

Royce Hartmann

#E1-638
RH

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275 Cr. 341
Hondo, TX 78861

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received
2/25/04

To the Environmental Impact Study for the Southwest Gulf Railroad Finance Docket FD 34284 and to the Surface Transportation Board,

In regard to County Road 4516, as Pct. 1 Commissioner, I have the authority granted by the Texas Local Government Code to ensure that the citizens in my area are provided with the safest form of travel possible on county roads. The terrain of this road is such that travel is already hazardous in the area of the proposed SGR crossing, when shared with farm machinery, fuel trucks, school buses, and gravel trucks, etc., making grade separation for a railroad crossing mandatory to provide unimpeded traffic flow and safety.

Regarding county road 365, SGR's proposed railroad crossing of the Quihi Creek and it's floodplain at the proposed location would also suggest an elevated crossing which would not impound water, flood the roadway, or otherwise destroy neighboring resident's homes, or historic structures.

Serious consideration of an alternative route should also be given that would bypass the Cherry, Elm, and the lower portions of the Quihi Creek and their floodplains.

Regarding the no rail / all truck alternative, the DEIS should include a thorough study of the traffic patterns, the density of traffic, road condition and repair issues, etc. on all roads involved in this type of alternative. Regardless of the route chosen, or alternatives selected, the foregoing should be included in the scoping of the DEIS.

Sincerely,

Royce R. Hartmann
County Commissioner Pct. 1