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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TASKING PROFILE

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Addressee: Dirk Kempthorne

From: Bailey Hutchison, Kay
United States Senate
Washigton
DC 20240

Subject Text: Please consider funding for (12 listed) important projects in Texas in FY07.

Required Surnames: OCL

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, DC 20240



DRAFT

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison:

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Ex. 5

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
TEXAS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20540-4304

March 5, 2007

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

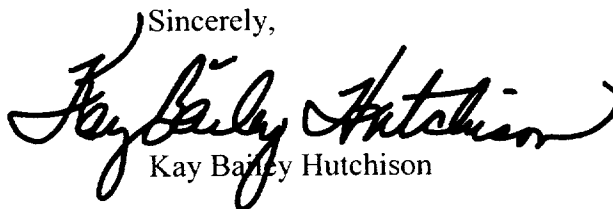
Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

Following the recent passage of H.J. Res. 20, legislation providing continuing appropriations for the federal government through the end of fiscal year 2007, Office of Management and Budget Director Rob Portman issued a memorandum providing guidance to Departments and Agencies about obligating such funds. Director Portman also indicated that while "no oral or written communication . . . shall supersede statutory criteria, competitive awards, or merit-based decision-making . . . the Administration welcomes input to make informed decisions."

With that in mind, I want to bring to your attention several important and worthwhile projects in Texas (see attached list) that I strongly support and ask that your Department give consideration to funding during the current fiscal year. All of these projects were approved at both the Senate Appropriations subcommittee and full committee levels and were included in the Senate Report accompanying H.R. 5386, the Fiscal Year 2007 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on June 29, 2006.

I appreciate your consideration of these requests. Please contact me or James Christoferson (202-224-9774) if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,


Kay Bailey Hutchison

Enclosure

Project Name: El Camino Real de los Tejas Feasibility Study (TX)
Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Account: Resource Management
Request: \$240,000
Description: Funds will be used for the planning and mapping of the national trail El Camino Real de los Tejas.

Project Name: Texas Tech University Center for Water Law and Policy (TX)
Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Account: Science and Technology
Request: \$650,000
Description: The Center will build upon the solid foundation of current multidisciplinary and university multi-institutional research activities and water modeling analytical capabilities at Texas Tech and provide structural support to legislative and policy making bodies regarding water needs, policy alternatives, management schemes, regulatory structures, and technological innovations.
Contact: Dean Smith
Texas Tech University
19th and University Avenue
Lubbock, TX 79409
(806) 742-3905

Project Name: Texas Air Quality Study 2 (TX)
Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Account: Science and Technology
Request: \$750,000
Description: Texas Air Quality Study 2 will provide necessary scientific investigations into key air quality issues to ensure successful clean air policies over the next decade. The study area will cover the eastern half of Texas and will involve all of the major Texas universities.
Contact: Grover Campbell
University of Houston
316 E. Cullen Building
Houston, TX 77204-2015
(512) 499-8787

Project Name: Caddo Lake RAMSAR Center (TX)
Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Account: Science and Technology
Request: \$300,000
Description: Funds will be used to continue and improve upon community-based wetland management and education activities of the Caddo Lake Ramsar Science and Visitors Center program.
Contact: Rick Lowerre
Caddo Lake Institute
44 East Avenue, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 469-6000

Project Name: Austin Sanitary Sewer Overflow Prevention (TX)
Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Account: State and Tribal Assistance Grants
Request: \$400,000
Description: Funding will be used to implement a trenchless sewer rehabilitation technique to eliminate infiltration and replace the structural integrity to sewer mains without extensive excavation.
Contact: John Hrcir
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin TX 78767
(512) 974-2285

Project Name: Matagorda Bay Aquatic Habitat Study (TX)
Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Account: Resource Management
Request: \$1,500,000
Description: Funds will be used to conduct a study to characterize the relationships between flow and habitat and flow and ecology within the Lower Colorado River and its riverine ecosystem from Longhorn Dam to Matagorda Bay.
Contact: Amanda McPherson
Lower Colorado River Authority
3700 Lake Austin Boulevard
Austin, TX 78767-0220
(512) 473-3583

Project Name: Baylor University Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Threat Detection, Assessment, and Response to Protect Public Water Supplies (TX)
Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Account: Science and Technology
Request: \$200,000
Description: Funds will be used to develop effective methodologies for water supply protection and first responder and assessment training (to be administered by Texas State Technical College - Waco). Only through such an integrated, interdisciplinary approach can comprehensive plans be developed for conducting water supply assessments, understanding the risks contaminating agents pose, and identifying potential treatment and response options for contaminant exposure should a terrorist event or natural disaster occur.
Contact: James Odom
Baylor University
One Bear Place #97133
Waco, TX 76798
(254) 710-1453

Project Name: **Big Thicket National Preserve (TX)**
Agency: National Park Service
Account: Land Acquisition and State Assistance
Request: \$2,000,000
Description: Funds will be used to complete the acquisition of lands owned by the Conservation Fund within the congressionally authorized boundary of the Big Thicket National Preserve. If approved, the National Park Service will be within 2,500 acres of the authorized boundary of the preserve.
Contact: Andy Jones
The Conservation Fund - Texas Office
101 W 6th Street, Suite 601
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 477-1712

Project Name: **Lanana Creek Flood Mitigation – Phase 2 (TX)**
Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Account: State and Tribal Assistance Grants
Request: \$500,000
Description: Funds will be used to construct two detention ponds to lower the water surface elevation of Lanana Creek sufficiently to prevent submergence of the bridges crossing Lanana Creek. This project will allow emergency vehicles to reach residents on the east side of Lanana creek in the event of a flood.
Contact: Jim Jeffers
City of Nacogdoches
P.O. Box 635030
Nacogdoches, TX 75963
(936) 559-2501

Project Name: **Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (TX)**
Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Account: Land Acquisition
Request: \$150,000
Description: Funds will be used to acquire the “chapeño” property along the Rio Grande River a mile downstream from Falcon Reservoir. This 5.8 acre property is widely regarded as perhaps the most beautiful small river front remnant in Starr County, or anywhere on the River from Falcon Reservoir to Boca Chica. It is constantly visited by eco-tourists, who are well aware it is the only location in the United States where Brown Jays can be seen.
Contact: John McClung
Friends of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
(956) 581-8632

Project Name: **Brownsville Weir and Reservoir Project (TX)**
Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Account: State and Tribal Assistance Grants – Infrastructure Assistance
Request: \$2,000,000
Description: The Brownsville Weir and Reservoir Project is part of the state approved long-term water plan and will conserve water resources in the Lower Rio Grande River in a cost effective manner by constructing and operating an in-channel reservoir that will capture and store excess water flows and help provide a long-term water supply for the Brownsville Area.
Contact: John Bruciak
Brownsville Public Utilities Board
P.O. Box 3270
Brownsville, TX 78523-3270
(956) 983-6278

Project Name: **North Central El Paso/Ft. Bliss Reclaimed Water Projects (TX)**
Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Account: State and Tribal Assistance Grants – Infrastructure Assistance
Request: \$4,000,000
Description: Funds will be used to expand the Haskell Street Wastewater Treatment Plant water recycling program to North Central El Paso to provide reclaimed water to Western Refinery, Fort Bliss, and parks and schools in the area.
Contact: Ed Archuleta
El Paso Water Utilities
P.O. Box 511
El Paso, TX 79961-0001
(915) 594-5501