



DAN A. GATTIS  
County Judge  
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

May 22, 2012

The Honorable Dan Ashe, Director  
United States Fish & Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Room 3331  
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Re: Potential listing of salamander species in Williamson County, Texas

Dear Mr. Ashe:

The Williamson County Commissioners Court requests that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (the Service) delay publishing any potential proposal to list the Central Texas Salamander (*Eurycea*) species located in Williamson County, which include: the Jollyville Plateau, Georgetown, and Salado salamanders. We specifically request a delay until at least July 31, 2012, or such later date as is legally possible. A delay would provide time for Williamson County (the County) and the Williamson County Conservation Foundation (the Foundation) to present to you the latest available science regarding the possible listings.

The County, through the Foundation, has initiated a scientific review regarding the possible listing of these species. That work is well underway and preliminary results are being shared with the Service, local public officials, and landowner groups.

The Foundation is committed to providing the best available and current scientific data regarding these species. A multi-year study, now in its second year, is being conducted on the Georgetown salamander. An additional multi-year study has recently been initiated for the Jollyville Plateau salamander. In total, the Foundation is projected to spend more than \$1 million to study the three salamander species affecting Williamson County. In addition, the Foundation has acquired Twin Springs Preserve that will protect the Georgetown Salamander.

Additional time will ensure that the most current and best available data is available to the Service as you conduct your review and determine whether these salamanders should be listed as endangered or threatened.

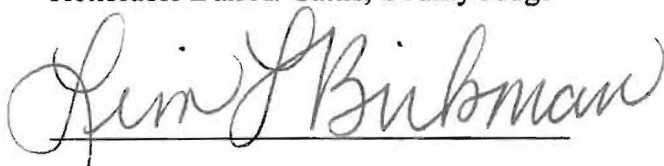
Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Judge Dan A. Gattis at (512) 943-1550.



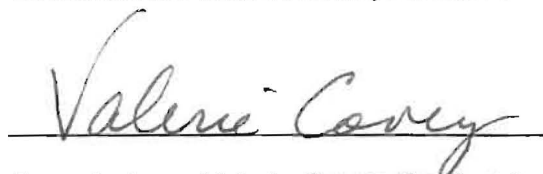
**Williamson County**



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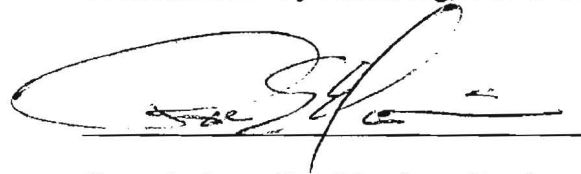
Commissioner Lisa Birkman, Precinct 1



Commissioner Valerie Covey, Precinct 3



Commissioner Cynthia Long, Precinct 2



Commissioner Ron Morrison, Precinct 4

cc: Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, Regional Director  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

Dr. Joy Nicholopoulos, Deputy Regional Director  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

Michelle Shaughnessy, Assistant Regional Director  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

Adam Zerrenner, Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
10711 Burnet Rd., Ste. 200  
Austin, TX 78758

Gary Mowad, Texas State Administrator  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
8027 Exchange Drive  
Austin, TX 78754



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May 22, 2012

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson  
United States Senate  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
221 West Sixth Street Ste. 1530  
Austin, Texas 78701

The Honorable Doc Hastings  
United States House of Representatives  
1203 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John R. Carter  
31<sup>st</sup> District of Texas  
1717 N. IH 35, Suite #303  
Round Rock, TX 78664

The Honorable Bill Flores  
United States House of Representatives  
1505 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Hutchinson and Cornyn, Chairman Hastings, Congressmen Carter and  
Congressman Flores:

The Williamson County Commissioners Court is requesting your assistance in seeking a delay of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife (FWS) publication of a proposal to list the Central Texas salamander (*Eurycea*) species located in Williamson County, which include: the Jollyville Plateau, Georgetown, and Salado salamanders. We would specifically request that you seek a delay until at least July 31, 2012, or later if legally possible. This delay would allow Williamson County, the Williamson County Conservation Foundation (the Foundation), and others to present the latest available science regarding the possible listings.

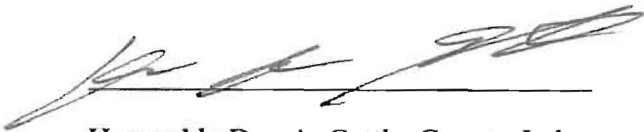
The County, through the Foundation, has initiated a scientific review regarding the status of these species. That work is well underway and preliminary results are being shared with FWS, local public officials, and landowner groups.

The requested delay would allow time to submit additional scientific information including, but not limited to, detailed water quality data and the results of other scientific review.

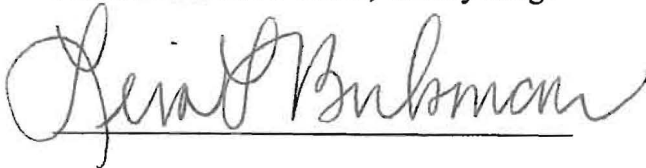
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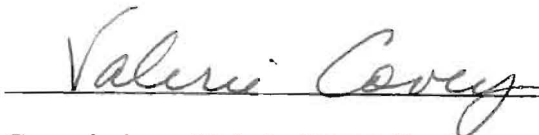
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