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October 14, 2011

County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe  
314 W 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 520  
Austin TX 78701

Re: Colorado River Corridor Plan

Dear Judge Biscoe,

I own Native Texas Nursery, a tree farm and nursery on Milo Road adjacent to TXI. I speak for several for the surrounding agricultural uses when I say that we support the current County/TXI/City of Austin agreement and the Colorado River Corridor Plan but have one serious reservation. There is nothing in the agreement that speaks to the possible impact of the TXI mining on the ground water under the land south of Milo Road, east of Dunlap road, and down to the Colorado River. This is an area of approximately 1,200 acres. Most of this land is in agricultural use that depends on the plentiful ground water that we now draw from our wells. In addition there are several residences in this area that rely on wells as their only source of water. As far as we know, there are no studies that can say definitively how the water moves through the alluvial sands under our land. For that reason the impact of the TXI mining cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty.

We applaud the mining method proposed by TXI, but while it is forward thinking and environmentally sound, it may disrupt the ground water flow that feeds our wells. The layer of sand and gravel that TXI will remove is a very efficient conduit for moving water. The sandy loam overburden that TXI will use to replace the sand and gravel is far less efficient at moving water. With the sandy loam in place, it may act as a dam to the north and west of our land causing our wells to no longer have the volume of flow necessary to sustain our agricultural operations, and maybe not even residential wells.

We understand that the County has funded a study to gather base line information in wells surrounding TXI and that an ongoing monitoring program may also be undertaken. This information is critical and could provide us with necessary evidence to prove what impact the mining has on or wells, but that is not sufficient.

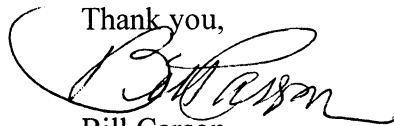
*"The natives are friendly, once you get to know them."™*

First, we are not interested in seeking possible damages we simply want to maintain our farms. Second, if we lose our water we lose the crops that sustain our farms. Third, the civil courts would be a slow and expensive means of seeking redress if that becomes necessary. Finally, and important to the Colorado River Plan, this area would be lost as an agricultural zone, with the possible result being that mining would be left as the most likely use of the land.

We would like to know what regulatory action the County has at its disposal to insure that our water supply is maintained. We are also asking that an element be added the agreement that “requires” TXI to maintain a source of water to those parties that are potentially impacted by their operations. Without this, we risk our farms, our livelihood, and the continued agricultural use of this portion of the Colorado River valley.

We would very much appreciate the opportunity for representatives from our farms to meet with you and discuss our concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Carson', with a large, sweeping flourish that loops back to the left.

Bill Carson

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