

RESOLUTION ON THE STATUS OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY REGIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

WHEREAS; the Williamson County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was developed over a period exceeding six years and involved expending substantial funds, a significant portion of which were those provided through grants for its development; and,

WHEREAS; the Williamson County Conservation Foundation (WCCF) was formed and incorporated to provide the management and oversight functions for the HCP on behalf of the County; and,

WHEREAS; the HCP was written, revised and reviewed with the cooperation, appropriate collaboration and input from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and was authored on behalf of the county by noted professionals in the fields of environmental and regulatory law and by experts in biological and geological analysis, was assessed and evaluated over a long period by citizen advisory committee's and was thoroughly vetted and reviewed for administrative compliance including statutory review through The Federal Register; and,

WHEREAS; the US Fish and Wildlife Service contributed funding through grants for the writing and publication of the HCP; and,

WHEREAS; all aspects of the Endangered Species Act and the regulatory framework for the Act was considered and provisions thereof were incorporated into the HCP; and,

WHEREAS; consultative precedents and accommodations for US Fish and Wildlife consultation under the Endangered Species Act were incorporated into the HCP; and

WHEREAS; the US Fish and Wildlife Service recognized and in October 2008 issued an Incidental Take Permit (Permit) to the County based on the HCP and its related Environmental Impact Statement; and,

WHEREAS; Williamson County, acting through the WCCF has been successfully implementing the HCP in accordance with the Permit including expending funds for education and scientific inquiry; and

WHEREAS; the WCCF Board of Directors did, on June 15, 2011, take action to recommend this Resolution to the Williamson County Commissioner Court;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THIS 21ST DAY OF JUNE, 2011, THAT THE COMMISSIONERS OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY STAND IN SUPPORT OF THE HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN AS PASSED BY THE COURT AND AS ORIGINALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO INCLUDE ALL REPRESENTATIONS AND AGREEMENTS THEREIN.

Dan Gattis, County Judge

ATTEST:

Nancy E. Rister, County Clerk

