

MEMORANDUM

To: EARIP

From: Robert L. Gulley

Re: Meeting with Mr. Daniel Mezza, Regional Director for Senator John Cornyn

Date: October 27, 2008

As Jerry James reported at the last EARIP meeting, on October 2, 2008, Weir Labatt, Jerry James, Robert Potts and I met with Sandy Edwards, Regional Director for Central Texas for Senator Cornyn. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“FWS”) arranged the meeting, and Joy Nicholopolis and Adam Zerrenner attended the meeting. At that meeting, Ms. Edwards suggested we speak with Mr. Mezza as much of the Edwards Aquifer was in his region. On October 22, 2008, Weir Labatt and I met with Daniel Mezza, Regional Director for South Central Texas for Senator John Cornyn.

We began the meeting by providing Mr. Mezza background information regarding the EARIP. He was well aware of the issues involving the Edwards Aquifer and the threatened and endangered species associated with the Edwards Aquifer but was not familiar with the EARIP. We then told Mr. Mezza that we wanted to discuss whether Senator Cornyn would be willing to send a letter to FWS in support of our Section 6 Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grant and our needs for future funding for the EARIP.

With respect to the first issue, Mr. Mezza reminded us, as Ms. Edwards had, that the Senator could not be seen as favoring one proposal over another. He did, however, say that the Senator would be willing to write a letter regarding the importance of the HCP to the region and the State. We left him background information for his consideration in preparing such a letter.

We spent most of the meeting discussing our need for funding, focusing primarily on our need for funding to support the implementation of the HCP after its completion in 2012/2013. He offered the following thoughts. Beyond informational meetings with staff such as this one, it is too early to begin discussing funding for 2012/2013 since that process will not begin until early 2011. Moreover, it will be difficult to have any meaningful discussions until we have a proposal to fund specific projects. With respect to water projects in particular, Senator Cornyn does not like to support funding for studies unless a high likelihood exists that the study will result in a specific project or projects that will be implemented.

If we are seeking funding to begin in 2013, Mr. Mezza said that the authorization/appropriation process would begin in February 2011. He suggested that we should begin working with staff for the various delegations in September 2010. He said that a meeting in the area coupled with a tour of the springs and any specific project sites would be valuable. He said that we should plan on following that meeting up in early 2011 with meetings with the Members. He also stressed the importance of effectively using the written media, particularly in

that timeframe where we be seeking funding, to get the word out about what we intended to do and the breadth of regional support for the HCP. These types of articles are included in the “clips” that the Members read.

Mr. Mezza seemed interested in the EARIP and recognized the importance of our being able to reach a region-wide consensus on the management of the aquifer.