



KAREN HUBER
Travis County Commissioner
Precinct 3

314 West 11th Street, Room 530
Post Office Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

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BY 

TEXAS
COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
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CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

August 22, 2011

Carlos Rubinstein
Commissioner of the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality
MC 100
TCEQ
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

RE: Travis County Resolution on White Stallion

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

I write to inform you of a recent resolution the Travis County Commissioners Court passed unanimously, opposing the construction of the White Stallion Energy Center. Our court and our citizens are concerned about the enormous amount of Colorado River and Highland Lakes water the plant would utilize, and the impacts this would have on our region's economy, health and environment.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has an important role to play in ensuring our state's natural resources are utilized in a responsible, safe manner. I urge you to consider the concerns of Travis County in future rulings on the White Stallion project.

Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or comments.

Respectfully,

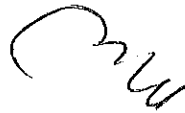


Karen Huber
Travis County Commissioner, Precinct 3

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2011

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Commissioners' Offices



Travis County Commissioners Court



Resolution

WHEREAS, the Travis County Commissioners Court is dedicated to providing citizens with a healthy, sustainable and economically viable environment for its citizens, and

WHEREAS, Lake Travis is a unique resource for our county and provides millions of visitor-days worth of recreational enjoyment, and

WHEREAS, Lake Travis is an economic engine for our county responsible for an estimated \$31.9 million in property taxes, \$10.3 million in sales tax, \$245,000 in mixed beverage tax in local and state government revenues through property, hotel occupancy, sales and beverage taxes, and

WHEREAS, the proposed White Stallion power plant would require approximately 6.5 billion gallons of water from the Colorado River each year for normal operations, and

WHEREAS, a recently commissioned study has shown persistently low lake levels can eliminate up to \$22 million of fiscal revenues to local and state government, and

WHEREAS, a number of local businesses rely on the lake for their livelihood, and the same study shows persistently low lake levels could eliminate 244 jobs, \$16-\$20 million in sales receipts and reduced visitor spending of \$34 million in the Lake Travis area, and

WHEREAS, a recent ERCOT report demonstrates that Texas has more than adequate electric generating capacity to meet current and future electricity needs, and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy such as wind and solar require virtually no water to implement or operate, and

WHEREAS, the current lake level has dropped below 640 feet which is far below the historical average for August which is 665.87 feet, and

WHEREAS, in response to the drought of 2009, in which lake levels were the third lowest they had been since Lake Travis was created, the LCRA recommended a moratorium on all new water contracts, and

WHEREAS, the water resource plan adopted by the LCRA in October of 2010 demonstrates that water conservation is the cheapest available water resource at approximately \$400 per acre-foot, and

WHEREAS, non-conservation water resources cited in the LCRA's water resource plan cost between 5 and 8 times as much per acre-foot as conservation, and

WHEREAS, pollution from the burning of coal at the White Stallion Energy Center would contaminate our air and water resources, and

WHEREAS, increased pollution from the White Stallion Energy Center would increase ozone levels in Travis County adversely impacting the health of Travis County residents, by increasing irritation to throat and lungs, diminished lung capacity, aggravation of asthma or other respiratory problems, and

WHEREAS, Travis County is considered to be a near-nonattainment area for ozone, increased pollution from the White Stallion Energy Center could increase ozone levels in Travis County above the current ozone standard impacting economic growth and placing restrictions on business operations and expansion, and


WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has yet to issue a final air permit for the White Stallion Energy Center facility,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, on this Tuesday, August 9, 2011 the Travis County Commissioners Court opposes the granting of a water contract to the White Stallion Energy Center from the Lower Colorado River Authority, and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Court opposes the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality issuing an air permit that would allow increased amounts of mercury, nitrous oxides and other criteria pollutants into the air, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Court will oppose the building of the White Stallion Energy Center should the project rely upon substantial water resources from the Colorado River.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS 9th DAY OF AUGUST, 2011.



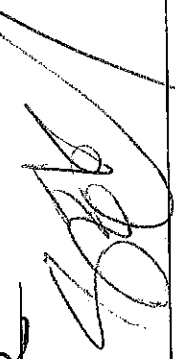
RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1



KAREN L. HUBER
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3



SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE



SARAH ECKHARDT
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2



MARGARET J. GOMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4