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February 19, 2009

Mr. Gary Boyd  
Environmental Program Coordinator  
Williamson County Conservation Foundation  
350 Discovery Blvd., Suite 207  
Cedar Park, Texas 78613

**Re: Request for Work Authorization for SWCA for RHCP Implementation Services**

Dear Mr. Boyd:

Now that the permit for the Williamson County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan has received Federal approval, SWCA proposes to provide services in support of the plan through its first year. These services include assisting the County with annual management and monitoring of existing preserve areas, establishing existing preserves as Karst Fauna Areas (KFAs), and providing biological and geological on-call services to evaluate additional KFAs, to assist the County with evaluating participant applications (may include reviewing applicant technical documents, conducting habitat assessment for golden-cheeked warbler, black-capped vireo, and endangered karst invertebrates, presence/absence surveys, attending meetings).

**Task 1(a) Annual Surveys/Monitoring/Reporting**

Williamson County has assumed responsibility for management and monitoring activities on the Millenium & Wilco preserves at the Southwest Regional Park, Twin Springs preserve (birds and karst), Beck Preserve, and at the Chaos and Big Oak preserves (formerly managed by TxDOT). The County will soon take over similar responsibilities at the Priscilla's Well KFA. Management and monitoring responsibilities are currently defined by separate plans, or are undefined as with Priscilla's Well KFA and Twin Springs. Under this task SWCA proposes to develop a consolidated adaptive management and monitoring plan for existing and future preserves in conjunction with County staff, Foundation staff and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). SWCA also proposes to carry out any management and monitoring activities delegated to SWCA or subcontractors by the County. Management activities will be divided between SWCA, subcontractors, third party contractors or County personnel depending on cost-effectiveness and USFWS permit requirements. These activities may include but are not limited to invasive species monitoring and treatment, biological surveys, and annual reporting to the USFWS.

**Task 1(b) KFA Research and Designations on the Twin Springs Preserve and the Southwest Regional Park**

SWCA proposes to conduct the reporting and USFWS consultation process required to establish several preserve areas as KFAs. Under the RHCP the ability of the plan to authorize impacts from participating projects is derived from the establishment of these KFAs. The first KFA was approved by the USFWS last month at Priscilla's Well Cave adjacent to Ronald Reagan Blvd Phase III. USFWS has preliminarily authorized the participation of Ronald Reagan Phase III and SH 195 on the strength of that KFA. SWCA proposes to follow the model and reporting style it established at Priscilla's well for establishing KFA status at the Twin Springs Preserve and at the Southwest Regional Park. This includes characterization of site vegetation, hydrogeology, and karst ecology.

**Task 1(c) Research Additional KFAs**

The RHCP commits to establishing a minimum of three and a maximum of six KFAs in each of three Karst Fauna Regions including North Williamson County, Georgetown, and McNeil/Round Rock. We propose to investigate potential KFAs in the McNeil/Round Rock, Georgetown and North Williamson County KFRs. This is the minimum number of KFAs required to authorize take of both listed invertebrates in all three KFRs. Establishing KFAs in the McNeil/Round Rock and Georgetown KFRs is likely a critical path item for RHCP participation for several Williamson County Road Bond projects such as O'Connor Road and Hwy 620.

**Cost for Task 1:        \$100,000.00**

**Task 2 Biological and Geological On-call Services**

When requested by the County, SWCA conduct various support activities associated with the RHCP. These activities may include attending meetings, reviewing and commenting on participant applications, conducting field investigations of potential participating projects, and various other services as requested by the County.

**Cost for Task II: \$25,000.00**

If you find the scope of services, terms, and costs of this proposal to be acceptable, please sign the enclosed Work Authorization documents and forward them to either Gary Galbraith or my attention at SWCA's Austin office.

If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact Gary Galbraith or me at (512) 476-0891.

Sincerely,



Kemble White Ph.D., P.G.  
Senior Scientist

Passed in Commissioners Court this 3rd day of March, 2009.

By  \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_