 3097
UTM Coordinates Zone 14R E 550314.32 N 3253839.63
Location between SH 29 and FM 3405
Federal Involvement ☐ Yes ☒ No
Name of Federal Agency _____
Agency Representative _____

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

Owner Williamson County
Representative Bill Gravell Jr. (County Judge)
Address 710 South Main Street, Suite 101
City/State/Zip Georgetown, TX 78626
Telephone (include area code) 512-943-1550 Email Address ctyjudge@wilco.org

III. PROJECT SPONSOR (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)

Sponsor _____
Representative _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone (include area code) _____ Email Address _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

I. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (ARCHEOLOGIST)

Name Chris Shelton
Affiliation SWCA Environmental Consultants
Address 4949 N Loop 1604 W, Suite 235
City/State/Zip San Antonio / Texas / 78249
Telephone (include area code) 210-877-2847 Email Address Cshelton@swca.com

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork November 1, 2022
Requested Permit Duration 2 Years Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) Attached

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility SWCA San Antonio
Permanent Curatorial Facility Center for Archaeological Research – University of Texas at San Antonio

IV. LAND OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, _____, as legal representative of the Land Owner,

_____, 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 Owner, Sponsor, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of the permit.

Signature _____ Date _____

V. SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, Bill Gravell Jr., as legal representative of the Sponsor, _____
Williamson County, do certify that I have review 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, Chris Shelton, as Principal Investigator employed by _____
SWCA Environmental Consultants

(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 Chris Shelton Date 08/23/2022

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 Archeology Division.

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**

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TEXAS ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE RONALD REAGAN WIDENING PROJECT, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

Project Landowners – Williamson County

Project Sponsor – Williamson County

Project Consultant – SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA)

Principal Investigator – Chris Shelton, M.A., RPA

Date – September 13, 2022

On behalf of Williamson County, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) will conduct a cultural resources survey of approximately 130.3 hectare (ha) (322.1-acre) of proposed right-of-way (ROW) for the Ronald Reagan Widening Project (project). The proposed improvements would consist of an approximately 60-meter (m) (200-foot) wide ROW extending approximately 10.1 kilometers (km) (6.3 miles), beginning at State Highway (SH) 29 and extending 0.6 km (0.4 mile) north of Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 3405. The proposed project area is located between SH 29 and FM 3405, approximately 8.1 km (5 miles) east of the City of Liberty Hill, Williamson County, Texas, and is depicted on the *Leander NE, Texas*, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map (Figures 1 and 2) (USGS 2019).

The project is proposed to occur on lands owned by Williamson County and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Williamson County and TxDOT are political subdivisions of the state of Texas and, as such, the project will require review under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT). To comply with requirements of the ACT, , SWCA is proposing an intensive cultural resources survey with shovel testing of the project area. This scope of work presents information on the project area, potential effects, known resources, and methods of the proposed survey, reporting, and curation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The project is located between SH 29 and FM 3405, approximately 8.1 km (5 mile) east of the City of Liberty Hill, Texas, and extends for a length of approximately 10.1 kilometers (km) (6.3 miles). The project's footprint encompasses approximately 130.3 ha (322.1 acres). The proposed project would widen Ronald Reagan Boulevard from the existing two lanes to a four-lane (two in each direction) divided roadway and include bridge improvements and intersection improvements at SH 29 and FM 3405. The proposed improvements would consist of an approximately 60-m (200-foot) wide ROW extending approximately 10.1 km (6.3 miles), beginning at SH 29 and extending 0.6 km (0.4 mile) north of FM 3405. Aerial imagery shows the project area is currently comprised of existing Ronald Reagan Boulevard ROW, ROW to various existing roads, as well as undeveloped land, and is depicted on the *Leander NE, Texas*, USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map (USGS 2019) (Figures 1 and 2).

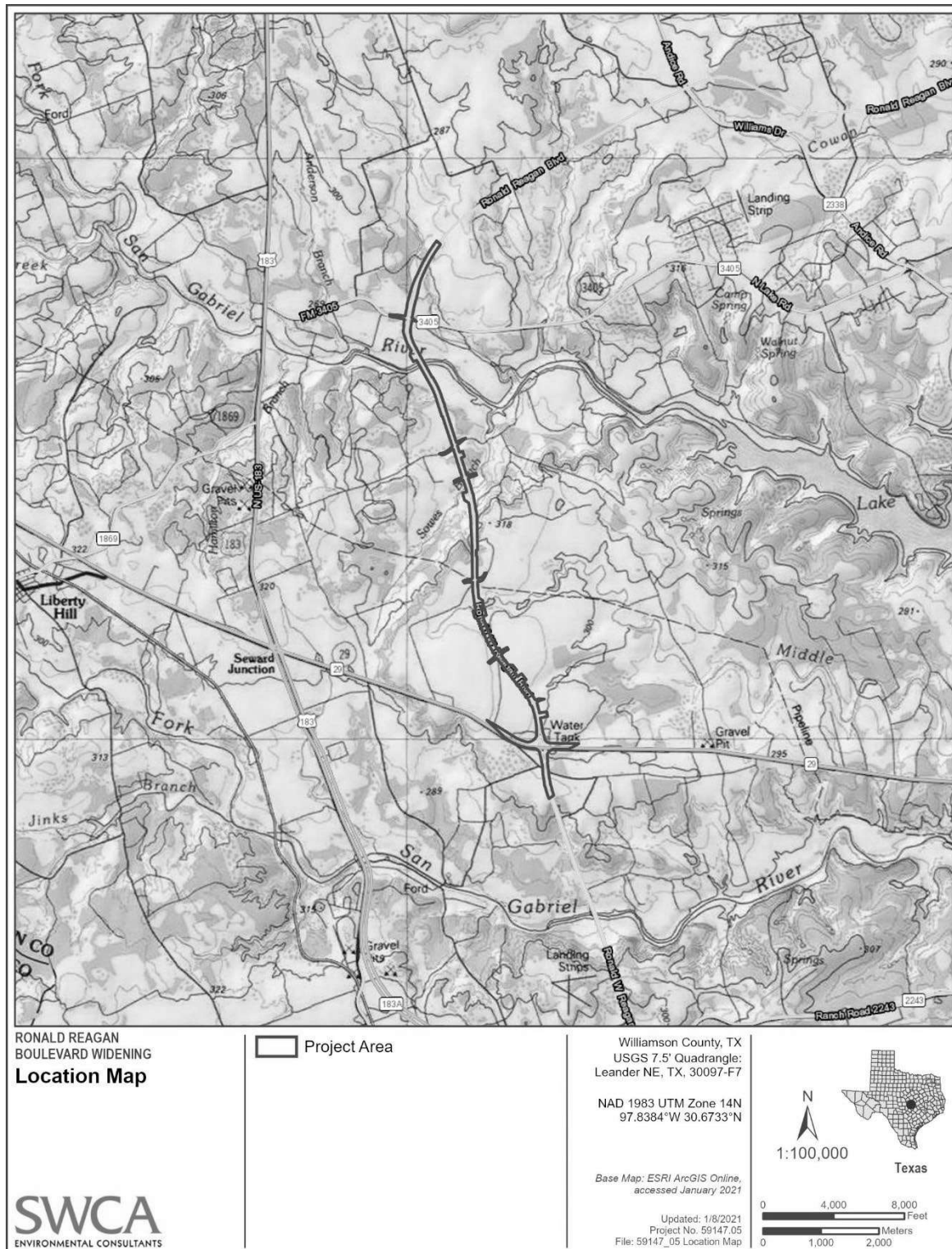


Figure 1. Project location map (Background Imagery: USGS 2022a).

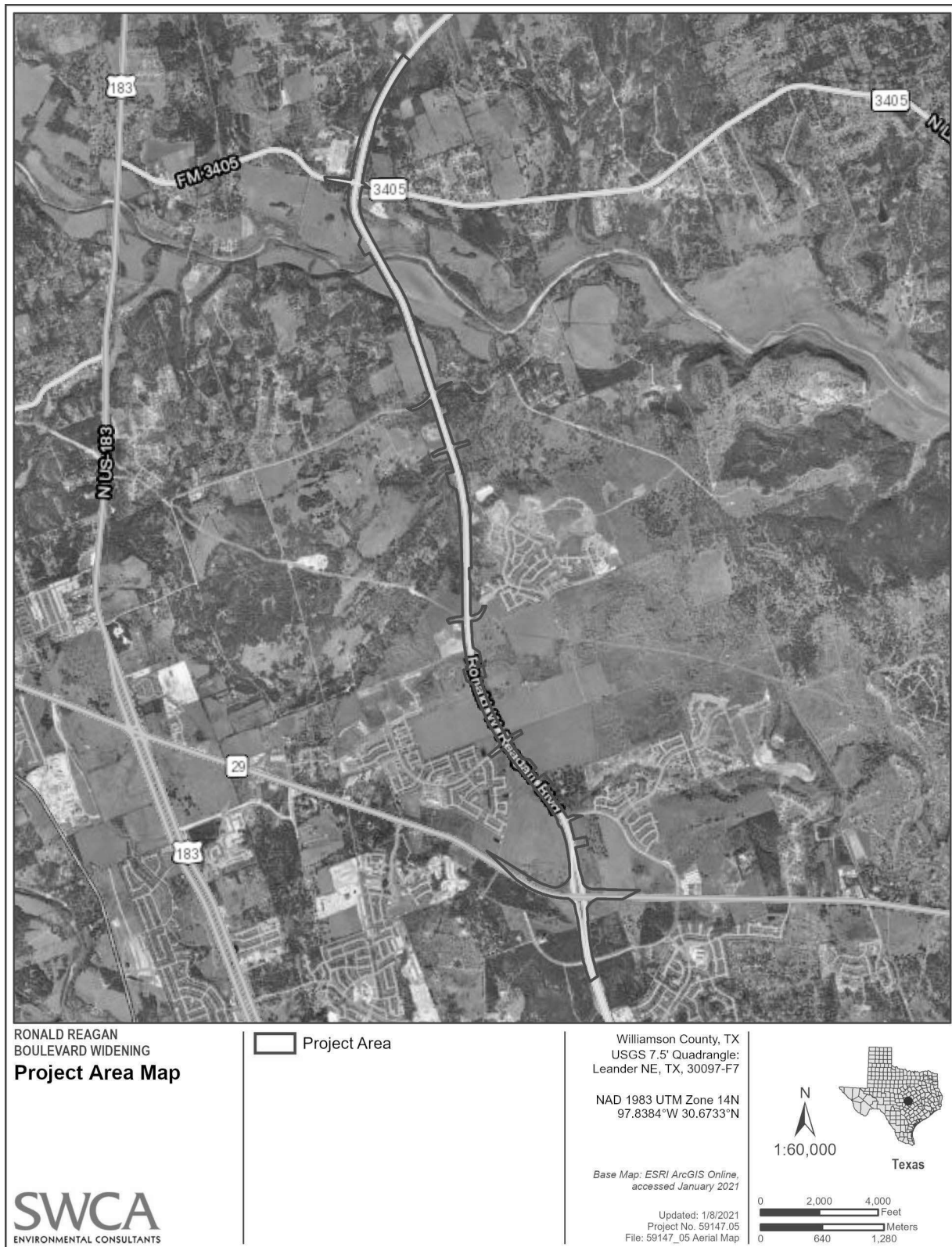


Figure 2. Project aerial location map (Background Imagery: ESRI 2018).

The surface geology within the project area consists of four different geologic units (Table 1). The most prevalent surface geology consists of Glen Rose Limestone, which is defined as a relatively thick, early Cretaceous age deposit consisting mostly of fossiliferous limestone with thin bands of sand and clay. The Edwards and Comanche Peak Limestone is the second most prevalent geological unit and is described as an early Cretaceous age deposit consisting mostly of limestone with inter-bedded chert and dolostone. A large alluvial terrace deposit is located near the south side of the project area and consists of Pleistocene and Holocene age sand, silt, clay, and gravel. Finally, near the center of the project, a thin band of Walnut Clay is present; this geologic unit is described as an early Cretaceous age deposit, primarily comprised of clay limestone and shale (United States Geologic Survey [USGS] 2022b).

Table 1. Geological Units within the Project Area

Geologic Unit	Acreage (Hectares)	Percent of Project Area
Glen Rose Limestone	104.2 (42.2)	32.4%
Edwards and Comanche Peak Limestone (undivided)	102.4 (41.4)	31.8%
Alluvial Terrace Deposits	98.4 (39.8)	30.4%
Walnut Clay	17.1 (6.9)	5.3%
Total	322.1 (130.3)	100.0%

Source: USGS (2022b).

A total of 16 soil types were identified as underlying the proposed project area (National Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2022) (Table 2; Figure 3). The most prevalent soils mapped within the project area include the Eckrant cobbly clay series, the Georgetown stony clay loam series, and the Fairlie clay series. The Eckrant cobbly clay series consists of well-drained soils that are shallow to very shallow overlying indurated limestone bedrock and is formed from residuum derived from ridges and dissected plateaus (NRCS 2022). The Georgetown series soils consist of moderately deep, well-drained soils formed from Cretaceous-aged indurated limestone. The Georgetown soils are formed on level to gently sloping dissected plateaus (NRCS 2022). Finally, the Fairlie soil series consists of deep, moderately well-drained soils formed on nearly level to gently sloping uplands (NRCS 2022).

Table 2. Soils within the Project Area

Soil Name	Acreage (Hectares)	Percent of Project Area
Brackett gravelly clay loam, 3 to 12 percent slopes	2.9 (1.2)	0.9%
Brackett-Rock Outcrop-Real complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes	3.3 (1.3)	1.0%
Crawford clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	20.8 (8.4)	6.5%
Denton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	12.0 (4.9)	3.7%
Denton silty clay, 3 to 5 percent slopes	6.0 (2.4)	1.9%
Doss silty clay, moist, 1 to 5 percent slopes	6.6 (2.6)	2.1%
Eckrant cobbly clay, 1 to 8 percent slopes	60.0 (24.3)	18.6%
Eckrant extremely stony clay, 0 to 3 percent slopes	6.3 (2.6)	1.9%
Eckrant-Rock outcrop association, 1 to 10 percent slopes	16.5 (6.7)	5.1%
Eckrant-Rock outcrop association, 8 to 30 percent slopes	2.7 (1.1)	0.8%
Fairlie clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	45.8 (18.5)	14.3%
Fairlie clay, 1 to 2 percent slopes	54.8 (22.2)	17.0%
Georgetown clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	14.0 (5.7)	4.3%
Georgetown stony clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	36.2 (14.6)	11.2%

Soil Name	Acreage (Hectares)	Percent of Project Area
Oakalla soils, 0 to 1 percent slopes, channeled, frequently flooded	3.0 (1.2)	0.9%
Sunev silty clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	31.2 (12.6)	9.7%
Total	322.1 (130.3)	100.0%

Source: NRCS 2022

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND KNOWN RESOURCES

On January 8, 2021, a SWCA archaeologist completed an initial desktop review of the project. A secondary review of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (the Atlas) was performed on September 13, 2022. This review found that no additional archaeological sites or cultural resources surveys were added to the Atlas within the study area from 2021 through September 13, 2022. Due to a lack of new information, the background review results map (Figure 4) has not been updated from 2021. The desktop review included the approximately 130.3-ha (322.1-acre) project area and an additional 1-km (0.6-mile) radius around the project components to form an approximately 2,795.5-ha (6,907.8-acre) study area (Figure 4). The review used the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas online database, which is maintained by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) identify previously conducted surveys and known sites within the study area (THC 2022). The review also consulted historical resource maps available through the USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer (USGS 2022c), the Texas Historic Overlay (Foster et al. 2006), the TxDOT National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Listed and Eligible Bridges database (TxDOT 2022), and modern aerial imagery to identify land use practices that may indicate the potential for or presence of cultural resources within the project area.

The file search and literature review identified nine previously recorded cultural resources surveys and four previously recorded archaeological sites within the project area. In addition, seven previously recorded cultural resources surveys, 21 previously recorded archaeological sites, and one cemetery are within the study area (THC 2022) (Figure 4). No NRHP properties, State Antiquities Landmark (SAL), Official Texas Historical Markers, or local neighborhood surveys were identified within the project area or the study area. A review of the TxDOT NRHP Listed and Eligible Bridges database found there were no previously identified NRHP eligible bridges within the project area, nor within the 1-km (0.6-mile) study area (TxDOT 2022). Additionally, the historic map review identified a total of 75 potential historical standing structures within the 1-km (0.6-mile) study area; of those potential historical structures, only three are depicted within the project area and an additional 11 are depicted within 91.4 meters (m) (300 feet) of the project area (Foster et al., 2006; USGS 2022c) (Figure 4).

Nine previously conducted surveys intersect the project area, with seven previously conducted surveys identified within the 1-km (0.6-mile) study area (Figure 4). A summary of these surveys is provided in Table 3 (THC 2022).

The desktop review determined that four previously recorded archaeological sites intersect the project area (i.e., 41WM1079, 41WM1080, and 41WM1084, and 41WM1085), and 21 sites were identified within the 1-km (0.6-mile) study area (THC 2022) (Table 4; Figure 4). Site 41WM1079 was recorded as a historic homestead site during a Phase I survey conducted by the Archaeological and Cultural Sciences Group (ACSG) in 2003 and intersects the northern portion of the project area (THC 2022). The site was originally described as a surface scatter of historic artifacts with remnants of features (e.g., limestone chimney, four outbuildings, and one stone wall) associated with an early to mid-twentieth-century homestead. The site is considered undetermined for eligibility for the NRHP (THC 2022).

Site 41WM1080 was recorded as a historic homestead site during a Phase I survey conducted by ACSG in 2003 and intersects the northern portion of the project area (THC 2022). The site was originally described

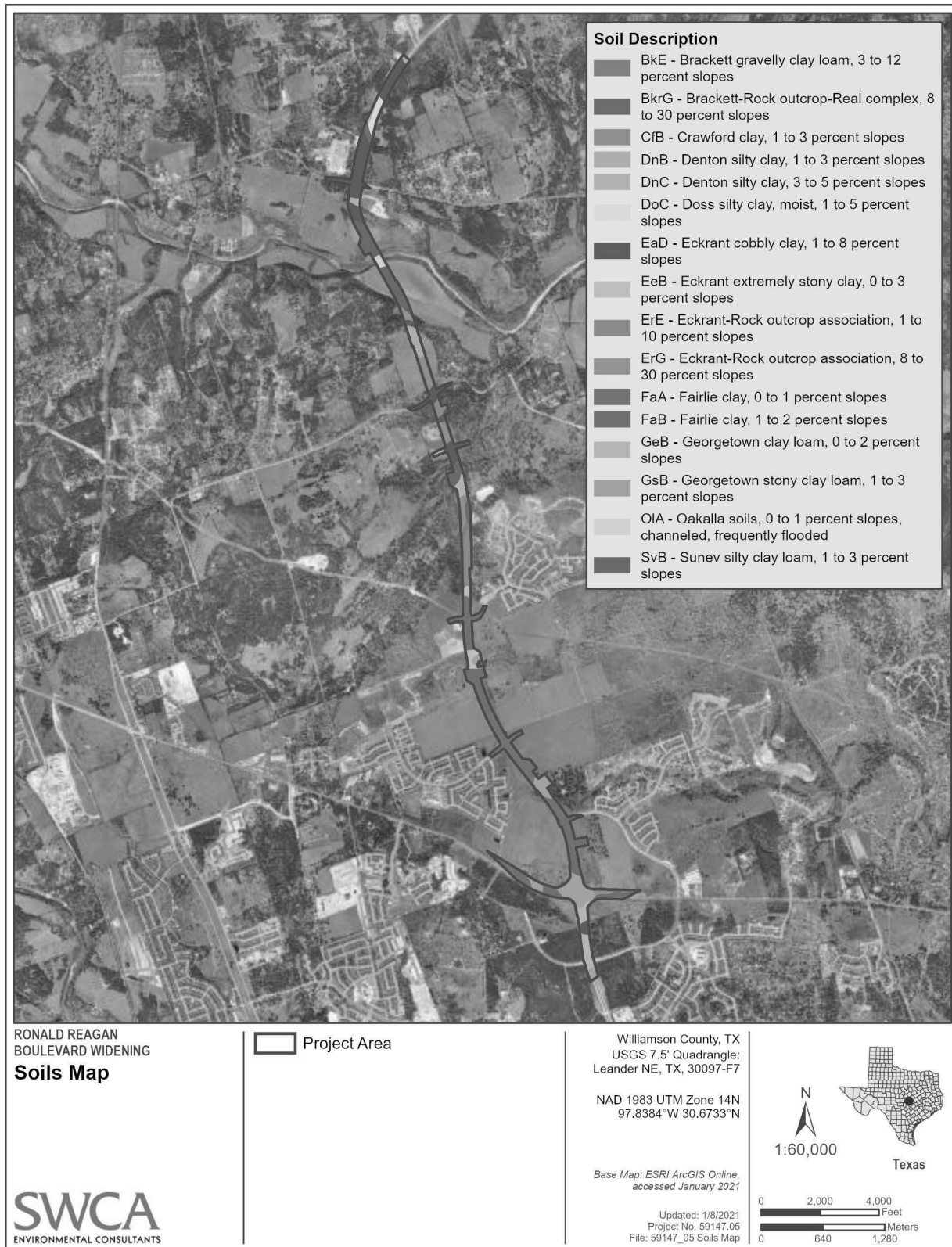


Figure 3. Soils map (Background Imagery: ESRI 2018 and NRCS 2022).

REDACTED MAP

Figure 4. Background review results map (Background Imagery: ESRI 2018 and THC 2022).

Table 3. Previously Conducted Surveys Within the Study Area

Atlas No.	Distance to Project Area	Project Description	Year	Investigator	Agency/Sponsor	ACT Permit No.
8400004226	Intersects	Not available on the Atlas	–	Not available on the Atlas	Not available on the Atlas	–
8400009992	Intersects	Not available on the Atlas	2021	Not available on the Atlas	Texas Water Development Board	2539
8500004621	Intersects	Not available on the Atlas	1965	Not available on the Atlas	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Fort Worth District	–
8500013823	Intersects	Not available on the Atlas	2006	Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.	TxDOT	4273
8500013832	Intersects	Not available on the Atlas	2007	SWCA	Williamson County	4381
8500013875	Within 1 km (0.6 mile)	Not available on the Atlas	2007	SWCA	Williamson County	4373
8500018304	Intersects	Parmer Lane	2003	ACSG	Williamson County	2752
8500020659	Intersects	Road Improvements to County Road 258 from Sunset Ridge to Ronald Reagan Boulevard	2012	Blanton & Associates, Inc.	Williamson County	6344
8500060994	Within 1 km (0.6 mile)	Ronald Reagan Boulevard Main Pipeline Extension	2014	HRA Gray & Pape Project	Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc.	6952
8500061451	Intersects	Parmer Lane Extension from FM 2243 to SH 29	2002	ACSG	Athabasca Consulting Inc.	2753
8500063836	Within 1 km (0.6 mile)	Ronald Reagan Boulevard Main Pipeline Extension	2014	HRA Gray & Pape Project	City of Leander	6952
8500063838	Intersects	Not available on the Atlas	–	Not available on the Atlas	Not available on the Atlas	–
8500079919	Within 1 km (0.6 mile)	Ronald Reagan Boulevard 24-Inch Water Line Extension Project	2015	SWCA	City of Leander	7318
8500080569	Within 1 km (0.6 mile)	Santa Rita Elementary School	2017	Terracon Consultants, Inc.	Georgetown ISD	8233
8500081014	Within 1 km (0.6 mile)	Liberty Hill ISD Santa Rita Elementary School Tract	2019	Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.	Liberty Hill ISD	8827
8500081264	Within 1 km (0.6 mile)	Braun Elevated Storage Tank	2018	ACI Consulting	City of Georgetown	8515

Table 4. Previously Recorded Sites Within the Study Area

Trinomial	Distance to Project Area	Time Period	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility/Comments
41WM74	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Burned rock midden	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM75	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM78	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM79	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM173	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM174	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM175	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM176	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM182	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Rock shelter	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM183	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM184	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM203	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM214	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM215	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Burned rock midden	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM220	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM248	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	No information available on the Atlas	No information available on the Atlas	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM1079	Intersects	Historic	Homestead	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM1080	Intersects	Multicomponent	Prehistoric lithic scatter; Historic homestead	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM1081	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Historic	Homestead	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM1082	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Historic	Homestead	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM1083	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Burned rock midden	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM1084	Intersects	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM1085	Intersects	Historic	Homestead	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.
41WM1310	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	Not eligible for the NRHP within the ROW (THC 3/18/2016).
41WM1404	Within 1-km (0.6 mile)	No information available on the Atlas	No information available on the Atlas	Eligibility is undetermined for the NRHP.

as a surface scatter of historic artifacts with remnants of features (e.g., chimney, two linear rock piles, and a privy) associated with an early to mid-twentieth-century homestead. The site is considered undetermined for eligibility for the NRHP (THC 2022).

Site 41WM1084 was recorded as a prehistoric lithic scatter during a Phase I survey conducted by ACSG in 2013 and intersects the northern portion of the project area (THC 2022). The site was described as a possible Early Archaic site consisting of a subsurface Nolan point at the base of a bluff. No additional artifacts, or features were observed during the initial recording. The site is considered undetermined for eligibility for the NRHP (THC 2022).

Site 41WM1085 was recorded as a historic homestead site during a Phase I survey conducted by ACSG in 2003 and is located near the center for the project area (THC 2022). The site was originally described as a surface scatter of historic artifacts with remnants of features (e.g., chimney, house foundations, foundations of a small structure, a cistern, a utility pole, two depressions, and a driveway) associated with an early to mid-twentieth-century homestead. The site is considered undetermined for the NRHP (THC 2022).

The desktop review determined that one cemetery (i.e., Anderson Cemetery) is within the 1-km (0.6-mile) study area (Figure 4). Anderson Cemetery is located approximately 0.7 km (0.4 mile) south of the intersection of FM 3405 and FM 256. The cemetery has 25 internments dated from 1869 to 1945 (Find a Grave 2022).

METHODS

SWCA will implement field survey methods that comply with technical standards and requirements established by the THC and Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA). SWCA professional archaeologists will conduct a pedestrian survey of the project area using systematic transects spaced no more than 30 m (98.4 feet) apart. This procedure will examine visible ground surfaces for cultural materials and aboveground features. Visual examination will be supplemented through shovel tests hand-excavated within the property. Shovel testing will be conducted in areas that hold the potential for intact, subsurface, archaeological resources. Shovel tests will not be conducted and/or will be limited in areas within pre-existing utility ROWs, areas disturbed by modern homestead development, or in upland settings lacking soils or displaying bedrock exposures.

The potential for deeply buried cultural deposits is currently deemed low for the majority of the project area based on the previously discussed soils and geology information. The majority of the soils mapped within the project area consist of shallow indurated limestone with a low potential to contain deeply buried cultural deposits; these areas will be assessed through systematic shovel testing. The exception is the soils around the North Fork of the San Gabriel River, which consist of loamy alluvium and has a high potential for deeply buried cultural deposits; these areas will be assessed through mechanical backhoe trenching. The field assessment will further define the potential of the landform and methods will be adjusted accordingly.

Shovel tests will be excavated according to THC standards. Linear projects require at least one survey transect for every 30 m (98 feet) of corridor width, with at least one shovel test excavated per 100 linear m (328 linear feet) on each transect. The main corridor of the currently proposed project is approximately 60 m (200 feet) wide and 10.1 km (6.3 miles) long, which would require at least 202 shovel tests. SWCA will excavate shovel tests in 20-centimeter (cm) (8-inch) arbitrary levels to 80 cm (31.5 inches) in depth, impervious surfaces, groundwater, or to culturally sterile deposits, whichever comes first. The matrix will be screened through ¼-inch mesh.

Mechanical backhoe trenching is anticipated at the North Fork of the San Gabriel River. Where used, backhoe trenches will be substituted for shovel tests at a 1:2 ratio and will generally be spaced 100 to 300 m (328 to 984 feet) apart. Backhoe trenches will be excavated to a depth sufficient to determine the presence/absence of buried cultural materials and allow for the complete recording of all features and geomorphic information to the depths of anticipated project impacts. Backhoe trenches will be a minimum of 60 cm (24 inches) wide and 4 m (13 feet) long and benched according to safety concerns, if needed. Stratigraphic descriptions will be recorded for each trench, and all features encountered will be mapped and photographed. If a trench is positive for cultural materials, a column sample may be excavated. Column samples will be 30 by 30 cm (12 by 12 inches) in size and excavated in 20-cm (8-inch) arbitrary levels to sterile soils or depth. Archaeologists will plot each shovel test and backhoe trench using a global positioning system (GPS) receiver and will record each test on appropriate project field forms. Areas with cultural

resources will require additional shovel testing at closer spacing to delineate the boundaries of buried cultural materials.

Previously identified resources, as well as any newly identified archaeological sites, will be explored as thoroughly as possible with consideration to the boundaries of the project. All discovered sites will be assessed regarding their potential significance so that recommendations can be made for proper management (i.e., avoidance, non-avoidance, or further work), and will be assessed for SAL and NRHP eligibility. Shovel tests will be excavated per THC/CTA standards to define horizontal and vertical site boundaries.

SWCA will complete appropriate State of Texas Archaeological Site Data Forms for each site discovered during the investigations. SWCA will produce a detailed plan map of each site and plot locations on USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles and relevant project maps. Unless otherwise required by the THC or USACE, SWCA will conduct a non-collection survey, where artifacts will be tabulated, analyzed, photographed, and documented in the field. Field notes will be kept at the SWCA Austin location. If survey data allow, SWCA archaeologists will make a significance determination using the criteria listed in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 60.4. If determined to be potentially significant and eligible for listing on the NRHP or as a SAL, additional work may be required to study or mitigate the resource prior to any construction.

During the survey, the field team will also plot, record, and photograph any buildings or structures within or directly adjacent to the area of potential effect that appear to be more than 45 years in age. These potential historical features will be evaluated by a U.S. Secretary of the Interior-qualified architectural historian to identify if they are potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP and will be reported separately under the same antiquities permit. The architectural evaluation will use standard industry-recognized methods in the analysis, including National Park Service National Register Bulletins 15 and 39. The report will include an evaluation of the resources using the NRHP criteria of evaluation (36 CFR 60.4).

REPORTING AND CURATION

Once the cultural resources survey has been completed, SWCA will prepare a report for review by Williamson County and the THC. The report of the investigations will conform to CTA and THC standards and guidelines. The report will include the results of the background review and the field survey. Specifically, the report will provide the methodology used in the investigations, the presence and condition of previously recorded sites located in the project area, photographs illustrating the environment and setting, a description of cultural resources encountered during the survey, recommendations for management of those cultural resources, and recommendations for additional investigations, if warranted. SWCA will submit a draft digital copy of the report to Williamson County for review and comment. SWCA will address all comments and concerns, and, at the request of Williamson County, the revised draft will be submitted to the THC for review. SWCA will address any comments or concerns and produce a final report to complete requirements of the Antiquities Permit. SWCA is proposing a no-collection survey; however, documentation will be curated at The University of Texas San Antonio, Center for Archaeological Research.

UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

In the event of unexpected discovery of human remains or funerary objects/contexts during the survey, SWCA will comply with all applicable state laws (Texas Health and Safety Code Section 711 and the Texas Administrative Code Title 13, Chapter 22, Sections 22.1 through 22.6.), and take into account the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's 2007 Policy Statement on the Treatment of Burial Sites. In all instances,

any human skeletal remains or funerary objects that may be discovered will be treated with dignity and respect. If human remains are uncovered during investigations, the following steps will be taken:

- SWCA will immediately halt excavation of the remains and shall notify the Williamson County sheriff and the THC. The sheriff will be requested to contact the coroner/medical examiner. After examining the human remains, if the sheriff and coroner determine the remains are modern, then the sheriff or coroner will assume responsibility for the remains.
- Appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that the remains are protected and not disturbed prior to the conclusion of investigation by law enforcement and consultation with appropriate groups to determine next steps (if needed).
- Excavations (e.g., shovel testing) within 100 m (328 feet) of human remains will be halted until the THC authorizes continued work in those areas.
- Surveys will continue elsewhere in the project area.
- If the county sheriff and coroner determine that the remains are not modern or a crime scene, thereby relinquishing their jurisdiction over the remains, SWCA will coordinate with the project sponsor and the THC to determine the appropriate course of action and file *Notice of the Existence of a Cemetery*.

REFERENCES

ESRI

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- 2022 Texas Archeological Sites Atlas restricted database, Texas Historical Commission. Available at: <http://atlas.thc.texas.gov>. Accessed September 2022.

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- 2019 *Leander NE, TX* [map]. 1:24,000, 7.5-Minute Series topographic quadrangle. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geologic Survey, Washington D.C.
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