Annual Report

TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
JOSEPH P. GIESELMAN, EXECUTIVE MANAGER

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May 28, 1997

Mr. Mel Hinson
City of Austin - PECSD
Two Commodore Plaza
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

RE: Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan

Dear Mr. Hinson,

We are submitting this letter to you, along with attachments, as the Travis County portion of the Annual Report for the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP). We ask that you incorporate this information in the Annual Report you are preparing to be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by Coordinating Committee Secretary Joe Lessard. Following are the items as listed in the BCCP permit for the reporting period May 1996 through April 1997, unless otherwise noted.

1. **A list of all development activities west of the MOPAC Railroad.** Accompanying this letter is the list of Travis County issued permits in digital form (Excel spreadsheet) as well as hard copy.

2. **A list of all tracts for which Participation Certificates were purchased.** Following is a list of all Participation Certificates purchased under the BCCP; any listings indicating FWS under the "Category" column were not issued a certificate, but were permitted by USFWS and directed to mitigate through the BCCP.

Date	BCCP #	Name	TCAD #	Category	Paid
7/15/96	0001	P. & B. Sanger	01-2528-0110	Single Family	$1500
9/9/96	0018	R. C. Thompson	01-2940-0104	Single Family	$1500
10/25/96	0041	E. & M. Schanfarber	01-4227-0242	Single Family	$1500
12/4/96	0013	Penta Development	various	Subdivision	90 acres
12/10/96	0047	P. Callahan /D. Roush	01-7577-0314	Single Family	$1500
1/17/97	0044	M. & V. Klepper	01-1919-0316	Single Family	$1500
1/28/97	0053	L. Gallup	04-1430-0107	Single Family	$1500
2/24/97	0061	S. & B. Ritter	01-2940-0202	Single Family	$1500
2/28/97	0002	J. M. Hurst	n/a	FWS	$1500
2/28/97	0003	E. McIntyre	n/a	FWS	$1500
2/28/97	0057	Lowder & Assoc.	n/a	FWS	$44,330
3/6/97	0063	R. Ross	01-6244-0107	Single Family	$1500
3/20/97	0068	M. J. Hall	04-0480-0405	Single Family	$1500
4/4/97	0062	R. & C. Raley	01-1837-0708	Single Family	$1500
4/8/97	0072	R. McElroy	01-7478-0104	Single Family	$1500

3. **Amount of funds collected for land acquisition through the issuance of Participation Certificates.** All the funds collected through issuance of Participation Certificates are listed under #2 on the preceding page. Also shown are mitigation fees paid to the BCCP under USFWS' direction based on their determinations for permits they issued.

4. **Amount of funds expended for land acquisition.** *All activity for reporting period has been the City of Austin's.*

5. **Amount of funds expended for operations and maintenance.** Travis County expended $199,626.83 for operations and maintenance for Travis County properties included in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. This figure represents the period of May 1996 through February 1997, lacking the months of March and April 1997.

6. **An updated map of the lands dedicated to preserve management.** We are working to update the preserve parcel map with the City of Austin and USFWS staff. Accompanying this letter is a map indicating the areas in which revisions are needed, pending further discussion with USFWS.

7. **A list of public use and habitat management activities that have been undertaken or completed within the bounds of the preserve units.** Travis County owns three tracts that are dedicated preserveland for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Following are descriptions of activities for each tract:

   Hamilton Pool Preserve - Pre-existing (to the BCCP) public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve staff maintain approximately 1.5 miles of nature trails for daily public access. Hours are restricted to day use only; fees are charged; public access is restricted to trails and pool area. Pets, fires, cooking, fishing, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included routine trail maintenance and the planting of native trees in the parking lot area and public road right-of-way, as well as endangered species and botanical surveys.

   Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve - Pre-existing public use continued during the reporting period. The Preserve is managed by The Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness with financial and staff support from the County. Approximately 2.5 miles of nature trails are maintained for daily public and educational tour use. Hours are restricted to day use only; visitor access is restricted to trails. Picnicking, pets, and collecting are prohibited. Habitat management activities included endangered species surveys, routine trail maintenance.

   Romberg Tract - This portion of Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point is separated by Comanche Trail from the rest of the park. The Romberg Tract is not used by the public and is not actively managed other than occasional boundary checks and endangered species surveys.

8. **A copy of all research or investigation reports that have been prepared.** Accompanying this letter is the Annual Report for Wild Basin Wilderness (prepared by the Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness) for the period January 1996 through December 1996. Three other reports were prepared during the reporting period:

   Rare Plant Survey and General Plant Inventory of Travis County Parks West of the Balcones Escartment by W. R. Carr, Summer 1996. This report covers 16 parks owned and/or managed by Travis County. Excerpts are available upon request.

   A Draft Report on The Caves of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan, Travis County, Texas by William R. Elliott, Ph.D., February 1997. A copy of this draft report was presented to USFWS Ecological Services staff in April 1997.

An internal report on informal endangered species observations on Travis County managed parks/preserves during the spring of 1996 while our federal permit was pending. Available upon request.

We are interested in having the regional permit amended to change the reporting period to match the City and County fiscal calendars (October through September), which would also avoid splitting the nesting season between two different reporting years. In addition, we need more time to compile end-of-year data, and recommend that the Annual Report would come due to USFWS January 15th following each reporting period. We urge the City to join us in considering such an amendment proposal to the Coordinating Committee and USFWS.

If you have any questions or need additional information for the Annual Report, please contact Ms. Terri Siegenthaler or me at 473-9383.

Sincerely,

Terri Siegenthaler for CL

Clifton Ladd
Travis County BCCP Program Manager

TMS:CL
0905 BCCP Annual Report for Travis County

xc: Joe Lessard, BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary
Valarie Bristol, County Commissioner Precinct 3
Joseph P. Gieselman, Executive Manager
Charles Bergh, Division Director, Parks & Natural Resources
Terri Siegenthaler, Resource Management Specialist
Rose Farmer, Environmental Specialist