Federal Aviation Administration







Final Environmental Impact Statement
SpaceX Texas Launch Site

Volume III Comments on the Draft EIS
May 2014

HQ-0092-K2

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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SPACEX TEXAS LAUNCH SITE

VOLUME III

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIS

MAY 2014

Prepared by:

Federal Aviation Administration

Office of Commercial Space Transportation

ORGANIZATION OF VOLUME III

All comments received during the Draft EIS comment period between April 19, 2013 and June 24, 2013 are included in this Volume. Comments were received from 4 Federal agencies, 3 State agencies, 7 local agencies, 5 elected officials, 24 non-governmental agencies, and 294 public individuals. Each letter, e-mail, comment form, and public hearing transcript is coded with an alpha-numeric comment number, consisting of a letter indicating group of the commenter and a number for the commenter, and is ordered in this Volume, as follows:

A agency

E elected official

N non-governmental organization, and

P public individual

The FAA assessed and considered public and agency comments on the Draft EIS both individually and collectively. The FAA categorized and grouped similar comments according the topic addressed. Summaries of the categorized comments and the FAA's responses to the comment summaries are provided in Volume II, *Appendix A Public Involvement, Section 3.0 Draft EIS Comment Responses*.

Detailed and substantive comments from agencies, elected officials, and non-governmental organizations are marked with brackets in this Volume. Each bracket indicates a distinct comment excerpt representing the comment categories summarized in Volume II, and they are coded with the Comment Summary number (i.e., from 3.1.1 through 3.25.2) provided in Volume II, Section 3 of Appendix A.

AGENCY COMMENTS

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A-01

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

June 12, 2013

Dr. George C. Nield
Associate Administrator for
Commercial Space Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave, SW
Suite 325
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Dr. Nield:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the SpaceX Texas Launch Site, Cameron County, Texas. The National Park Service, U.S. White Sands Missile Range, and the Army Corps of Engineers are cooperating agencies in the preparation of this NEPA document.

Based upon our analysis, EPA rates the DEIS as "**EO-2**" (**Environmental Objections - Request for Additional Information**). The EPA's Rating System Criteria can be found here: http://www.epa.gov/oecaerth/nepa/comments/rating.html. The "EO" rating is based on potential impacts to special aquatic sites or aquatic resources of national importance and the lack of an appropriate compensatory mitigation plan. The "2" indicates the DEIS does not contain sufficient information in the areas of air quality, mitigation, wetlands, alternatives analysis, environmental justice and tribal consultation. 3.25.1

On May 21, 2013, EPA Region 6 issued comments to the Galveston District Corps of Engineers (COE) on the Section 404 Public Notice [SWG-2012000381], dated April 23, 2013, associated with this project and initiated the Section 404(q) Dispute Resolution Process for Individual Permits with the Corps in accordance with Part IV.3(a) of the 1992 404(q) Memorandum of Agreement. EPA's comment to the Corps stated, "***the project may result in substantial and unacceptable impacts to aquatic resources of national importance and therefore EPA recommends denial of the permit, as proposed.***" We have attached with our detailed comments a copy of our May 21st letter for your consideration. 3.13.6

Under the Section 404(q) process, EPA, the Corps, FAA and the applicant are already actively engaged in dispute resolution discussions. We are hopeful this will lead to the

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development of acceptable project modifications and mitigation measures mutually agreed upon to avoid, minimize and mitigate the impacts.

EPA strongly recommends this resolution process be completed prior to the filing and release of the Final EIS for agency and public review. Once completed, the mitigation plan or lack of agreement should be documented in the FEIS. Any mitigation developed should be incorporated in the Record of Decision document. 3.13.6 (Cont.)

Detailed comments on the DEIS are enclosed with this letter which more clearly identifies EPA's concerns and the information requested for incorporation into the Final EIS (FEIS). Responses to our comments should be placed in a dedicated section of the FEIS and should specify the specific location in the FEIS where the revision, if any, was made. If no revision was made, a clear explanation should be included. 3.2.2

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the DEIS. Please send our office two copies of the FEIS, and an internet link, when it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, EPA (Mail Code 2252A), Ariel Rios Federal Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. Our classification will be published on the EPA website, www.epa.gov, according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the CAA to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rhonda Smith or Michael Jansky of my staff by e-mail at smith.rhonda@epa.gov or jansky.michael@epa.gov or by phone at 214-665-8006 or 214-665-7451, respectively, for assistance. 3.2.2

Sincerely,

Debra A. Griffin
Associate Director
Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division

Enclosure

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DETAILED COMMENTS
ON THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PREPARED BY
THE US FEDERAL AVIATION ADMISTRATION
FOR THE
SPACE X TEXAS LAUNCH SITE
LOCATED IN
CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

BACKGROUND

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST) has prepared this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the FAA/AST proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits that would allow Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) to launch the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy orbital vertical launch vehicles and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a launch site on privately owned property in Cameron County, Texas). Issuing launch licenses and experimental permits by FAA is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended Cooperating agencies include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The proposed vertical launch area is located at the eastern terminus of Boca Chica Boulevard (State Hwy 4), in a sparsely populated coastal area off the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 3 miles north of the US and Mexico border. The project site is on a 56.5 acre property which is completely undeveloped. Of the 56.5 project property, 25.43 acres are jurisdictional wetlands and 31.07 acres are sporadically vegetated sand dunes. The launch pad would occupy only 20 acres.

COMMENTS

General Comment

On the left hand side of the cover page is a visual simulation of the operational launch site that reveals some of the major factors involved in this project. The launch site is directly landward of a washover cut in the dune system along Boca Chica Beach and State Highway 4. This breach could make the launch site extremely vulnerable to storm surges and frequent flooding from tropical depressions and hurricanes from the Gulf of Mexico. The simulation reveals the unstable nature of this site with shallow groundwater persistently present immediately under the soil at 20 inches or less. Grading, piling, filling, and launching over this saturated substrate may result in an unstable foundation and potential failure of above ground structures. Construction of underground power and data lines and operation of sewage collection and treatment facilities in this drainage field could be problematic. 3.13.12

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Recommendation: Further explanation and required design mitigation should be identified and incorporated into the FEIS. 3.2.2 (Cont.)

At the proposed vertical launch site the predominant soil series is Mustang fine sand, saline. This soil type has severe limitations for septic tank absorption fields, building site development, sanitary facilities, construction materials, and water management. The physical and chemical properties of this soil type indicate that it is highly permeable, shallow to clay, and highly saline. The soil and water features indicate that this soil type is subject to frequent flooding, a seasonal high water table, and a high risk of corrosion. With a gross liftoff weight of approximately 3.5 million pounds, the Falcon Heavy may not achieve maximum liftoff in the existing unstable substrate at this location. 3.47

Recommendation: Explanation of the design features used to compensate for these impact concerns should be identified and incorporated into the Final EIS.

EPA is also concerned that stormwater runoff from filled materials, accidental rocket fuel spills, and return water from the Deluge Water System would likely result in a long-term increase in pollution in South Bay and/or the Gulf of Mexico and possibly affect the natural functions of the remaining special aquatic sites. Furthermore, a launch failure would scatter debris into the remaining special aquatic sites and/or the Gulf of Mexico. EPA is concerned drainage patterns in the project area drain into waters of the U.S., including special aquatic sites. Extensive grading and filling of this area may disrupt the natural flow and circulation of waters of the U.S. to the remaining special aquatic sites and/or the Gulf of Mexico. 3.13.2

Recommendation: These impact concerns and the required mitigation measures to avoid or minimize these potential impacts should be identified and incorporated into the Final EIS.

Corps of Engineers as Cooperating Agency

The DEIS identifies the US Army Corps of Engineers as a cooperating agency. The COE's jurisdictional responsibility lies in the issuance of a Section 404 Permit for the proposed action. According to the COE 404 Public Notice (PN), *"The Basic Project Purpose is to construct and operate an exclusive launch site on privately owned property. The project is considered to be "non-water dependent" as it does not require siting in or on a special aquatic site, such as a wetland, to meet the basic project purpose. The Overall Project Purpose is to construct and operate a vertical launch area and control center area to launch the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy orbital vertical launch vehicles and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a launch site on privately ownd property. The proposed private launch site is needed to provide SpaceX with an exclusive launch site that would allow the company to meet tight launch windows."* 3.4.6 3.13.6

Recommendation: The Final EIS should provide a more expanded and robus discussion on why other alternatives considered were eliminated. EPA agrees that the basic purpose of this project is not water dependent under the 404 (b)(1) guidelines promulgated at 40 CFR Part 230 under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). While EPA understands that SpaceX needs an exclusive launch site to meet tight launch schedules, it

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is not clear in the DEIS why FAA should approve locating the launch site in potential *aquatic resources of national importance*. EPA contends there are, for example, many spoil islands and other disturbed uplands along the GIWW in Texas and Louisiana that could potentially serve as a good base for the launch site and meet the other evaluation factors presented further in the DEIS. 3.4.6 3.13.6 (Cont.)

Alternatives/On-site Alternatives

According to the DEIS, SpaceX developed evaluation factors that were applied to SpaceX's identified potential locations for operation of the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launch vehicle program". Nine (9) evaluation factors were included for the alternatives analysis. However, none of the evaluation factors were environmental considerations. EPA believes environmental factors must be considered. For the launch area, Space X considered eight (8) more evaluation factors for two (2) possible sites. However, as state above, none of the evaluation factors were environmental considerations. Environmental factors must be considered. 3.4.6

Recommendation: FAA should include in the FEIS environmental considerations or site selection such as avoidance of significant impacts to special aquatic sites that are tidally influenced. This is particularly important because of severe soil limitations. FAA should also develop factors that would evaluate site selection not contiguous to or near critical habitat for threatened or endangered species.

Wetlands/Floodplains/Vegetation

This section of the DEIS identifies a total of 25.43 acres of wetlands present at the vertical launch area (Exhibit 3.7-4) and 0.04 acre of wetlands on Parcel 3 of the control center area (Exhibit 3.7-5). The Jurisdictional Wetland Determination report (Appendix F) divides the wetlands into depressional areas, high marsh areas, and unvegetated salt flats. Based on the March 7, 2013 site visit, EPA staff documented tidal flats and wetlands present in the vertical launch area. The vegetated wetlands are very diverse within the site. Low depressional areas are dominated by *Monanthachloe littoralis, Salicornia virginica, Borrichia frutescens, Batis maritima, and Sporobolus virginicus.* Backdune wetlands are dominated by *Distichlis spicata, Borrichia frutescens, Rayjacksonia phyllocephala, and Sesuvium portulacastrum.* 3.13.7

From Appendix F, Page 12 "Additionally, three small unvegetated depressional features were identified in the northwestern portion of the site". Based on the site visit, portions of these depressional areas appear to be algal depressions. The vertical launch and the control center areas are located entirely within the 100-year floodplain (Exhibit 3.7-8). The DEIS states that the 56.5 acre launch site consists of 25.43 acres of emergent and shrub scrub wetlands and sand flats. Approximately 31.1 acres are uplands. 3.4.6

Recommendation: The FAA should develop a more robus alternative analysis explaining why other alternatives sites considered were eliminated.

Construction, Wetlands

"The construction of the vertical launch and control center areas would result in the permanent impact of 6.19 acres of wetlands: approximately 3.34 acres of direct impacts to 3.13.8

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wetlands and 2.85 acres of indirect impacts to wetlands. The breakdown of these impacts is as follows. At the vertical launch area, approximately 3.30 acres of wetland impacts consisting of 0.7 acre of unvegetated depressional wetlands and unvegetated wetland salt flats (E2US2) and 2.60 acres of vegetated wetlands (E2SS3 and E2EM1) (Table 4.7-1 and Exhibit 4.7-1) would be impacted."

"In addition, the construction of buildings and roads at the vertical launch area would effectively cut off the tidal influence to 2.85 acres of wetland. These indirect wetland impacts are comprised of 2.54 acres of high marsh vegetated wetlands and 0.31 acre of unvegetated wetland salt flats (Table 4.7-1 and Exhibit 4.7-3)". "Additionally, in accordance with the DOT Order 5660.1A, the FAA has determined there is no practicable alternative to such construction (refer to Section 2.3, *Alternatives Considered but Not Carried Forward*), and the Proposed Action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands which may result from construction (see Section 2.3.1, *SpaceX On-Site Alternatives*)". 3.13.8 (Cont.)

Recommendation: The FAA should consider adding environmental evaluation factors in Section 2 for site selection.

Operation, Groundwater

Deluge Water System: "As described in Section 2.1.2, *Construction Activities*, a deluge water system consisting of one 250,000-gal water tower would be installed at the vertical launch area for sound and vibration suppression. Up to 200,000 gal would be discharged during a launch event, and up to 12 launch events would be scheduled per year, resulting in a total deluge water system use of 2,400,000 gal per year (gpy) (7.37 afy). A well located adjacent to the water tower, and drilled into a highly transmissive (i.e., yielding relatively large water quantities) portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer (the Chicot Aquifer) would provide all deluge water at an average well pumping rate of 4.6 gpm." 3.13.2

Recommendation: In the FEIS, the FAA should evaluate the effect of return water from the Deluge Water System into special aquatic sites and measures taken to avoid or minimize impacts. Design features to avoid or minimize these potential impacts should be identified and incorporated into the FEIS.

Mitigation and Special Conservation Measures

The DEIS explains that, "*If a Department of the Army permit is authorized, it would be conditioned to require compensatory mitigation to offset the loss of function to waters of the U.S. resulting from the Proposed Action. Currently, SpaceX's compensatory mitigation plan proposes to preserve in-kind, high-quality wetlands at a ratio of five times the amount of wetlands impacted by the Proposed Action. The mitigation site would either be conveyed to a State or Federal natural resource agency or held by a third-party in a perpetual conservation easement.*" 3.13.8

Recommendation: For compensatory mitigation, EPA prefers restoration in combination with preservation of former wetlands or the creation of new wetlands with permanent

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protection. For example: In-kind compensatory mitigation in the form of restoration or enhancement and long term protection at other sites in the watershed may be preferable to sole preservation and may result in a net gain of wetland functions. In addition to the direct loss of wetland functions, EPA is concerned with potential secondary adverse impacts to water quality and natural ecological functions by construction of this project in wetlands. 3.13.8 (Cont.)

EPA is also concerned that all impacts to adjacent special aquatic sites, including wetlands, may have not been identified at the proposed sites. EPA believes that adjacent flats and wetlands at the launch site could be adversely affected by the project. 3.13.9

Recommendation: EPA recommends that these impacts be considered in compensatory mitigation for all anticipated secondary impacts to waters of the U.S.

Air Quality

Mitigation Measures to Reduce Potential Air Quality Impacts-Table ES.8-1 (pg. ES-23): This section of the DEIS states that project emissions from ground disturbance, use of equipment, coatings application, or other construction activities will be addressed with appropriate best management practices (BMPs) such as minimal idling of engines, watering of soils to be disturbed, water and dust abatement applied to dirt roads, use of low volatility coatings, and other recognized controls. In addition to these BMPs and all applicable local, state, or federal requirements, the EPA believes additional mitigation measures be included in a construction emissions mitigation plan.

Recommendation: EPA suggest the following control measures be included in the FEIS to reduce air quality impacts associated with emissions of Nitrous Oxides (NOx), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Particulate Matter (PM), Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2), and other pollutants from construction-related activities:

Fugitive Dust Source Controls: 3.12.1

- Install wind fencing and phase grading operations where appropriate, and operate water trucks for stabilization of surfaces under windy conditions; and
- Prevent spillage when hauling material and operating non-earthmoving equipment and limit speeds to 15 miles per hour. Limit speed of earth-moving equipment to 10 mph.

Mobile and Stationary Source Controls:

- Plan construction scheduling to minimize vehicle trips;
- Verify idling restrictions through unscheduled inspections;
- Maintain and tune engines per manufacturer's specifications to perform at EPA certification levels, prevent tampering, and conduct unscheduled inspections to ensure these measures are followed;
- If practicable, utilize new, clean equipment meeting the most stringent of applicable Federal or State Standards. In general, commit to the best available emissions control

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technology. Tier 4 engines should be used for project construction equipment to the maximum extent feasible;

- Lacking availability of non-road construction equipment that meets Tier 4 engine standards, the responsible agency should commit to using EPA-verified particulate traps, oxidation catalysts and other appropriate controls where suitable to reduce emissions of diesel particulate matter and other pollutants at the construction site; and
- Consider alternative fuels and energy sources such as natural gas and electricity (plug-in or battery). 3.12.1 (Cont.)

Administrative controls:

- Prepare an inventory of all equipment prior to construction and identify the suitability of add-on emission controls for each piece of equipment before groundbreaking;
- Develop a construction traffic and parking management plan that maintains traffic flow and plan construction to minimize vehicle trips; and
- Identify sensitive receptors in the project area, such as children, elderly, and infirmed, and specify the means by which impacts to these populations will be minimized (e.g. locate construction equipment and staging zones away from sensitive receptors and building air intakes).

Environmental Justice

Construction of the vertical launch area would result in changes to the view shed from State Highway 4 and could have potentially significant visual impacts. However, this would affect all viewers equally and would not result in disproportionate impacts to environmental justice populations. Construction of the control center area would have potentially greater negative impacts on residents of Boca Chica Village. While this residential community is not considered a minority population, low income data are not available. Construction would have some unavoidable minor impacts associated with other resource areas. These impacts would be minimized following all appropriate FAA, OSHA, DOT, and state requirements and guidelines, and would not be considered environmental justice impacts. 3.17.1

Recommendation: FAA should consider that minority and low income workers would be attracted to job opportunities in the area. Most likely the pool of applicants would be transient workers who might be disproportionately impacted by construction activities associated with the proposed project.

Tribal Resources

The United States has a unique legal relationship with federally-recognized tribes based on the Constitution, treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, and court decisions. Specific duties of federal agencies related to consultation with tribal governments are set forth in Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249; November 9, 2000) http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2000-11-09/pdf/00-29003.pdf, the Presidential Memo of November 5, 2009, http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/memorandum-tribal-consultation-signed-president, and the July 30, 2010, OMB guidance for implementing the Presidential Memo http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2010/m1033.pdf. 3.11.8

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Although the DEIS indicates that Tribes were identified and contacted during the scoping phase of the DEIS; however, E.O. 13175 is not referenced and it is not clear whether government-to-government consultation occurred. Coordination regarding NHPA and cultural resources occurred (Section 3.5.5.4). Consultation efforts need to be document in the Final EIS.

Recommendation: EPA requests that the FEIS provide the following information to document and confirm that:

1) potentially affected Tribes, tribal resources and citizens were identified, and

2) appropriate contact was made with the Tribal officials of potentially affected Tribes (beyond the narrow context of working with THPOs or SHPOs on issues related to historic properties (National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)), or

3) that the agency otherwise concluded that there were not tribes or tribal resources that would be affected and there was no need for such contact or consultation.

3.11.8 (Cont.)

Indirect/Cumulative/Secondary Wetland Impacts

In addition to the direct loss of wetland functions, EPA is concerned with potential secondary adverse impact to water quality and natural ecological functions by construction of this project in wetlands. EPA believes that all impacts to adjacent special aquatic sites, including wetlands have not been fully identified at the proposed site. The adjacent flats and wetlands at the launch site would be adversely affected by the project and should be considered in compensatory mitigation for all anticipated secondary and indirect impacts to waters of the U.S.

3.13.9

We are also concerned with the cumulative loss and future degradation of special aquatic sites, including wetlands form the proposed project. The proposed project impacts, when viewed in light of the total number of projects proposed and/or reasonably within this portion of the watershed may have a significant impact on aquatic resources in this region.

3.13.13

Recommendation: Under the 404 (q) MOA process, EPA has the option to elevate the permit decision to a higher level of further review. At this time, Region 6 believes resolution can be accomplished with the COE at the lowest level. We believe suitable modifications to the proposed alternative with appropriate compensatory mitigation are possible. We ask that FAA work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and our agency to find a suitable location to enhance or restore wetlands for compensatory mitigation making the proposed plan the least damaging alternative and suitable for implementation.

Attachments:

1) EPA R6 May 21, 2013 Comments on the Section 404 Public Notice [SWG-2012000381]

2) Section 404(q) Dispute Resolution Process for Individual Permits

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

MAY 21 2013

Mr. Casey Cutler
Acting Chief, Regulatory Branch, CESWG-PE-R
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Mr. Cutler:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, has reviewed the Public Notice (PN) SWG-2012-00381, dated April 23, 2012. The following comments were prepared under the authority of, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Federal Guidelines (Guidelines) promulgated at 40 CFR Part 230 under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The applicant, Space Exploration Technologies (Space X), is proposing to construct and operate private facilities to conduc launches of the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy orbital vertical launch vehicles and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles on privately owned land in Cameron County, Texas.

According to the PN, Space X would require two sites: the vertical launch area and the control center area and utility connections. All construction staging areas would occur within the proposed project boundaries and no additional staging areas are required. The 56.5 acre vertical launch site is located immediately adjacent to the eastern terminus of State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard), immediately south of Brazos State Park, approximately five miles south of Port Isabel and South Padre Island and eighteen miles east of Brownsville, and approximately three miles north of the U.S./Mexico border on the Gulf of Mexico.

The PN states that development of the vertical launch area at this location would affect 20 acres of the 56.5 acre property. The 20 acres would be fenced and the rest of the property would remain open space. Construction of the 20 acres would involve grading of sand dunes and filling and raising land levels high enough to avoid frequent flooding. As a result most of the land area inside the proposed fences(20 acres) would be disturbed. However, the PN does not state how many acres of waters of the U.S., including wetlands would be filled or disturbed. The DEIS states that approximately 6.19 acres of wetlands would be directly or indirectly impacted.

EPA has made two site visits to this area and finds that this area is a very remote high quality tidally influenced system that is relatively undisturbed. EPA has coordinated with other state and federal resource agencies and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) concerning this case. EPA staff attended the public hearings on May 7, 2013, in Brownsville, Texas and informed the applicant that the USACE must determine that the proposed discharge complies with provisions of the guidelines prior to authorization of an individual CWA Section 404 permit.

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In addition to the direct loss of wetland functions, EPA is concerned with potential secondary adverse impacts to water quality and natural ecological functions by construction of this project in wetlands. It appears that all impacts to adjacent special aquatic sites, including wetlands have not been identified at the proposed sites. The adjacent flats and wetlands at the launch site would be adversely affected by the project and should be considered in compensatory mitigation for all anticipated secondary impacts to waters of the U.S.

We are also concerned with the cumulative loss and further degradation of special aquatic sites, including wetlands from the proposed project. The proposed project impacts, when viewed in light of the total number of projects proposed and/or reasonably foreseeable within this portion of the watershed, may have a significant impact on aquatic resources in this region.

Under Part IV.3 (a) of the 1992 404 (q) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), it is the opinion of EPA that the project may result in substantial and unacceptable impacts to aquatic resources of national importance. Therefore, we recommend denial of the permit, as proposed.

If you have any questions regarding our position in this case, please contact Jim Herrington of my staff at 254-770-6595.

Sincerely yours,

Jane B. Watson

Jane B. Watson, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Ecosystems Protection Branch

cc: Pat Clements, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Corpus Christi, TX
Heather Young, NMFS, Galveston, TX
TCEQ, Austin, TX
Jackie Robinson, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Corpus Christi, TX

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Section 404(q) Dispute Resolution Process for Individual Permits

EPA "May Affect" Letter
(within the Comment Period for the Public Notice)

EPA Region must notify Corps District Engineer by letter that the project may result in substantial and unacceptable impacts to Aquatic Resources of National Importance (ARNIs).

EPA "Will Affect" Letter
(within 25 days of the end of the Public Notice comment period)

If the issues raised in the "may affect" letter remain unresolved, the Region issues a letter stating that the project will have substantial and unacceptable impacts to an ARNI. The "will affect" letter must be signed by the EPA Regional Administrator.

Notice of Intent to Proceed
(within 5 calendar days prior to the issuance of a permit)

The Corps District Engineer notifies EPA Regional Administrator if the Corps intends to issue the permit contrary to EPA's recommendations in the "will affect" letter. The Corps must provide the EPA Region with a copy of the draft permit and decision document.

Case Elevation
(within 15 calendar days from receipt of the notice of intent to proceed)

The EPA Regional Administrator must decide whether to request Headquarters to seek Department of the Army level review of the District's permit decision, and subsequently notifies the Corps District of this decision. The permit is held in abeyance pending Headquarters review.

Review of Corps Decision
(within 20 calendar days of receiving the EPA Regional Administrator's request for elevation)

The EPA Assistant Administrator decides whether to seek higher level review of the District's permit decision by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works).

Army Review
(within 30 calendar days from the EPA Assistant Administrator's request for review)

EPA Headquarters case elevation is reviewed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). The Assistant Secretary may either inform the District Engineer to proceed with the permit, proceed with the permit in accordance with policy guidance specific to the case, or make a final permit decision. The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) must notify the EPA Assistant Administrator immediately of his/her decision.

Section 404(c) "Veto Process"
(within 10 calendar days from Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) decision)

If the Assistant Secretary decides to proceed with the issuance of the permit over EPA's objections, EPA decides whether to initiate a Section 404(c) "veto" action.

Section 404(q) Case Statistics

EPA has requested higher level of review by the Department of Army on 11 permit cases under the 1992 404(q) MOA as of January 2011, a modest number in light of the fact that the Corps processes approximately 60,000 permit actions per year.[1] Eight (8) additional permit cases were elevated to EPA Headquarters by an EPA regional office, but were resolved with the Department of Army before a final elevation package was transmitted.

[1] Source: Corps permit data 1988-2010, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters, Regulatory Branch.



Selected References

EPA Clean Water Act Section 404(q) Dispute Resolution Process Factsheet:
http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/outreach/upload/404q.pdf

1992 Section 404(q) Memorandum of Agreement:
http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/wetlands/dispmoa.cfm or
http://www.nace.army.mil/CECW/Documents/cecwo/reg/nacmoa_epa404q.pdf

EPA Wetlands Division website:
http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/index.cfm

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters Regulatory website:
http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/Pages/cecwo_reg.aspx

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
1001 Indian School Road NW, Suite 348
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

ER 13/240
File 9043.1

June 3, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Stacey M. Zee
Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Aviation Administration
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

The U.S. Department of the Interior is providing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed SpaceX Texas Launch Site, Cameron County, Texas. Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) proposes to construct and operate a vertical launch area and control center on private property at Boca Chica, Cameron County, Texas. The DEIS analyzes the effects of the issuance of launch licenses and/or experimental permits by the Federal Aviation Administration for the Proposed SpaceX facility.

On February 4, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided comments on the Preliminary DEIS and the FAA responded by letter dated May 2, 2013. On May 7, 2013, FWS participated in an interagency meeting hosted by FAA and SpaceX in Brownsville, Texas. Additionally, by letter dated April 29, 2013, FWS initiated formal section 7 consultation, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) with FAA for the proposed SpaceX facility, construction, and operation. The Biological Opinion will be provided in a separate letter to FAA. 3.1.1

The National Park Service appreciates serving as a cooperating agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. NPS is concerned about the potential effects of SpaceX to the Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic Landmark (NHL) and Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park (NHP). The NPS also encloses a cooperating agency comments matrix for review (Enclosure).

We provide general and specific comments on the DEIS, including the impact of the proposed project on federally-listed threatened and endangered species.

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General Comments from FWS

The DEIS alternatives analysis does not appear to consider impacts to fish and wildlife resources to evaluate the merits of one alternative over another. We cannot comment on possibly less environmentally damaging alternatives as the alternatives carried forward were to build at Boca Chica or no action (not to build). Therefore, we are providing comments and recommendations on the SpaceX project which would result in a less environmentally damaging alternative than presented in the DEIS. 3.4.6

As the DEIS states, FWS will also have the opportunity to provide project specific comments and recommendations on the effects to trust resources and potential measures to mitigate those impacts as plans and reports are developed for the construction and operation of SpaceX. The plans and reports the Department looks forward to reviewing include: 3.22.1

- the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan,
- a Memorandum of Agreement with NPS addressing the effects of the project on NPS properties (Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic Landmark and viewshed),
- a lighting plan for the SpaceX facilities, including effects to nesting sea turtles and migratory birds,
- the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan,
- a catastrophic launch failure response plan,
- a security plan for the designated closure area before, during, and after launch events, including measures to avoid impacts to wildlife, nesting birds, and federally-listed species such as piping plovers, sea turtles, Northern aplomado falcons, and ocelots,
- a hurricane planning and response plan,
- a facility closure and site restoration plan, and
- long-term wildlife monitoring plan for the life of the project for the Northern aplomado falcon, piping plover, sea turtles, and migratory birds.

With regard to the layout and design of the proposed security, launch, and control center facilities, we have the following recommendations. As noted in previous comments to FAA and SpaceX, and discussed at the May 7, 2013, interagency meeting, we are concerned about the direct and indirect effects of the launch-viewing public on National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) lands, NPS lands, State-owned property, and the currently undeveloped private property holdings along, and to the north and south of, State Highway 4 (SH 4) from Farm-to-Market Road 1419 (FM 1419) to the currently proposed Soft Checkpoint near Massey Way Street. Although recommended by FWS and others, no public viewing area with parking and other necessary amenities, is proposed in the DEIS. Without a designated viewing area, we are concerned visitors would park along SH 4 which, because of its narrow maintained right of way, would be unsafe for viewers and other traffic along SH 4 during a launch event. It is also possible vehicles would seek to access viewing locations off of SH 4, on property owned or managed by the NWR or NPS. Vehicles driving off-road would damage the landscape, including sensitive tidal flats, and areas used by federally-listed species, such as Northern aplomado falcons, piping plovers, and ocelots. Therefore, we recommend, as was agreed to during our last site visit, that the security checkpoint, identified as the Soft Checkpoint, be relocated to an area near FM 1419, west of the existing U.S. Customs and Border Patrol station. This will considerably reduce the potential for adverse impacts to NWR lands and sensitive habitats including habitat for federally-listed species. 3.14.1

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Although a specific design for the proposed facilities of SpaceX has not yet been determined, the DEIS identifies and describes a potential footprint for the project facility components. Both in the DEIS and Appendix D, the expected decibels produced by a launch event and their effects on humans is discussed in depth. The effects of sound on wildlife near the site during a launch event is referenced in Chapter 4, but not the consequences to wildlife immediately adjacent to the site during a launch event, including long-term consequences for wildlife that might be hazed from their natural habitat by the operation of SpaceX. Therefore, we recommend monitoring the short- and long-term effects of explosive sound produced during a launch to fully understand and assess the impacts of the facility on wildlife. 3.14.2

Within the 56.5-acre launch site, 25.43 acres of jurisdictional waters and wetlands have been delineated. The DEIS states that, within the 20-acre fenced launch site facility, 3.34 acres of the jurisdictional area would be directly impacted and 2.85 acres would be indirectly impacted. Although not explicitly stated, as illustrated in Exhibit 4.7-1 and 4.7-3, there are additional jurisdictional areas which would be avoided within the fenced 20-acre launch site. No acreage is given for these avoided areas. This additional acreage will also be impacted because inside the fence, a perimeter security access road is proposed to be constructed. Also, the fill used to construct the roadway is likely to alter the drainage from the site, and could, along with the fence, stimulate the growth of vegetation in what is currently an unvegetated tidal flat. We recommend all of the jurisdictional waters and wetlands within the 20-acre launch site be included as directly or indirectly impacted, and a mitigation plan be developed for these areas. Also, we recommend the tidal areas not directly impacted by fill be included as part of a long-term monitoring plan to determine the effects of a launch event on avian and other wildlife using these areas. 3.13.3

If rain and runoff from the hangar-to-pad access road pool between the two roads, the area could attract increased numbers of birds to the site. Even if the security access road is constructed in a manner that preserves the current state of the wetlands, because of the presence of the fence, wildlife will no longer be able to use these areas. Shorebirds particularly will be affected as most of these species tend to move from site to site flying low to the ground. The fence would inhibit their normal behavior. 3.14.3

The compensatory mitigation proposal in Chapter 6 of the DEIS for wetland impacts is preservation in-kind with high-quality wetlands at a 5:1 ratio. Although FWS does not oppose the use of preservation for compensatory mitigation, we support the goal of no-net-loss of wetlands, which can only be achieved with wetland creation, restoration, or enhancement. Additionally, an area proposed to be used for preservation, should, as outlined in the 2008 Mitigation Rule, "provide important physical, chemical, or biological functions for the watershed; contribute significantly to the ecological sustainability of the watershed; and is under threat of destruction or adverse modifications. Also, where preservation is used to provide compensatory mitigation, to the extent appropriate and practicable, the preservation shall be done in conjunction with aquatic resource restoration, establishment, and/or enhancement activities." Additional coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the resource agencies is needed to identify appropriate compensatory mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional waters and wetlands once the total impact has been calculated. 3.13.4

In addition to the direct and indirect impacts to jurisdictional areas from the construction of SpaceX, we are concerned about long-term effects of facility operation on vegetation 3.14.4

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communities in the project's region of influence. Tidal flats within the launch site and extending south of the fenced area could begin to vegetate depending on the measures used by SpaceX to manage runoff from the hard structures at the site following rain events and other aspects of day to day operations. The tidal flats on the south side of the project area are part of Piping Plover Critical Habitat Unit (CHU) TX-1. We recommend this area be included in a long-term vegetation monitoring plan. Additionally, Chapter 2 of the DEIS discusses the use of a water deluge for sound and vibration suppression during a launch event. From the water tower, 50,000 to 200,000 gallons would be discharged and approximately half of the discharged water would be vaporized. During most of the year, the predominant winds would push the vapor cloud northwest across predominantly unvegetated areas of the South Bay system, which is also included in CHU TX-1. The DEIS does not explore the effects of 25,000 to 100,000 gallons of water vapor, per launch event, on the landscape in the already humid South Texas. Therefore, we recommend this and other areas which could be affected by the vapor cloud be monitored for changes in vegetation as a result of the SpaceX Texas operation. 3.14.4 (Cont.)

General Comments from NPS

Noise and Visual Effects

With regard to noise, we are primarily interested in potential effects to the NHL from SpaceX, as opposed to the NHP, because of its proximity to the launch area. We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Preliminary DEIS, but it appears mitigation measures related to noise have been removed from this version of the DEIS. For example, mitigation measures for noise impacts from the Preliminary DEIS, such as the early and two-way coordination of launches, would be instrumental in minimizing impacts to the soundscape but appear to have been removed from the DEIS. In addition, we recommend the DEIS provide more detail from noise-related mitigation measures. The flame trench for the rocket may be a useful mitigation measure for nearby, close-in noise effects, but more specifics may be needed to ensure the effectiveness. Therefore, we recommend a more detailed Closure Plan to provide the requested details. 3.11.2 3.11.1

The towers and associated structures proposed would have adverse visual effects on the NHL and NHP. We look forward to addressing mitigation measures to minimize visual impacts with SpaceX via the Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement and the Lighting Plan. We assume these documents will address the differences in lighting for nighttime launch conditions versus regular lighting conditions. 3.11.1

Cumulative Effects

We recommend defining the geographic and temporal boundaries of the cumulative analysis in the DEIS and verify all appropriate actions are described in the cumulative scenario. It appears the geographic boundary of the scope is on a localized-regional basis, which seems more appropriate than a ground-disturbing (localized) basis, particularly considering the potential visual and noise effects. However, this is not clearly stated in the DEIS. Once the geographical and temporal scope of the cumulative analysis is identified, it would be helpful to determine relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that fall within the scope. We are aware of a few projects that do not appear in the cumulative effects section such as the North Edinburg-Loma Alta 345 kilovolt transmission line, the Tenaska power plant, the 550 Toll Road, and proposed industrial parks. There may be other projects that should be included as well. 3.21.1

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Section 4(f) Properties
As currently described, the proposed action would adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL, a Section 4(f) property, and may result in temporary occupancy and constructive use of this property. For example, if the NHL is closed during launch hours, this could constitute temporary occupancy of the NHL. Constructive use of the NHL may result in the long-term visual and short-term noise impacts. In addition, secondary impacts resulting from public visitation to the launches may also adversely affect the NHL due to the potential for off-road driving, campfires/campsites, and looting. Therefore, we recommend further consultation with SpaceX to ensure all feasible and prudent alternatives have been analyzed and all possible measures to minimize harm to the NHL are considered. After further consultation to address these concerns, we are amenable to revisit our concurrence with the Section 4 (f) property determination. Please refer to the letter dated April 18, 2013, regarding more specific Section 4(f) comments. 3.8.1

We look forward to working with SpaceX on the development of a Memorandum of Agreement to mitigate adverse effects to historic properties, as well as being involved with other related "mitigation plans," such as the Closure Plan, Lighting Plan, and Hurricane Plan. 3.11.1

Specific Comments

Specific comments from the FWS are focused on the Comment Matrix Table provided with the May 2, 2013, FAA response to our previous comments.

ES-8, Table 6-1, under Compatible Land Use: For Operations: We reiterate our concern that closures and activities associated with the launch will have significant impacts to the management of surrounding NWR, NPS, and State Park lands, migratory birds, other coastal species, wetlands, floodplain, and viewshed to the Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL. The FAA response indicated the text had been revised; however, we are unsure as to where this change was made in the DEIS. 3.8.1

ES-8, Table 6-1, under Section 4(f) properties: FAA's letter dated March 21, 2013, requested FWS's concurrence with a "no objection" Section 4(f) property determination. On April 19, 2013, our response was we could not concur with the determination because FAA only describes closure times associated with launch events and potential effects on NWR visitors and programs. Although visitors and programs are important and an avenue for the NWR system to share its work with the public, the mission of the NWR system is the conservation of wildlife and plant resources and their habitats now and for future generations. We are concerned for NWR land and wildlife and recommend these impacts be addressed. No information is provided regarding the security operations (helicopter, ATVs, and vehicle sweeps) of the 3-mile radius closure area. We also recommend consideration of the effects of the public on NWR property around the proposed soft point closure for launch viewing and the effects low flying aircraft would have on wildlife, especially nesting migratory birds and nesting Northern aplomado falcons. Flushing of animals from nesting and roosting sites could be harmful and potentially lethal to animals and their young in the limited habitat and in the intense South Texas heat. FAA states coordination with applicable land-managing agencies is ongoing; but we would like to continue discussions and reviews of appropriate plans that address security, litter clean up, and/or monitoring in an effort to resolve our concerns prior to the finalization of the EIS. 3.8.1, 3.14.5, 3.11.1

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ES-11, Table 6-1, Biological Resources (Including Fish, Wildlife, and Plants, under Operations): As previously commented, we do not agree with the no significant impacts assessment for this category, particularly with regard to operations of the proposed facility. Our concerns were based on the need for a designated launch-watching site for the public because of the human safety issues, potential wildlife mortality, and damage to NWR lands if spectators were to utilize the narrow shoulders of SH 4 for parking. We noted the statement added to Section 2.1.1.6, "SpaceX would coordinate with Cameron County, the City of Brownsville, USFWS-Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, NPS, TPWD, TGLO and TxDOT to identify a safe location on private land along State Highway 4, before the Massy Way soft checkpoint, for the public to view a launch event." As discussed and tentatively agreed upon, we recommend the soft checkpoint be located just west of the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol checkpoint station to avoid impacts on NWR and NPS lands. We prefer to coordinate, review, and comment on the closure plan prior to finalization of the EIS. 3.14.1

ES-18, Table 8.1 Noise: We recommended developing and implementing a monitoring plan to assess the impacts of a launch event on wildlife, particularly nesting avian species and sea turtles. FAA has proposed monitoring before and after launches, but no rigorous study to assess noise impacts. Therefore, we recommend this be addressed in the monitoring plans being developed. 3.14.2

ES-18 Table ES.8.1 Compatible Land Use: Sea turtle nesting season begins March 15th and ends October 1st of each year. The beaches are patrolled yearly during this time to locate sea turtle nests. If located, the nesting sea turtle is examined, tagged, and released and the eggs are excavated and transported to an incubation facility or corral on South Padre Island. Therefore, text was added to Section 2.1.1.6, "After the launch, SpaceX and the FAA would notify law enforcement when the area has been deemed safe. Individuals needing to conduct nesting sea turtle beach patrols (Sea Turtle Inc.) would be given one hour to check the beach for sea turtle nests prior to the beach being re-opened for the general public. After completion of the sea turtle patrols, the checkpoints would be raised and the area would be re-opened for the public." However, due to funding, Sea Turtle, Inc. only patrols during the peak nesting season from April 1st to July 15th. Other entities that have undergone section 7 consultation for activities performed on a section of beach are responsible for ensuring that portion of beach is patrolled daily throughout the entire season. If SpaceX chooses to hire their own sea turtle patrollers, they must be certified by completing a training course, specifically for performing patrols, taught by either Donna Shaver, Sea Turtle Coordinator at Padre Island National Seashore, or Sea Turtle, Inc. SpaceX also has the option of entering into an agreement with Sea Turtle, Inc. or another approved and certified entity to cover the months Sea Turtle, Inc. cannot perform patrols. Patrollers should sweep the beach prior to the 15-hour closure and reopening of the beach to the public after a launch. One hour to perform those patrols may not be sufficient, as the proposed beach area to be closed is approximately 7 miles in length. Under normal circumstances, if Sea Turtle, Inc. is on the beach at the closure site, the patrol may take approximately 45 minutes to an hour. However, if they are not, they must be given additional time to arrive from South Padre Island. Additional time may also be required if a sea turtle is found actively nesting or to locate, remove, and transport eggs off the beach if located during either the first or second sweep. SpaceX also states there will be only one night launch per year. We recommend the night launch not occur during sea turtle nesting season and SpaceX provide a plan/protocol to address these issues and provide them to FWS for review prior to finalizing the EIS. 3.14.6

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ES-20, Table 8.1 Biological Resources, and Wildlife: We are concerned with potential ocelot and/or other wildlife mortality along SH 4 if speeds are not reduced. In Section 6.7 of the DEIS, SpaceX addresses reduced speeds and states, "SpaceX employees and contractors would be educated on potential for vehicle collisions with wildlife, particularly ocelots and jaguarundis. SpaceX employees would then be mandated with strict internal repercussions, to reduce their speeds along State Highway 4 between the proposed vertical launch and control center areas…observe speed limits not to exceed 25 miles per hour." The statement applies to employees and contractors and the area between the vertical launch and control center. However, as discussed in the May 7, 2013, agency meeting, it is important delivery drivers or others who are not employees or formally under contract, also adhere to the enforcement terms. The required education also needs to make clear that ocelot/jaguarundi habitat is located along both sides of SH 4 between FM 511 and the launch facilities and much of the area is NWR-managed lands. SpaceX stated during the meeting that no one is allowed to do business with them until they have signed off on a safety package of information. We recommend this information be included in the Final DEIS. If traffic requires future improvements to SH 4, a long-term strategy should involve coordination with FWS to design and install speed deterrents(bumps or dips) along with functional wildlife crossing structures under elevated road sections with fencing to funnel animals through the crossing (similar to Texas Department of Transportation structures in other areas of South Texas). — 3.14.7

ES-21, Table 8.1 Mitigation Measures and SCMs to Reduce Potential Impacts from the Proposed Action, under Biological Resources (Including Fish, Wildlife, and Plants, Under Wildlife 1): SpaceX stated a wildlife monitoring plan will be prepared and include federally-listed and candidate species as well as migratory birds. The plan will be provided to FWS for review and comment before construction or operations. We recommend pre-, during- and post- construction monitoring be conducted by experienced, qualified biologists following the latest interim survey methodology and surveyor qualifications. In the lower Rio Grande Valley, while nesting could occur from February through August, surveys for Northern aplomado falcons should be conducted year-round. If aplomado falcons are detected, FWS should be contacted for further guidance. Nests or birds should not be approached to avoid undue disturbance. We also recommend FWS review of the plan prior to finalization of the EIS. — 3.22.1

Chapter 3-66 Northern Aplomado Falcon: We have recently been informed The Peregrine Fund plans to construct more hack sites and to release Northern aplomado falcons this year (Fiscal Year 13) and next year (Fiscal Year 14) in the Boca Chica area within the project area. To lessen potential future impacts, we recommend SpaceX coordinate with The Peregrine Fund regarding these efforts. — 3.14.8

Chapter 3-66, Ocelot, line 35-36 states: "The action area does not contain quality habitat for the ocelot." Given the area and the magnitude of the project, it is likely to affect ocelot use of the area. However, it appears the scope of the project and its effects on federally-listed species, such as the ocelot, are underrepresented because the assessment only covers impacts of the two construction areas. The assessment does not include disturbance of the closure areas by ATVs, vehicles, and helicopters each month SpaceX is in operation. The assessment also does not include a discussion of increased vehicle strikes due to traffic intensification on SH 4 because of weekly deliveries to the Launch Vertical Area, construction workers, and public attendance to launch event evaluations. The collared ocelot of 1998 used the lomas, or vegetated knolls, on both sides of SH 4 and traversed back and forth several times across SH 4, so there is the — 3.14.8

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potential for ocelot fatalities from vehicle collisions. SpaceX should take into account all of the potential impacts, disturbance, and associated development of the area covering the entire potential habitat for this (as well as other) listed species. For the ocelot, this includes an area from east of Brownsville near the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol checkpoint to the project site where habitat exists and lomas could be used as they travel across the road (north-south). This is also an important area for jaguarundi conservation. We are currently working with Mexican federal agencies to establish an international coastal wildlife corridor between Laguna Atascosa NWR, and the Sister Natural Protected Area Laguna Madre, to link jaguarundi and ocelot habitat. We note the revised text to reflect the areas do not have suitable "denning" habitat. — 3.14.8 (Cont.)

Chapter 3-66, Jaguarundi, ine 7-8 states: "The action area has very little shrub cover, and therefore does not contain quality habitat for the jaguarundi." Please see our previous comments for the ocelot. We noted your revised text regarding the statement that jaguarundis are "primarily diurnal" and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for night travel will be addressed in the proposed Closure Plan as well as Lighting Management Plan. — 3.14.8

Chapter 4-10, under Coastal Resources: "South Bay" is described as the lower extension of the Lower Laguna Madre, and in the "action area." However, there is no discussion of sea grasses and marine organisms (oyster beds, marine fish) in this important recreational fishing and ecologically sensitive area. An excerpt from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website states the following about South Bay: Breeding/Nursery Area: Submergent vegetation is reported near the mouth of the bay. Extensive algal flats constitute a significant portion of the southern end of South Bay and are an essential part of the organic production and fertility of South Bay. The Bay supports 41 species of finfish and 9 different species of shellfish. The largest eastern oyster population south of Aransas Bay occurs in South Bay Preserve. The DEIS also mentions impacts to seagrass from boat activities during launch activities. It is unclear if impacts would be from SpaceX security boats performing sweeps or public boats. — 3.14.9

Chapter 4-12, line 33 to 34: We do not agree monthly closures are an unsubstantial lessening of use or enjoyment. Monthly closures will impact the public's ability to access public lands for the enjoyment of hunting, fishing, ecotourism, and recreational access to the beach. Closures will also impact monitoring and management of nesting sea turtles; bird surveys including Northern aplomado falcons, piping plovers; and other management operations. — 3.8.1

Chapter 4-35, under 4.6.1.2.: Operations, line 22-23 state: "It is anticipated that the generators be used continuously for the final 48-hours prior to launch." Generators should have "sound abatement" baffles or "hospital mufflers" installed to reduce noise levels while in operation. — 3.9.1

Chapter 4-73, under Solid Waste and Solid Waste Management, line 16-17 states: "An explosion on the launch pad would likely spread debris within the FAA approved hazard area and vegetation across the hazard area would likely be burned." From this statement it appears "debris" is the only expected impact, and residual propellants would be totally consumed in the launch pad. However, this may not always be the case because debris, fuel, and payload may be ejected into surrounding habitat, NWR lands, wetlands and/or Gulf waters. In the May 7, 2013, meeting, FAA stated the ground safety plan will include procedures for spills on public lands and would include debris as well as toxic materials. We request the opportunity to review the plan prior to finalization of the EIS to ensure cleanup activities provide the least impact to NWR lands and federally-listed species. — 3.15.1

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Chapter 4-73, Under Solid Waste and Solid Waste Management, Line 21-22 States: "A release of unspent RP-1 from the launch vehicle may create a thin film of petroleum on the water surface near the impact. Due to the volume of this release into the nearby tidal wetlands, temporary impacts on water quality in the tidal wetlands may be adverse; however because mitigation and cleanup measures would be implemented, the potential long-term impacts on tidal wetlands would not be substantial." This appears to address only petroleum propellants impacts in tidal wetlands and not impacts to short- and long-term upland soils and upland vegetation. We recommend including a discussion about restoration or impacts to federally-listed species and their habitats. 3.15.1

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Draft EIS. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Edith Erfling, Field Supervisor, FWS Coastal Ecological Services Field Office, Clear Lake, Texas, at 281-286-8282 or Cheryl Eckhardt, Environmental Compliance Specialist, National Park Service, Intermountain Region, at 303-969-289, or at cheryl_eckhardt@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Spencer, Ph.D.
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosure

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Comment No.	Page	Line No.	Comments	Reviewer/ Organization	
1	ES-1		The DEIS states that "The FAA/AST would likely issue launch specific licenses for the first few years of operation of the exclusive launch site." Why only the first few years? Why not until 2022?	NPS IMR-NR	3.4.5
2	ES-3		Underground power line - We are concerned with soil disturbance leading to the proliferation of exotic weeds. Similarly, we believe there is potential for archaeological resource discovery during this installation. How will these items be dealt with? Weed Management Plan?	NPS IMR-NR	3.11.6
3	ES-3		Lighting Plan- We assume the Lighting Management Plan will address the diferences in nighttime lighting throughout the year as well as specific nighttime ligiting associated with night launches. What is the duration and intensity of night ligiting for a launch?	NPS IMR-NR	3.10.1
4	ES-4		On behalf of the NHL, we look forward to reviewing and commenting on the Closure Plan. We believe that closing the NHL for launches to be advantageous.	NPS IMR-NR	3.8.1
5	ES-4		Consideration should be given to a hard closure point located on Highway 4 west of the Palmito Ranch NHL and all USFWS lands. The Highway 4 ROW should be closed to parking and public viewing to protect adjacent fragile vegetation and wetland areas. A statement acknowledging that SpaceX will be responsible for all costs over and above normal operations for federal, state and local agencies associated with the closure should be included.	NPS PAAL	3.13.5
6	ES-5		Regarding patrols for nesting sea turtles - if turtles are found, researchers should be given adequate time to perform all necessary work prior to opening the area to the public.	NPS PAAL	3.14.6
7	ES-5		Driving or installation of Pilings - What will be the noise levels associated with this acivity? What impacts will this have on the historic pilings in the immediate area?	NPS IMR-NR	3.11.2
8	ES-6		With FTE increasing from 30 to 150 between now and 2022, will the launch frequency increase in later years? Or will it remain the same?	NPS IMR-NR	3.4.1
9	ES-11		Please refer to Section 4(f) comments below.	NPS IMR-EQ	
10	ES-11		Construction activities and Operation of the facilities would have impacts on the character and sense of place associated with Sec. 4(f) properties related to the increase in human intrusions on the landscape from traffic, litter, incidental use, viewsheds, etc.	NPS-PAAL	3.8.1
11	ES-12		Security and operational lighting will have impacts on night skies as well as wildlife.	NPS-PAAL	3.10.1

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12	ES-12		Light Emissions - see comments above	NPS IMR-NR	3.10.1
13	ES-12	Table ES.6-1 Summary of potential Environmental Impacts from the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative; Historical, Architectural, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources	The Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic Landmarks possess a high degree historic integrity conveyed by the NHL aspects of integrity of location, setting and feeling. These aspects of integrity are dependent on the historical relationships to the surrounding natural features and open space (visual). The construction of the Vertical Launch Area facilities including the 200 plus-ft tall launch gantry, 250 foot water tank, 200-ft. lightning protecton towers, 65-ft. integration /processing hanger building, 40-ft machine shop and the 2-story office building as well as the proposed facilities at the Launch Control Center areas including a two each 65 to 85 ft. tall payload processing buildings, 65-ft. launch vehicle processing hanger , two 2-story control center buildings, two 30-ft. radio frequency transmitter/receivers, and associated site features including overhead site lighting standards and tall security fences will all have a significant visual impact and thus a direct impact on the historic integrity of the NHL. Most of these vertical features will be visible from the NHL. The statement in this table that the construction of these facilities would not directly impact any historic property should be revised accordingly. Also revise the statement "... would indirectly impact one historic property through visual impacts." To read "... would directly impact the historic integrity of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic Landmark through visual impacts."	NPS-IMR-NHL	3.11.3
14	ES-15		Socioeconomics - will control center area construction have negative visual impacts on NHL?	NPS IMR-NR	3.11.3
15	ES-16		NR and Energy Supply - is there a Safety Plan/Spill Plan addressing transport of propellant?	NPS IMR-NR	3.18.1
16	ES-16		Water supply sources need to be cefined. If groundwater is to be used, source and potential effects should be well defined. If water is to be trucked fron municipal sources this needs to be made clear given the fact that current drought conditions are already impacting these sources. A clear understanding of quantities and impacts to all source systems is needed.	NPS-PAAL	3.18.3
17	ES-17		The Tenaska Power plant project, Cross Valley Transmission Line project, 550 Toll Road project and proposed industrial parks in the region need to be added to the Cumulative Impacts section	NPS-PAAL	3.21.1
18	Es-17		Please refer to cumulative effect comments below.	NPS IMR-EQ	
19	ES-21		Comment deleted.	NPS IMR-NR	
20	ES-28		ES.10 - Request inclusion of NHL in short-term impacts	NPS IMR-NR	3.11.1
21	ES-15, 2-5, 4-38		Recommend development of an Emergency Response Plan addressing hurricanes, propellant spill, and other safety issues.	NPS IMR-NR	3.22.1

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22	ES-18	Bullet Point "Historical, Architectural, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources."	1) Comment: Revise the statement "Under the Proposed Action, constructon of the vetical launch and control center areas would impact the setting of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL." With "Under the Proposed Action, construction of the vertical launch and control center areas would impact the aspects of historic integrity of location, setting and feeling associated with the Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL." 2) Comment: Revise "...to mitigate the impacts to the physical integrity and setting of the historic properties." To read "...to mitigate the impacts to the historic integrity, specifically the aspects of location, setting and feeling of the historic properties." 3) Comment: last sentence. Replace "...are not likely to be significant." With "...could likely be significant."	NPS-IMR-NHL	3.11.3
23	ES-17		Cumulative Impacts - Recommend a map be included showing the location of the projects mentioned in the Cumulative Impacts section.	NPS IMR-NR	3.21.1
24	ES-21		Water Supply Issues - How does SpaceX intend to obtain the necessary water needed for launches?	NPS IMR-NR	3.18.2
25	2-5	2.1.1.3	Quantities of propellants UDMH, MMH and NTO required for use on space vehicles is given, however, there are no figures for on site storage requirements for these fuels. What are the on site quantities and number of storage tanks required? Mention of helium and nitrogen is made but no quantities are given nor the number storage tanks required.	NPS-PAAL	3.15.2
26	2-6	2.1.1.4	Helium required. Quantities and number of storage tanks at the launch site? Regarding the quantities of LOX and RP-1 to be maintained on site. Do the Falcon Heavy fuel use figures given (550,000 gallons) include the additional amounts of fuel required for loss and turn around laurches - or are there additional quantities of these fuels to be stored on site?	NPS-PAAL	3.15.3
27	2-6	2.1.1.4	Mention is made in the document of using generators for power at the launch site, however, there is no mention in this section of quantities or storage of diesel fuel.	NPS-PAAL	3.15.3
28	2-7	2.1.1.5	What are the water requirements for static and wet dress rehearsals?	NPS-PAAL	3.18.2
29	2-8	2.1.1.6	Mave the closure point west of Palmito Ranch NHL and all USFWS lands.	NPS-PAAL	3.14.1
30	2-13	2.1.2.1	What are the potential effects on the historic 1846 and 1865 pilings from pile driving at the launch site during construction?	NPS-PAAL	3.11.2
31	2-13		If possible, orientation of buildings should be with the smaller side on an east/west line to minimize impacts to viewsheds. All facility colors should included in mitigation measures	NPS-PAAL	3.11.3

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32	2-14		The diagram of the proposed launch area shows several locations for storage tanks. What will be stored in the unlabeled tanks? What is the length/width/height of all the tanks?	NPS-PAAL	3.15.3
33	2-15		What will the benchmark or applicable industry standard be for the water quality standard to be developed with TCEQ?	NPS-PAAL	3.13.1
34	2-16		Is there a hurricane evacuation plan for all of the fuel stored on site? If, as has happened in the past, a hurricane forms with less than 24 hrs. advance notice and evacuation of all fuels is not possible, is there a construction standard to follow to insure tanks, either empty or full of fuel, won't be ripped loose and float inland? There appears to be a need for a Comprehensive Hurricane Plan.	NPS-PAAL	3.15.4
35	2-1		Section 2.1. Are the sub-orbital launches included in the NTE 12 launches per year? Please clarify	NPS IMR-NR	3.4.1
36	2-7		Section 2.1.1.5 Pre-Launch Activities - Dry and Wet Dress Rehearsals Please estimate # of total closures per year. Does each dry or wet rehearsal institute a closure?	NPS IMR-NR	3.4.2
37	2-16		Dimensions are provided for the hangar, workshop and office, however, no dimensions or mention of the "Storage/GSE Parts" structure that appears on the site layout on p. 2-14 are provided.	NPS-PAAL	3.4.3
38	2-16		Will all paved areas have a catchment system to prevent runoff pollution from entering wetlands?	NPS-PAAL	3.13.3
39	2-18; 2-19	2.1.2.2	Height and diameter of potable water tank? Where will fuels required for payload processing (helium, nitrogen, UDMH, MMH and NTO, etc.) be stored on parcels 1, 2 and 3 ? No description of the amounts required or storage facilities is provided.	NPS-PAAL	3.4.3
40	2-20		RF antenna arrays at parcels 1 and 2 may require some visual mitigation measures.	NPS-PAAL	3.11.3
41	2-21		The satellite fuel storage area appears to be different and separate from required storage for the payload processing fuels. How tall with this structure be?	NPS-PAAL	3.4.3
42	2-21	2.1.3	Personnel levels give some idea of the increased levels of use of the area - what about supporting contractors, delivery truck traffic etc. Need to include a support transportation and personnel table as well based upon requirements for fuel and water deliveries, etc.	NPS-PAAL	3.4.4

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43	3-17	Section 3.3.4	NPS requested and notes that text was added in DEIS Section 3.3.4 to address the diurnal differences in the Affected Environment at Palo Alto Battlefield NHP (and at Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL) for daytime and nighttime launches. However, the esimated daytime and nighttime sound levels do not reflect the currently accepted (2013) version of ANSI S12.9/Part 3. Also, they are not limited to Palo Alto NHP or Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL nor are they applicable to all NHPs and NHLs. Therefore, we request a correction in the text, with better clarification of applicability asfollows: "For land in the vicinity of the Palo Alto National Historic Park and the Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL, the typical A-weighted daytime and nighttime sound levels are estimated at 40 dBA and 34dBA, respectively (American National Standards Institute 12.9-2013/Part 3)."	NPS IMR-NR	3.9.2
44	3-37	Table 3.5-2 – Summary of Cultural Resources	Has THC concurred with all of the determinations of eligibility? If not, ther any cutural resources that have not been officially determined eligible should be treated assuch until such time that THC has concurred with eligibility determinations.	NPS IMR-EQ	3.11.4
45	3-39	Exhibit 3.5-1	We recommend not including a map of archeological sites.	NPS IMR-EQ	3.11.4
46	3-40	Section 3.5.5.3	Wherever the word "setting" occurs related to the NHL, add the words "location and feeling"	NPS-IMR-NHL	3.11.3
	4-5	4.1.1.2	Impacts to land use are under represented here. The description of day to day activities omits the impacts from all of the required support and contracted services required for operation of the sites. Delivery of over 550,000 gallons of fuels per launch and up to ten daily deliveries to supply the required 50,000 gallons of potable water will require thousands of round trips for these trucks alone. This voume of heavy truck traffic will impact the integrity of the NHL	NPS-PAAL	3.11.5
48	4-11	Section 4.2.1.1 Construction	1) The first sentence states that the proposed action does not involve temporary occupancy of Section 4(f) properties; however, if the Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL is closed during launches, then presumably this would be a temporary occupancy of a Section 4(f) property. 2) Under Historic Sites, the first paragraph states that additional measures to minimize harm may be developed in consultation with THC, NPS, and other consulting parties. We recommend that this language be strengthened to indicate that mitigation measures "will" be explored in more detail through preparation of a Memorandum of Agreement with consulting parties. In addition, mitigation measures "will" also be addressed in other "plans" associated with this DEIS including a lighting plan closure plan, emergency action plan, etc.	NPS IMR-EQ	3.8.1 3.11.7
49	4-12		In addition to the visual impacts of the towers, there will be additional impacts from buldings ranging from 65 to 85 feet tall as well as other structures. All of the facilities should be included in discussons of impact and mitigation.	NPS-PAAL	3.11.1

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50	4-13	4.2.1.2	*"At all other times, the quiet setting of the Section 4(f) properties would persist".* **The volume of daily traffic in support of the facilities will introduce substantially more unnatural ambient background noise to the most visited/used areas of the NHL such as the viewing platform and wayside interpretive exhibits and will impact the visitor's ability to experience the setting, location and feeling of the site.**	NPS-PAAL	3.11.5
51	4-14	Section 4.2.1.2	NPS provided a PDEISv4 comment that "the calculated probability of noise-induced structural vibration damage is based on a statistical study of the relationship between overall sound pressure level and damage claims for static ground-based testing of rocket engines near five communites, with mostly conventional residential structures", and NPS notes that new text has been added on DEIS page 4-14 to disclose potential launch noise-induced damage to the unconventional structures of historic pilings, which are much closer than 3.4-6.4 miles from the launch site. However, the existing text on structural damage probability remains unclear and potentially misleading for closer structures. Therefore, to better clarify the meaning and applicability of the study results, we request the following text change: "According to the unweighted Lmax levels modeled for the Proposed Action, the probability of noise-induced structural vibration damage to buildings or structures is 1 in 100 or higher within areas exposed to unweighted noise levels of 119 dB or greater, which is 3.4 miles from the launch pad in the vertical launch area for the Falcon 9 and 6.4 miles for the Falcon Heavy."	NPS IMR-NR	3.11.2
52	4-14	Section 4.2.1.2	We speculate that one means for reducing potential adverse effects of launches and test fires to the Cypress Pilings, Palmetto Pilings, and Historical Marker could be orientation of the launch pad flame trench (duct) shown in DEIS Exhibit 2.1-3. If the flame trench(es) is sufficiently deep and is oriented in a direction to minimize noise-induced vibration (and other impacts) at these historical sites, then this should be considered as a potential mitigation measure. Acoustic directivity of flame trench plume(s), as well as plume length and intensity, should be considered for close sites. We speculate that a single flame trench (on one side only as shown in Exhibit 2.1-3), directed away from sensitive resources, may be preferable.	NPS IMR-NR	3.11.2

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53	4-15	Section 4.3.1	The Noise Analysis considers proposed operations that "would consist of up to 12 launches per year" but neglects disclosure of noise impacts due to the potential two second static rocket fire tests that are described in Section 2.1.1.5. It is unclear whether the sound power of a static fire was appropriately modeled as described in Appendix D Section 3.2 (pages 9-11), but Appendix D Sections 3.2.4, 3.2.5, and 4.0 (Figures 22 and 23 in particular), indicate that sound propagation to distant receivers may have been appropriately modeled for static test fires and the initial (ground-based) location of launches. Therefore, we request more complete analysis and disclosure of impacts in Sections 4.3.1. Specifically, we request Table 4.3-3 disclosure of maximum sound levels (Lmax), SEL, and Time Above (66 and 52 dBA) at Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL and Palo Alto Battlefield NHP due to static rocket fire tests, and we request insertion of appropriate descriptive text in adjacent paragraphs. We also suggest added columns in Tables 4.3-1 and 4.3-2 to disclose Maximum OASPL for static fire tests, in addition to descriptive document text.	NPS IMR-NR	3.9.3
54	4-16	4.3.1.2	**The discussion of noise here is dismissive of the volume and type of traffic traveling SH4 daily in support of the facilities which is over and above the noise generated by operation of the facilities themselves.**	NPS-PAAL	3.9.4
55	4-18 and 4-19	Section 4.3.1.2	In a PDEISv4 comment, NPS requested "disclosure of the boundaries for Palo Alto Battlefield NHP (and Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL) and specific sensitive receivers such as the NHP Battlefield Overlook, when they fall within the extent of each figure." (Figures 6-21 in Appendix D) In response, FAA's contractor stated that "This information is included in the EIS., Section 4.3" but we cannot find this information. We specifically request that Figures 4.3-1, 4.3-2, 4.3-3, and 4.3-4 be augmented to disclose the boundaries and thereby the impacted locations of Palo Alto Battlefield NHP and Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL.	NPS IMR-NR	3.11.1
56	4-25	Section 4.3.1.2	NPS requested and notes that descriptive text was added on DEIS page 4-14 to address the larger interpersonal distance and resulting functional consequences of rocket launch noise on the intelligibility of interpretive programs. NPS also requested "addition of Time Above 52 dBA to Table 4.3-3, as well as descriptive text to disclose the functional consequences of the proposed action..." NPS notes that Time Above 52dBA has been added to DEIS Table 4.3-3, but there is no descriptive text in the adjacent paragraph on the functional consequence of this supplemented metric. NPS requests addition of the following descriptive text to the paragraph on page 4-25 following Table 4.3-3: "Outdoor speech interference can be expressed as a percentage of sentence intelligibility among two people speaking in a normal voice at approximately 1 meter (3.28 ft) apart **or for outdoor interpretive programs where the communication distance may be up to 5-10 meters (16.4-32.8 feet) apart for normal or raised voice levels, respectively.** The model results **shown in Table 4.3-3** indicate that speech intelligibility would drop below 95 percent for a time period of up to 3 to 5 minutes per launch for two people speaking at approximately 1 meter apart **and speech intelligibility would drop below 95 percent for a time period of**	NPS IMR-NR	3.9.5

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			up to 7 to 8 minutes per launch for outdoor interpretive programs where the communication distance may be up to 5-10 meters (16.4-32.8 feet) apart."		3.9.5 (Cont.)
57	4-28	4.4.1.2	The viewshed analysis needs to include the 65 -85 foot high structures slated for the control center area as well.	NPS-PAAL	3.11.1
58	4-31 and 4-32	Section 4.5.1.1	Wherever the word "setting" occurs related to the NHL, add the words "location and feeling"	NPS-IMR-NHL	3.11.3
59	4-50	4.7.1.2	Assuming water for the deluge and potable water systems could not be obtained from the aquifer, water would need to be trucked to the facilities, the stated quantities required would require 3,160 round trips for a 5,000 gallon tank truck. This would support operations for 24 weeks and obviously would increase if operations increased after 2022. An impact to the area not clearly noted.	NPS-PAAL	3.11.5
60	4-61	4.8.1.2	Mention is made of Appendix K - Ground Traffic and Transportation with relation to wildlife mortalities. Review of Appendix K raises questions. The calculations for traffic volumes related to operations again omits any mention of all the service and support trucking required. Rough estimates for 2022 based on water and fuel deliveries alone would require 3,160 trucks for water and 733 trucks for LOX and RP1 (550,000/9,000 x 12). Applying the conversion factor given in Appendix K of 1.5 passenger cars per truck, this segment of supporting traffic adds an additional 5,840 cars that are not considered in the appendix.	NPS-PAAL	3.11.5
61	4-72	4.9.1.2	As noted in the comment above, as illustrated in Table 4.9-1, there are large quantities of fuels that will need to be delivered. The numbers and impacts of that traffic on the NHL and NWR are not clearly discussed in the document.	NPS-PAAL	3.11.5

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62	4-82	4.10.1	Traffic estimates of 190 construction vehicles per day are given here. On page 4-59 and in Appendix K, the increase in traffic during construction is given as 137 vehicles per day. Which is correct? Also, in both locations, night time construction truck traffic is proposed. This will greatly increase the potential for animal mortality on roadways and potentially the loss of individuals from one or more of the endangered species populations in the area.	NPS-PAAL	3.14.8
63	5-6	Section 5.2.2 Cumulative Effects, Section 4(f) Properties	1) We recommend analyzing the cumulative effects to all Section 4(f) properties, not just the NHL. 2) Please verify that all the effects of all actions in the cumulative scenario have been analyzed. The viewing platform project, in addition to the wind farm will affect the NHL. Also, once the cumulative scenario has been broadened (as suggested in the cover letter), then we recommend analyzing the effects of all projects with regards to all Section 4(f) properties.	NPS IMR-EQ	3.21.2
64	5-9	Section 5.2.5	1) Comment: Wherever the word "setting" occurs related to the NHL, add the words "location and feeling" 2) Comment: Third Paragraph, Second Sentence Add "...and the 250-ft water tower, **65-85 foot payload processing buildings, and 35 foot tall launch vehicle processing hangar at the Control Center area in particular,** would introduce..." 3) Comment: Last Sentence Delete "not be significant" and replace with "be reduced."	NPS-IMR-NHL	3.11.3 3.21.3
65	6-1	6.1	In addition to the cleanup of the beaches, SpaceX should participate in the Adopt a Road litter cleanup campaign to manage litter along the length of SH 4 through the USFWS lands.	NPS-PAAL	3.22.2
66	6-2	6.2	During construction, mitigation measures should be put into place to safeguard the 1936 Palmetto Pilings Historic Marker from damage due to construction truck traffic. The pull out for the marker is an obvious staging or turn around point and the marker could easily be struck and damaged by construction vehicles. Bollards or railings to protect the marker are one suggestion. All facilities should be painted to blend into the environment to minimize visual impacts. Colors and paint schemes including stenciled camouflage patterns should be approved by officials having jurisdiction.	NPS-PAAL	3.22.3
67	6-2	6.3	Consider use of LED lighting technology and use "Dark of Night Sky" planning for all exterior lights as much as possible.	NPS-PAAL	3.11.1
68	6-2	6.4	Prepare nominations for all NRHP eligible resources not currently NRHP listed and submit.	NPS-PAAL	3.22.5

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69	6-2	Section 6.3	In a PDEISv4 comment, NPS commented that "The Section 6.3 noise mitigation measures, as written, are limited to occupational noise exposure and residential areas. Additional mitigation measures could include coordination of launch dates/times with cooperating agencies to minimize adverse impacts or wildlife and to avoid outdoor use conflicts during special events at Palo Alto Battlefield NHP and Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL, for example. We ask that coordination of launch schedules with the NHP and NHL be included as a potential noise mitigation measure." FAA's contractor provided an inadequate response that "SpaceX will notify NPS and THC of upcoming launches" and NPS notes that PDEISv4 Section 6.3 Noise mitigations have been removed entirely from the DEIS. We request that the removed Noise mitigation section be returned to Section 6, and we request addition of the following text: "Measures that could be implemented to reduce the impacts of noise on the surrounding residential areas **and historic sites** include the following: * **Coordination of launch dates/times with NPS and other land management agencies**		3.22.6
70	6-2	Section 6.4	We speculate that one means for reducing potential adverse effects of launches and test fires to the five historic properties could be orientation of the launch pad flame trench (duct) shown in DEIS Exhibit 2.1-3. If the flame trench(es) is sufficiently deep and is oriented in a direction that would minimize impacts on sensitive resources, then this should be considered and added to Section 6.4 as a potential mitigation measure for this resource (and potentially to other Chapter 6 sections) We speculate that a single flame trench (on one side only as shown in Exhibit 2.1-3), directed away from sensitive historic resources, may be preferable.	NPS IMR-NR	3.22.3
71	6-2	Section 6.4	Comment: First Bullet Add "…material, **light color and camouflage paint schemes**…"	NPS IMR-NHL	3.22.3
72	6-4	6.7.1.1	**Where do the provisions of 2 b. apply - only on roadways owned by SpaceX? How will this be enforced?**	NPS-PAAL	3.22.7
73	6-4	6.7.1.1	**Under item 4 - all fill not obtained on site should be treated or certified as free from non-native plant species seeds**	NPS-PAAL	3.22.8
74	6-6	Section 6.6	We speculate that one means for reducing potential adverse effects of launches and test fires to water resources could be orientation of the launch pad flame trench (duct) shown in DEIS Exhibit 2.1-3. If the flame trench(es) is sufficiently deep and is oriented in a direction that would minimize impacts on sensitive resources, then this should be considered and added to Section 6.6 as a potential mitigation measure for this resource (and potentially to other Chapter 6 sections). We speculate that a single flame trench (on one side only as shown in Exhibit 2.1-3), directed away from sensitive water resources, may be preferable.	NPS IMR-NR	3.22.3
75	C-2	Appendix C Section 106 and Section 4(f) Consultation	In addition to the correspondence that FAA sent to agencies and tribes, it would be helpful to include the responses that you have received from agencies and tribes.	NPS IMR-EQ	3.22.3

A-03

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON TX 77553-1229

JUN 17 2013

Policy Analysis Section

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Impact Statement, SpaceX

Ms. Stacey M. Zee.
Environmental Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration
SpaceX EIS, c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West 27 Street - Suite 1107
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

This is in response to a request for comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement Version Space X Texas Launch Site (DEIS) prepared by the Federal Aviation Administration Office of Commercial Space Transportation (FAA) and published April 2013. The DEIS for the SpaceX Texas Launch Site addresses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed federal action, where the FAA would issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to SpaceX that would allow SpaceX to conduct launches of the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy orbital vertical launch vehicles and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site on privately owned property in Cameron County, Texas.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District (Corps) has completed a thorough review of the document and identified three areas of concern in the DIES pursuant to the regulation of waters of the United States. These issues include; 1) Purpose and Need, 2) Alternatives Analysis, and 3) Mitigation. While these issues are briefly addressed, regulations pertaining to waters of the United States, specifically 40 CFR Part 230 (commonly referred to as the 404(b)(1) Guidelines, require a detailed analysis of these issues be disclosed in the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) disclosure document. The Corps has three recommendations to insure that these statutory requirements are met.

Purpose and Need

The Corps develops a basic project purpose based on the applicant's stated project purpose to conclude if the project requires access or proximity to the special aquatic site, such as a wetland, and discloses this conclusion in the appropriate NEPA documentation. The Corps also requires, pursuant to 33 CFR 320.4, that the need for the project be clearly identified and disclosed in the NEPA document. In situations involving two or more agencies that have a decision to make on the same proposed action, it is prudent to jointly develop a purpose and need statement that may prevent problems later that may delay completion of the NEPA process. In understanding that

3.3.1

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the FAA's mission is to encourage, facilitate, and promote commercial space launch and reentry activities, the Corps' requested, by letter dated February 4, 2013, that the attached language be included in *Section 1.3 Purpose and Need* rather than attempt to develop a statement jointly. While the requested language was included in the DEIS, it was inappropriately relegated to *Section 1.2.2 Role of Cooperating Agencies* rather than included in the appropriate Purpose and Need section. The Purpose and Need statement is important to the Corps' independent legal responsibilities and provides the framework for the Corps to conduct an appropriate alternatives analysis. The Corps requests that the language be properly included in the Purpose and Need section of the FEIS so that the Corps is not required to supplement these NEPA documents during its permit review process.

3.3.1 (Cont.)

Alternative Analysis

The Corps can only issue a permit for the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) that meets the project purpose. The project purpose is used by the Corps to evaluate practicable alternatives to the proposed project. An alternative is practicable if it is available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes. If it is otherwise a practicable alternative, an area not presently owned by the applicant which could reasonably be obtained, utilized, expanded or managed in order to fulfill the basic purpose of the proposed activity may be considered.

The alternatives analysis in the DEIS is based on siting criteria so narrow as to eliminate all reasonable alternatives without disclosure of their impacts. In addition, based on the current analysis, the Corps cannot conclude if the alternatives are practicable. As a Cooperating Agency, the Corps requests the FAA expand the alternative analysis to clearly describe why the alternatives are not practicable under FAA statutory and regulatory requirements.

3.4.5

Mitigation

Pursuant to the 404(b)(1) Guidelines, the Corps may not issue a permit until the applicant demonstrates that they have taken all appropriate and practicable steps to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands. Avoidance and minimization of proposed impacts to wetlands are assessed using a hard look at the on-site alternatives analysis. Once the applicant has demonstrated that wetlands have been avoided and minimized to the greatest extent practicable, compensatory mitigation may be required to ensure that proposed action in compliance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines and does not result in a significant impact on the human environment.

3.4.6
3.13.6

In *Section 4.7 Water Resources* of the DEIS, the wetland section concludes with the statement "the FAA has determined there is no practicable alternatives to such construction, and the Proposed Action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands which may result from construction." However, in numerous communications with SpaceX, SpaceX has indicated that they are able to further design the site to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and tidal sand flats. Additional minimization efforts documented in the FEIS should include,

3.13.10
3.13.6

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-3-

but not be limited to: limiting affects on the daily tidal regime of avoided wetlands; limiting stormwater affects on avoided tidal wetlands; limiting ecological perturbences resulting from development and operation of the SpaceX facility; and impacts to critical habitat for endangered species.

Once all appropriate and practicable steps to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to waters of the United States have been documented in the FEIS, a compensatory mitigation plan in accordance with 33 CFR 332.4(c) must be documented. SpaceX has proposed a preservation plan for unavoidable impacts. Based on comments received from the resource agencies, the Corps recommends SpaceX incorporate an enhancement plan in addition or in place of their preservation plan to assure there is no significant loss of wetland function within the watershed.

3.13.10
3.13.6
(Cont.)

Conclusion
The Corps is required, pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAA and Corps, to provide special expertise with respect to environmental issues concerning waters of the United States. While the Corps is neither a proponent or opponent of the proposed SpaceX project, projects that are not compliant with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines may not be authorized. The Corps recommends that the SpaceX provided the necessary information and FAA include the information required prior to publishing the FEIS.

3.13.10

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Jayson M. Hudson at the letterhead address or by telephone at 409-766-3108 or email at jayson.m.hudson@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Casey Cutler
Chief, Policy Analysis Section

Enclosures

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Steve Davis
Space Exploration Technologies
1030 15th St NW, Suite 220E
Washington, DC 20005

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Attachment 1

Corps Purpose and Need.

Applicant's Stated Purpose and Need:
SpaceX proposed a private launch site in order to accommodate the number of launches that the company has on its launch manifest. The proposed private launch site is needed to provide SpaceX with an exclusive launch facility that would allow the company to accommodate its launch manifest and meet tight launch windows.

Basic Project Purpose and Water Dependency Determination
The Basic Project Purpose is to construct and operate a commercial vertical launch facility (spaceport) on privately owned property. The project is considered to be "non-water dependent" as it does not require siting in or on a special aquatic site, such as a wetland, to meet the basic project purpose.

Overall Project Purpose
The Overall Project Purpose is to construct and operate a commercial vertical launch facility (spaceport) to launch the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy orbital vertical launch vehicles and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a launch site on privately owned property. The proposed private launch site is needed to provide SpaceX with an exclusive launch facility that would allow the company to meet tight launch windows.

A-04

SEMARNAT

"2013, Año de la Lealtad Institucional y Centenario del Ejército Mexicano"

Washington D.C., June 20, 2013

Additional Questions from SEMARNAT

- What trans boundary environmental impacts are you considering? 3.20.1
- How can you guarantee that in general, wildlife won't experience significant impacts? 3.20.2
- What are the prevention or mitigation actions? 3.20.2
- Will the Matamoros inhabitants be exposed to sound pollution by the launching of rockets? 3.20.3
- What are the preventive and response actions towards potential emergencies? How these actions will safeguard the integrity of people and wildlife in the area? 3.20.4

Regarding the EIS assessment

- What environmental groups are participating in the assessment of the EIS, and which of them have provided inputs? 3.20.5
- What are the results/opinions in terms of the ecosystems and fauna that could be affected with the construction of the launch site? 3.20.6
- What other Mexican Government Agencies or NGO´s have been considered in this consultation? 3.20.5

Regarding the Public Hearing

- What are the conclusions regarding the "potential inevitable effects to the sensitive pristine habitat and the species belonging to it? 3.20.6

Regarding the Biological Assessment

- What are the protection and mitigation measures towards preventing negative affectations to species such as birds, pumas, ocelots, jaguarondis and manatees? 3.20.2
- Are migratory routes of birds under risk of affectation? 3.20.7
- Are you planning to launch rockets during the bird migration season? 3.20.7
- Have you identified potential risks to endemic marine species? More specifically, are you considering potential risks for turtle nesting because of noise, vibrations, lights or side effects of rocket launching? What are the prevention and mitigation risks for this? 3.20.6
- Are you forecasting residual waters discharges in the wetlands at which the launch site is planed to be built on? What kind of discharges would they be if any? What are the prevention and mitigation measures for this? 3.20.8

1

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PROTECTION AREA OF FLORA AND FAUNA

LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO

APPENDIX 1

Biological wealth Protection Area of Flora and Fauna of "Laguna Madre y Delta del Rio Bravo".

Taxonomic Category	Gender	Species	Endangered	Threatened	Special Protection	Endemic	Exotic
CHORDATES							
Mammals	50	59	5	7	1	1	
Birds	165	267	4	6	16	2	
Reptiles	37	47	5	8	12	2	
Amphibians	12	15		1	2		
Fish	82	110		1	1		
ECHINODERMS							
Echinoids	6	7					
Asteroidean	6	6					
Ophiuroids	1	1					
Holothurian	2	2					
ARTHROPODS							
Crustaceans	47	69					
MOLLUSKS							
Gastropods	28	33					
Bivalves	31	39			2		
Cephalopods	3	6					
ANNELIDS							
Polychaetes	5	6					
Cnidarians							
Hydrozoans	4	4					
VEGETATION							
Plants	255	399	3	2	5	5	1
Macro algae	73	119					
Phytoplankton	50	96					
TOTAL	***857***	***1285***	***17***	***25***	***39***	***10***	***1***

A-04

SEMARNAT

CONANP

COMISION NACIONAL DE AREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS
DIRECCION REGIONAL PLANICIE COSTERA Y GOLFO DE MEXICO

DESCRIPTION

LAGUNA MADRE AND RIO BRAVO DELTA FLORA AND FAUNA PROTECTION AREA.

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The Laguna Madre and Rio Bravo Delta Flora and Fauna Protection Area (**APFFLMDRB** for its initials in Spanish) was established through a Federal Executive Order published in the Official Journal of the Federation on April 15, 2005. It is located in the municipalities of Matamoros, San Fernando and Soto la Marina in the state of Tamaulipas, and it encompasses a surface of 572,808-60-94.22 hectares.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Texas and Tamaulipas region of Laguna Madre is part of the ecoregion named Prairies and Marshes of the Coast o' the Gulf of Mexico, covering an area from the Mississippi Delta in Louisiana, all the way to the Soto La Marina River in Mexico, occupying parts of the states of Texas and Tamaulipas, and with a coastal line of approximately 1000 kilometers (620 miles), including 22 primary bays and 19 large rivers (Bergan, In; Tunnel Jr. And Judd, 2002).

This area possesses a great biological richness and diversity due to its location, since it is located between two biogeographic regions, the Neartic and Neotropical, and also because it receives water from two hydrological regions, the Rio Bravo and the San Fernando – Soto La Marina basins, while also having the influence of two marine provinces, the Carolinian and the Caribbean. All these factors allow for the origin of different types of soils, climates and rain and humidity regimes, making this region the northern distribution limit along the Gulf of Mexico of tropical vegetations such as middle forests and deciduous forests. Along with these factors, the area is the center of the migration of waterfowl, semi-aquatic and land birds, and in it reside 15% of the total migrating birds which come to Mexico from Canada and the United States.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

On February 2nd, 2004, the Tamaulipas portion of the Laguna Madre was included in the **RAMSAR** Convention as a Wetland of International Importance, and it was registered as Ste Number 1362 with the name Laguna Madre, with a total of 307,394 hectares. The criteria by which it was catalogued as a Wetland of International Importance are among others: it is considered the country's largest water body, with a surface of 272,844.6 has; because it gives hibernation habitat to 15% of all wintering water fowl arriving to Mexico during the southward migration. It is also recognized by **BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL** as an Endemic Bird Area of the World

The Tamaulipas' Laguna Madre is also part of the North American Wetland Conservation Plan (**NAWCP**), and it is acknowledged as the number 1 ranked wetland among 28 wetlands of priority for migrating waterfowl in Mexico (DUMAC, 2004).

On October 27, 2006, the Laguna Madre and Rio Bravo Delta Flora and Fauna Protection Area was included in UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program because it fulfilled the objective of contributing towards the conservation of the landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

The National Commission for the Knowledge and Usage of Biodiversity (**CONABIO** for its initials in Spanish), has established priority sites for biological conservation in Tamaulipas' Laguna Madre, including the following: Land Priority Region Number 83 (RTP-83), Laguna Madre (Arriaga *et al.* 2000); Hydrological Priority Region Number 42 (RHP-42), International Rio Bravo and Hydrological Priority Region Number 71 (RHP-71), San Fernando River (Arriaga *et al.* 2000); Marine Priority Region Number 44 (RMP-44), Laguna Madre and the Marine Priority Region Number 45 (RMP-45), La Pesca – Rancho Nuevo (Arriaga *et al.* 1998)

The Laguna Madre and Rio Bravo Delta Flora and Fauna Protection Area is also considered an Area of Relevance for Bird Conservation in three locations (AICA-67, AICA-230 and AICA 235).

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PHYSICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The Laguna Madre and Rio Bravo's Delta constitute one sole ecological unit, encompassing 255 km^2 inside the 457 km of the State of Tamaulipas' shore line. It is part of the Northern Gulf Coastal Plains Physiographic Region and of the Tamaulipas' Coastal Plain Sub-province (INEGI, 1983). From a geomorphologic point of view, it is an accumulation of sandy beaches formed by alluvial, lacustrine, eolic and litoral deposits made of clays, limes and sands. It is located between two Hydrological Regions, the Rio Bravo Basin (RH-24) and the San Fernando River – Soto La Marina Basin.

The intertidal marshes extend over 50,800 hectares, and they are an essential habitat and food supply for migrating waterfowl. These marshes are considered unique because the flooding and lasting of the marshes is influenced in a higher proportion by wind tides and storms than by astronomical tides. When these marshes are flooded they attract a great amount of shorebirds, bank birds, crabs and fish.

BIOLOGICAL TRAITS

The Laguna Madre, given its rich physical traits, has a great amount of biological richness and it is the habitat to many species, especially migratory ones. **APPENDIX 1. Biological Richness Graph of the Laguna Madre and Rio Bravo Delta Flora and Fauna Protection Area**.

VEGETATION

Aquatic Vegetation. In the brackish and sea waters there is a great richness of benthic macroalgae and microscopic algae of diverse groups which extend all throughout the lagoon.

Cattail Reedbeds. They are a densely populated community of herbaceous plants, rooted in swampy places, and with short and narrow leaves. In the region, these are not very abundant, but they can be found in the different fresh water bodies and currents in the region.

Coastline Dune Vegetation. Coastline dune vegetation covers all islands in the barrier which separates the Laguna Madre from the Gulf of Mexico. This dune vegetation has adapted to tolerate high salinity concentration, low water availability and the accumulation of sediments. **These areas allow for the arrival of 4 sea turtle species, all of which are considered in danger of extinction, and which use the shore to lay their eggs.**

Vegetation in Barrier Island. a) There is herbaceous and crawling vegetation, perennial rhizomatous weeds or with stolons. There are also grasslands made up of sea oats; this vegetation is distributed in all 220 km of beaches, and its composition varies from one place to the other. **b)** Low thorny shrub vegetation; this shrubs are about 30 cm tall in average. **c)** High shrub vegetation; these shrubs can reach up to 3 meters in height, and in some cases, they are distributed in stands up to 1 km in length. These have only been observed in the southern parts of the Protected Area.

See grasses. See grasses extend in over 48 thousand hectares and are themselves a very important community from many perspectives. These are highly productive sites, and can be compared to any regular crop in the mainland. They also serve as traps for sediments, stabilization of sediments suspended in water, and in general improve the quality of the water around them. They prevent the erosion of the seabed and help recycle nutrients and to contribute to the clearness of the water. **Thirty six percent of the world's Redhead duck population depends on see grasses from Laguna Madre as a main source of food.**

Halophyte Vegetation groups. Halophyte vegetation is established in the areas where the fresh water supply is limited. These places are part of the tidal areas, and evaporation takes place at a higher rate than precipitation, which is why they have a sodium-salt-rich bedding.

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Mangroves. Mangroves are a very relevant vegetation type in the area. They are very unique communities, and they are very important for conservation efforts due to their environmental services, since they help stabilize the coastline, reduce the negative effects of storms and tides, retain and accumulate sediments and pollutants, and also offer food and shelter to a great amount of species of invertebrates as well as the larvae and juvenile phases of other vertebrates, specially fish, birds, reptilians and small mammals.

Forests. Towards the southern portion of the protected area one can find three types of forests: Low evergreen forest, lowthorny evergreen forest and low deciduous forest.

Lateral Spine Thorn Scrubs (Tamaulipas' Thorn Scrub). The Tamaulipas Thorny Scrub represents a type of vegetation endemic to northeastern Mexico, with a restricted distribution to the states of Coahuila, Nuevo León and Tamaulipas. It is one of the main habitats **to four feline species in the region, which are classified as endangered, and are protected by international conventions.**

Savannah. They have a very diverse composition in the herbaceous stratum and have a high number of herbaceous species, both annual and perennial. The Shrub and Tree stratums are made of the different species of forests and thorn scrub surrounding the savannah, and their sizes are usually smaller.

FAUNA

Mammals. There are 147 mammalian species registered for the state of Tamaulipas. Fifty nine of these species have been registered in the Laguna Madre and Rio Bravo Delta Flora and Fauna Protection Area, and they are distributed among 50 genres and 26 families, of which the felid family stands out with six species, three of them in danger of extintion: jaguar (*Panthera onca* (P)), ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis* (P)) and the Margay (*Leopardus weidii*(P)), **one registered as threatened, the** jaguarundi (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi* (A)), all of them registered in the Official Mexican Norm NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, *Environmental protection and Mexican native wild flora and fauna – Risk categories and specifications for their inclusion exclusion or change – List of endangered species*. The other species of felids are puma (*Puma concolor*) and the Lynx (*Lynx rufus texanus*). The Cervidae family encompasses white-tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginianus texanus* and *O. virginianus veracrucis*, species which are very important for hunting activities. There are also endemic species such as the land squirrel *Spermophilus spilosoma*, kangaroo rat *Dipodomys compactus* and *Dipodomys ordii*. Four of these species are endemic, 5 are endangered and 7 are catalogued as threatened. The Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursipos truncates* (Pr)) is the only fully aquatic mammal which is known to enter the area between the Mezquital and Barra de La Playa openings, in front of the town of Enramadas, and also in the Soto La Marina River's mouth.

Birds. There are 378 bird species registered for Tamaulipas, and 261 of them can be found in the Laguna Madre region. A total of 45 species stand out for being included in the Official Mexican Norm NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, *Environmental protection and Mexican native wild flora and fauna – Risk categories and specifications for their inclusion, exclusion or change – List of endangered specie*. In the Laguna Madre we can find species with restricted distribution ranges, endemic species, species in danger of extinction, threatened or rare such as: *Amazona oratrix* (P), *Pelecanus occidentalis, P. erythrorynchos, Egretta rufescens*(Pr), *Buteogallus anthracinus* (Pr), *Buteo nitidus, Charadrius melodus* (P), *Uropsila leucogastra*. **The Laguna Madre has 144 resident species of which 2 are endemic to Mexico, but not specifically to the Laguna Madre, 4 are endangered, 6 threatened and 16 under special protection.**

Two of the most important species are the Redhead duck *Athya Americana* and the Northen Pintail *Anas acuta*, which come every year to winter at the Laguna Madre. The populations of these species account for between 49% and 23 % of all migrating waterfowl. The Laguna Madre gives shelter to 36% of the Redhead duck population in the world (Woodin, 1996), which depends greatly on the presence of sea grasses. In the Laguna Madre and Rio Bravo Delta **over 450 aquatic, semi**

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aquatic and land bird species come together during their migration from Canada and the United States, including 38 duck and geese species such as the Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) from Alaska, the Canada Goose (*Branta Canadensis*), the Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), the American Wigeon (*Anas Americana*) and the Blue-Winged Teal (*Anas discors*).

The Laguna Madre annually welcomes the greatest concentration of shorebirds of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. Twenty-four species have been registered and some of the shorebirds such as the Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*), the Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrines* (A)), and the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus* (P)), the Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), the Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) and the Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) have been decreasing, which is why the protection of this area is important for their recovery. **Also present is the only breeding colony of white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), known all along the coastline environments in Mexico. The Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens* (Pr)), and the Kentish and Piping Plovers are all under the protection of the Federal Law in the United States, and can all be found in significant quartities nesting and hibernating in the Laguna Madre.**

The Yellow-headed Amazon (*Amazona oratrix* (P)) and the Red-crowned Amazon (*Amazona viridigenalis* (P)) are both endemic to the central part of Tamaulipas and are considered in danger of extinction. There is also a complex of over 200 islands of different sizes which stands out at a global level where breeding colonies of the families Podicipedidae, Phalacrocoracidae, Pelicanidae, Anatidae, Accipitridae, Falconidae, Charadriidae and Sternidae can be found. **APPENDIX 2. List of birds of the northern zone of the Laguna Madre and Rio Bravo Delta Flora and Fauna Protection Area**

Reptiles. There are 125 registered reptilian species in Tamaulipas and 46 of those are found in Laguna Madre and its area of influence in terrestrial and freshwater environments. Five of the species are marine reptiles and are under special protection. Some of the relevant reptile species in the area are the Texas Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus berlandieri*), the Spiny Softshell Turtle (*Apalone spinifera* (P)), and the Pond Slider Turtle (*Trachemys scripta*). In the island barrier of the Laguna Madre and Rio Bravo Delta Fauna and Flora Protection Area there are **3 species of endangered sea turtles which come to lay their eggs**: *Lepidochelys kempii* (P), *Caretta caretta* (P) and *Chelonia mydas* (P). The crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii* (Pr)) is a species which has practically disappeared from the region.

Amphibians. There are 38 species of amphibians reported in Tamaulipas, of those, 15 species are from Laguna Madre and its influence area. Two frog species of the genus Bufo and the Rio Grande leopard frog (*Rana berlandieri* (Pr)) and some small tree frogs of the family Hylicae stand out.

Fish. There are at least 49 families and 110 species of sea, estuarine and fresh water fish in the Laguna Madre region; of these, 24 are strictly tropical. They are the food source for many bird species such as pelicans, cormorants, shorebirds and herons.

Echinoderms. Echinoderms include animals such as sea urchin, sea dollars, and sea cucumbers. They are a less studied group, but there are 16 reported species out of which 4 are urchins, 6 are sea stars, 2 are sea cucumbers, 3 sea biscuits and 1 is an ophiuroid.

Arthropods. Crustaceans (shrimp, crabs, hermit crabs and lobsters) are the best represented and studied group of arthropods with 69 registered species of macrocrustaceans and microcrustaceans in the Laguna Madre. There are a large number of scorpions, insects (wasps, butterflies, beetles, and cicadas), spiders, mites and ticks. Shorebirds feed mainly on these animals.

Mollusks. Mollusks are represented by 4 classes; Gastropods (snails and slugs), Bivalves (clams and oysters), Polyplacophora (chitons) and Cephalopods (octopuses and squids). Snails and clams stand out for the richness of species and their abundance (33 and 39 species respectively).

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Other invertebrates. There are other invertebrate groups which have been seldomly studied, however, there are records of 6 species of Polychaeta (segmented worms) and 4 species of Cnidarians (Corals, anemone, hydras and jellyfish) in Laguna Madre.

Sea Turtles. In front of the Laguna Madre, there is a migration route of other greatly important species: sea turtles. Kemp's ridely sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), a species subject to special protection arrives to the Sanctuary Beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas in order to nest, migrating then to the north along the shore until they arrive to Florida in the United States, where it finds feeding sites. **APPENDIX 3. Migration route of Kemp's ridley sea turtle which have nested in Rancho Nuevo.**

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

As part of the physiography of the Laguna Madre and Rio Bravo Delta Fauna and Flora Protection Area, the different environments and the continuous dynamics of the region are known to provide different environmental services:

The Barrera Island is highly dynamic and is in constant motion, protecting the lagoon itself and its fisheries, as well as the human populations from the impact of hurricanes and storms. Its motile and dynamic traits allow it to function as a buffer and to reduce the energy of tidal waves and the intense winds. It helps to filter rainfall allowing freshwater oasis to exist in the ecosystem, which is of great relevance to the fora and fauna and to productive activities, while also forming a barrier to saline entrances from the sea and from the lagoon. It also brings in nutrients to the lagoon, fertilizing the fisheries, **becoming a food and protection supply for the emblematic species populations of shorebirds and sea turtles.** It is a regulator of the region's microclimate.

Marshes are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world, and they actively take part in the enrichment of the water bodies of the Laguna Madre. In them, biological, local, regional and even hemisphere wise relevant species establish themselves, using the Marsh as a source of shelter, food, rest space and even for breeding. The Marshes contribute to the shelter of dozens of species which are very important to the fishing industries, and it is there where different species of crustaceans, mollusks and fish go to feed, and grow.

The islands in general provide diversity in terms of environments, freshwater bodies near the inland, and they support the mangrove communities and in those we can find the communities of resident and migrating birds. They also provide shelter and food for many mammals during the drought season, and in those islands the few thorny forests found in the area develop to their fullest, near the southern region of the Laguna Madre. Also, the mangrove grows in the areas near the brackish water or to the interior of these areas, in many cases withstanding high salt concentrations, and they tend to be shelter to a great amount of fish and crustaceans, as well as showing a high level of relevance as communities which buffer the energy derived from hurricanes and tides. The production of mangroves is also considered to be high, and they are also considered great centers for the capture of carbon.

Ecosystems such as the sea grasses, the freshwater systems, the coastal dunes, the halophyte vegetation and the intertical marshes show traits which make them unique and which in a direct or indirect way make them the source of shelter, food and breeding zones for the different species of aquatic, semiaquatic and land flora and fauna.

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SUBZONES UNDER INFLUENCE BY THE LAUNCH BASE ACCORDING TO THE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT OF THE NATURAL PROTECTED AREA

According to the Management Program of the Laguna Madre and Rio Bravo Delta Flora and Fauna Protection Area, the influence of the Space X Launch Base which can have effects due to noise emissions is identified in two subzones: the Preservation Subzone and the Natural Resource Sustainable Usage Subzone A

PRESERVATION SUBZONE

The Rio Bravo's Delta is located in the northern area of the Conservation and Protection Area, and it is comprised
of a great variety of ecosystems. It borders to the north with the State of Texas, in the United States. The marsh is located in a plain which floods periodically with the waters of the Rio Bravo. The largest extension of halophyte vegetation which has different species associations is found in this area. There are some residual areas with other types of unique vegetation such as Palm Groves, deciduous forests and the Tamaulipas Thorny Scrub, all with a very diverse species composition, which are located near the water bodies and which are shelter to a wide diversity of wild fauna such as mammals, reptiles and birds.

NATURAL RESOURCES SUSTAINABLE USAGE SUBZONE A

Polygon 1, Black Sea Lagoon is located in the northernmost zone of the Protected Area and it receives water from the Rio Bravo. In this location we can find the largest area with black mangrove formed by black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans)*. This site is highly productive and it has a large impact on fisheries. It s also a site for nesting and shelter of resident aquatic birds such as the White Heron, the Diving Duck and other migrating aquatic birds.

Polygon 2, Rio Bravo Delta is located in the northern area of the Protected Area. It is next to the beach zone, and in it we can find young and well established dune areas which are known as the most extensive motile dunes in the entire Protected Area, and they can take up to 5 thousand hectares.

Polygon 3, Rio Bravo Detla – Higuerillas is located in the northern area of the Protected Area. In it we can find the presence of isolated black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*) communities, which have an impact on fisheries due to their high productivity. This area has zones with a tendency for flooding and marshes covered by halophyte vegetation which can stand the high salt concentration. The northernmost record for Low subevergreen thorny forest is found in this polygon. There are also important patches of wild vegetation such as the Tamaulipas thorny scrub in the zone, which are home to a high diversity of wild fauna among which the presence of reptiles, birds and mammals stand out. In this zone one can also find great extensions of wetlands, and small patches of Izotal. In this area there are also communities of cacti dominated by the genus *Opuntia*, which are thought to have originated by cattle raisers as a means to provide food for cattle. In the high banks area one can also find the presence of Savannah with *Manfreda sileri*. These diverse flora associations are the habitat to a great number of species of mainly mammals and birds which use them for food, shelter, resting areas, transit areas and breeding.

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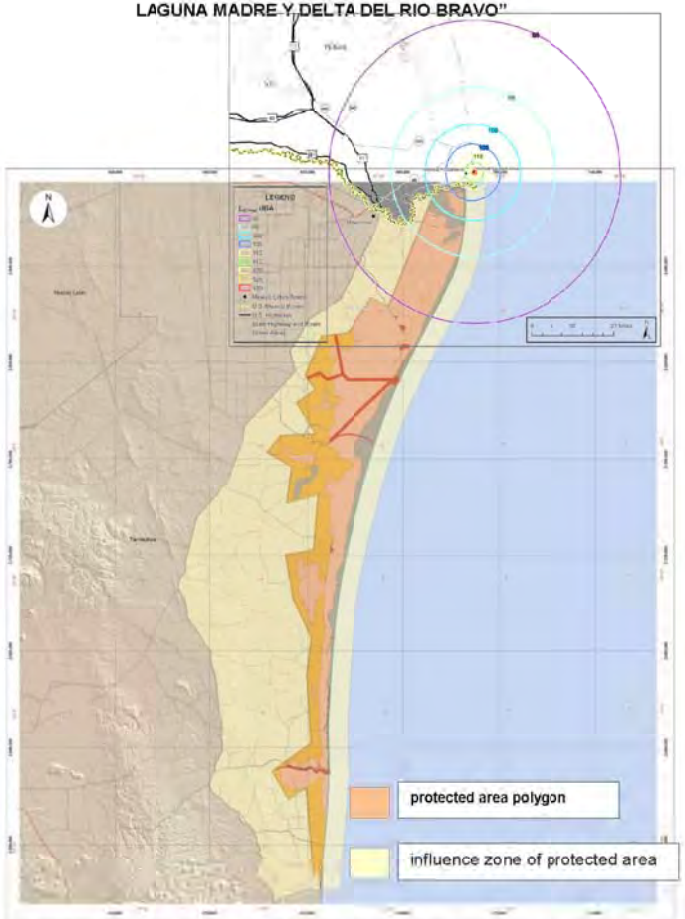

Modeled OASPL Noise Contours for Falcon Heavy Launch Vehicle (A-weighted LA,max) on the protected area polygon

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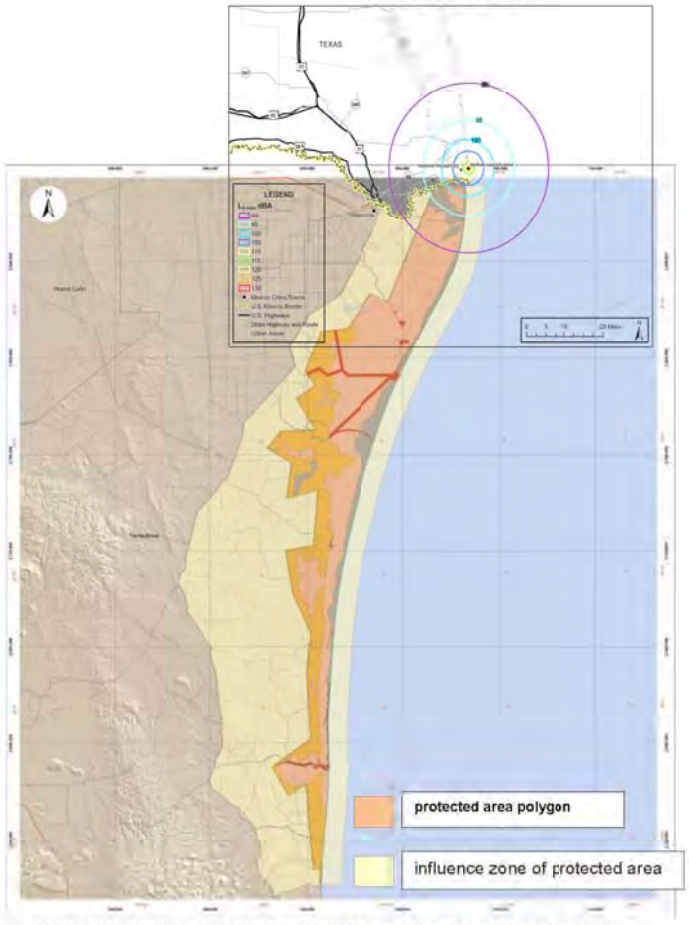
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNA
LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"



Modeled OASPL Noise Contours for a Falcon 9 Launch (A-weighted LA,max), on the protected area polygon

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AREA DE PRCTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Satellite Tracking

Fuente:
http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project_id=526

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of Padre Island National Seashore Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program in conjunction with the partners and sponsors detailed below.

Name	Species	Life Stage	Release Date	Last Location	Days Transmitted
Sandra (100390)	Kemp's Ridley	sub-Adult	2010-08-12	2010-09-02	21
Mary (100391)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2011-04-28	2011-09-14	139
Chris (100392)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2011-04-28	2012-03-12	319
Cecilia (100393)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2011-04-28	2012-07-08	437
Tony (100394)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2011-04-28	2011-11-09	195
Angela (100395)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2011-04-28	2011-12-07	223
Donna (100396)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2010-07-21	2010-10-20	91
Cinthia (100397)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2010-07-21	2010-09-29	70
Gloria (100398)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2010-07-23	2010-10-29	98
Giovanna (100399)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2010-07-23	2011-06-10	322
Marissa (100402)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2011-06-05	2011-12-22	200
Sara (100403)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2011-06-05	2012-01-26	235
Alma (100404)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2011-06-05	2012-07-23	414
Isabel (100405)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2011-06-05	2011-06-21	16
Joselin (100406)	Kemp's Ridley	Adult	2011-06-05	2012-01-22	231

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AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"



Introduction

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico is the site of a long-term, collaborative bi-national program between Mexico and the United States to try and restore the Kemp's ridley nesting population. The movements of nesting turtles are being monitored using satellite telemetry to determine where they go after they have completed nesting for the year.

This telemetry project is cooperative with the Gladys Porter Zoo and the National Park Service at Padre Island National Seashore. Funding for this project is provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

To view other tracking projects conducted at Padre Island National Seashore visit:

Padre Island National Seashore Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program-2005

Padre Island National Seashore Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program-2006

Padre Island National Seashore Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program-2007

Padre Island National Seashore Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program-2008

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AREA DE PRCTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Padre Island National Seashore Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program-2010

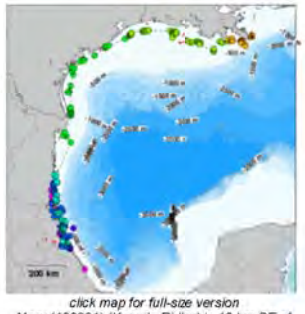
Mary (100391)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of **Padre Island National Seashore Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program**.

Full-Size Map (65KB)
Zoom Map (88KB)
Animated Map (376kB)

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2011-04-28 10:00:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas
Last Location: 2011-09-14 09:25:17



click map for full-size version
Mary (100391) (Kemp's Ridley) is 10 km SE of the coast of Mexico and 70 km from Brownsville

Background

This is an adult Kemps ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on April 28, 2011 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a WILDLIFE COMPUTER MK10A-Argos, satellite transmitter

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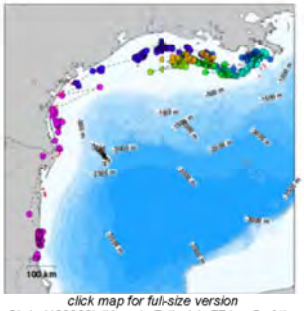
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Chris (100392)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of **Padre Island National Seashore**
Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (61KB)
Zoom Map (57KB)
Animated Map (414KB)



click map for full-size version
Chris (100392) (Kemp's Rdley) is 77 km S of the coast of United States and 143 km from Port Arthur

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2011-04-28 10:00:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas
Last Location: 2012-03-12 11:17:12

Background

This is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on April 28, 2011 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was seen again nesting on May 23, 2011 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo.

This turtle was outfitted with a WILDLIFE COMPUTER MK10A-Argos, satellite transmitter.

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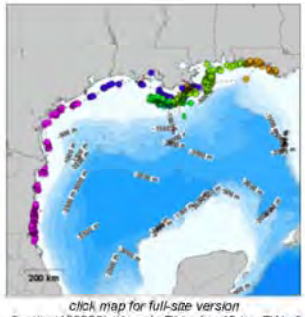
AREA DE PRCTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Cecilia (100393)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of **Padre Island National Seashore**
Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (64KB)
Zoom Map (82KB)
Animated Map (407KB)



click map for full-size version
Cecilia (100393) (Kemp's Ridley) is 19 km SW of the coast of United States and 97 km from New Orleans

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2011-04-28 10:00:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas
Last Location: 2012-07-08 10:21:31

Background

This is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on April 28, 2011 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a WILDLIFE COMPUTER MK10A-Argos, satellite transmitter.

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SEMARNAT | CONANP

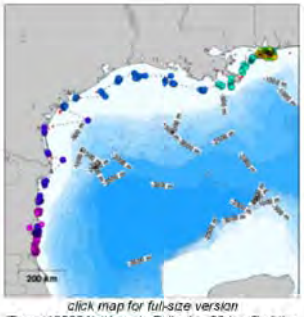
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Tony (100394)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of **Padre Island National Seashore**
Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (58KB)
Zoom Map (53KB)
Animated Map (396KB)



click map for full-size version
Tony (100394) (Kemp's Ridley) is 33 km S of the coast of United States and 140 km from New Orleans

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2011-04-28 00:00:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas
Last Location: 2011-11-09 22:40:39

Background

This is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on April 28, 2011 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a WILDLIFE COMPUTER MK10A-Argos, satellite transmitter.

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SEMARNAT | CONANP

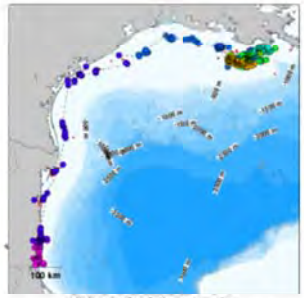
AREA DE PRCTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Angela (100395)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of **Padre Island National Seashore**
Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (59KB)
Zoom Map (73KB)
Animated Map (388KB)



click map for full-size version
Angela (100395) (Kemp's Ridley) is 26 km S of the coast of United States and 153 km from New Orleans

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2011-04-28 10:00:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas
Last Location: 2011-12-07 17:41:02

Background

This is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on April 28, 2011 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted witha WILDLIFE COMPUTER MK10A-Argos, satellite transmitter.

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SEMARNAT | CONANP

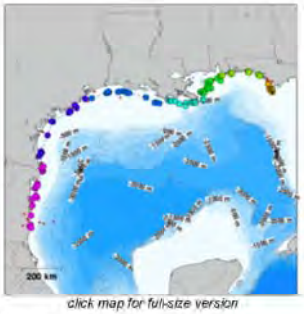
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Donna (100396)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of Padre Island National Seashore
Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (62KB)
Zoom Map (56KB)
Animated Map (373KB)



click map for full-size version

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2010-07-21 13:56:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Mexico
Last Location: 2010-10-20 22:22:38

Background

This is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on July 21, 2010 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a WILDLIFE COMPUTER MK10-Argos, Fast-GPS satellite transmitter tag. This turtle was named after Donna J. Shaver, Ph.D. with the National Park Service at Padre Island National Seashore.

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SEMARNAT | CONANP

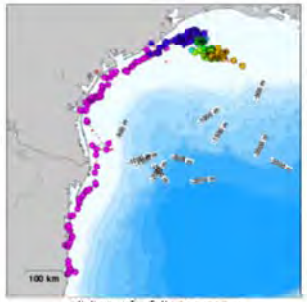
AREA DE PRCTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Joselin (100406)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of Padre Island National Seashore
Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (51KB)
Zoom Map (54KB)
Animated Map (384KB)



click map for full-size version
Joselin (100406) (Kemp's Ridley) is 30 km SE of the coast of United States and 104 km from Houston

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2011-06-05 17:00:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico
Last Location: 2012-01-22 17:59:19

Background

Thia is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on June 5, 2011 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a SIRTRACk KiwiSat101, satellite transmitter.

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SEMARNAT | CONANP

AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

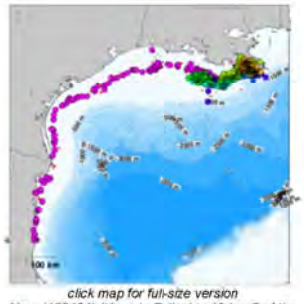
Alma (100404)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of Padre Island National Seashore
Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (59KB)
Zoom Map (86KB)
Animated Map (433KB)

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2011-06-05 17:00:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas
Last Location: 2012-07-23 04:11:14



click map for full-size version
Alma (100404) (Kemp's Ridley) is 13 km S of the coast of United States and 87 km from New Orleans

Background

Thia is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on June 5, 2011 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a SIRTRACk KiwiSat101, satellite transmitter.

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SEMARNAT | CONANP

AREA DE PRCTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

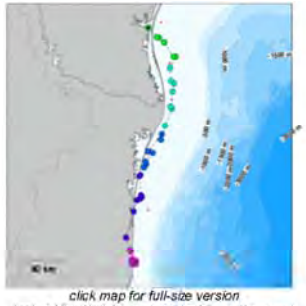
Isabel (100405)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of Padre Island National Seashore
Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (44KB)
Zoom Map (31KB)
Animated Map (77KB)

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2011-06-05 17:00:00
Release Location: Ranchoe Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico
Last Location: 2011-06-21 22:09:26



click map for full-size version
Isabel (100405) (Kemp's Ridley) is on the coast of United States and 143 km from Brownsville

Background

Thia is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on June 5, 2011 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a SIRTRACk KiwiSat101, satellite transmitter.

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SEMARNAT | CONANP

AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Sara (100403)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of Padre Island National Seashore Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (58KB)
Zoom Map (92KB)
Animated Map (392KB)

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2011-06-05 17:00:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas
Last Location: 2012-01-26 20:45:52



click map for full-size version
Sara (100403) (Kemp's Ridley) is 31 km S of the coast of United States and 57 km from Port Arthur

Background

Thia is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on June 5, 2011 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a SIRTRACk KiwiSat101, satellite transmitter.

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SEMARNAT | CONANP

AREA DE PRCTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

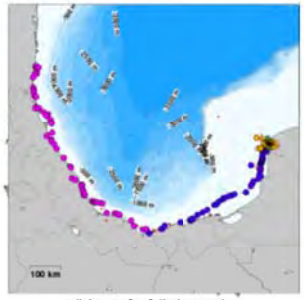
Marissa (100402)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of Padre Island National Seashore Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (52KB)
Zoom Map (34KB)
Animated Map (343KB)

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2011-06-05 17:00:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas
Last Location: 2011-12-22 10:47:14



click map for full-size version
Marissa (100402) (Kemp's Ridley) is 48 km NW of the coast of Mexico and 280 km from Merida

Background

This is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on June 5, 2011 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a SIRTRACK KiwiSat101, satellite transmitter.

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SEMARNAT | CONANP

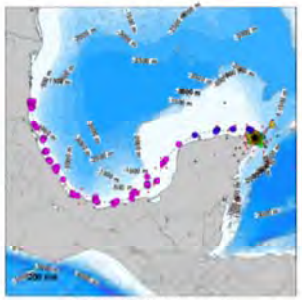
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Giovanna (100399)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of Padre Island National Seashore
Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (70KB)
Zoom Map (79KB)
Animated Map (410KB)



click map for full-size version

Giovanna (100399) (Kemp's Ridley) is 13 km E of the coast of Mexico and 294 km from Merida

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2010-07-23 10:00:00
Release Location:
Last Location: 2011-06-10 07:51:40

Background

This is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on July 23, 2010 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a WILDLIFE COMPUTER MK10-Argos, Fast-GPS satellite transmitter tag.

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SEMARNAT | CONANP

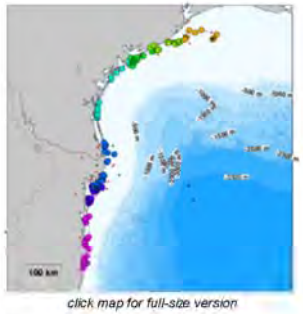
AREA DE PRCTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Gloria (100398)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of Padre Island National Seashore
Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program.

Full-Size Map (48KB)
Zoom Map (42KB)
Animated Map (361KB)



click map for full-size version

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2010-07-23 10:00:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Mexico
Last Location: 2010-10-29 17:37:56

Background

This is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on July 23, 2010 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a WILDLIFE COMPUTER MK10-Argos, Fast-GPS satellite transmitter tag.

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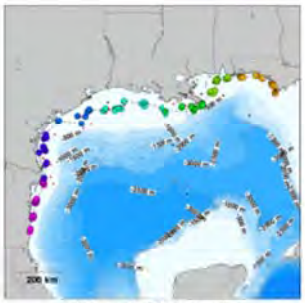
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNALAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"

Cinthia (100397)

Rancho Nuevo, Mexico Kemp's Ridley Tracking 2010-2011

A project of **Padre Island National Seashore Kemp's Ridley Tracking Program**.

Full-Size Map (62KB)
Zoom Map (53KB)
Animated Map (283KB)



click map for full-size version

Species: Kemp's Ridley
Life Stage: Adult
Gender: Female
Release Date: 2010-07-21 18:00:00
Release Location: Rancho Nuevo, Mexico
Last Location: 2010-09-29 14:05:39

Background

This is an adult female Kemp's ridley sea turtle that emerged to nest on July 21, 2010 on the beach of Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This turtle was outfitted with a WILDLIFE COMPUTER MK10-Argos, Fast-GPS satellite transmitter tag.This turtle was named after Cynthia Rubio with the National Park Service at Padre Island National Seashore.

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COMISION NACIONAL DE AREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNA
LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO
LISTA DE DE AVES DEL LA ZONA NORTE DE LA LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO

NO	orden	familia	genero	especie	nombre comun	NOM 059	estacionalidad
1	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Aix*	*sponsa*	Pato arcoíris	Ninguna	RARO
2	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Anas*	*platyrhynchos diazi*	Pato mexicano	A	INVIERNO
3	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Anas*	*strepera*	Pato friso	Ninguna	INVIERNO
4	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Anas*	*americana*	Pato chalcuan	Ninguna	INVIERNO
5	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Anas*	*fulvigula*	Pato texano	A	RESIDENTE
6	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Anas*	*discors*	Cerceta ala azul	Ninguna	INVIERNO
7	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Anas*	*cyanoptera*	Cerceta canela	Ninguna	INVIERNO
8	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Anas*	*clypeata*	Pato cucharón	Ninguna	INVIERNO
9	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Anas*	*acuta*	Pato golondrino	Ninguna	INVIERNO
10	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Anas*	*crecca*	Cerceta ala verde	Ninguna	INVIERNO
11	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Anser*	*albifrons*	Ganso careto mayor	Ninguna	INVIERNO
12	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Aythya*	*valisineria*	Pato coacoztle	Ninguna	INVIERNO
13	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Aythya*	*americana*	Pato cabeza roja	Ninguna	INVIERNO
14	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Aythya*	*affinis*	Pato boludo mayor	Ninguna	INVIERNO
15	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Aythya*	*collaris*	Pato pico anillado	Ninguna	INVIERNO
16	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Branta*	*canadiensis*	Ganso canadiense	Ninguna	INVIERNO
17	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Branta*	*bernicla*	Ganso de collar	Ninguna	RARO
18	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Bucephala*	*albeola*	Pato monja	Ninguna	INVIERNO
19	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Bucephala*	*clangula*	Porrón osculado	Ninguna	INVIERNO
20	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Chen*	*caerulescens*	Ganso blanco	Ninguna	INVIERNO
21	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Chen*	*rossi*	Ganso de Ross	Ninguna	INVIERNO
22	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Dendrocygna*	*autumnalis*	Pijije de ala blanca	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
23	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Dendrocygna*	*bicolor*	Pijije canelo	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
24	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Lophodrtes*	*cucullatus*	Mergo cresta blanca	Ninguna	RARO-INVIERNO
25	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Mergus*	*serrator*	Mergo copetón	Ninguna	INVIERNO
26	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Nomonrx*	*dominicus*	Pato zambullidor	A	RARO
27	Anseriformes	Anatidae	*Oxyura*	*jamaicensis*	Pato tepate	Ninguna	INVIERNO
28	Apodiformes	Trochilidae	*Amazala*	*yucatensis*	Colibríyucateco	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
29	Apodiformes	Trochilidae	*Archilochus*	*colubris*	Colibrígarganta rubí	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
30	Caprimulgiformes	Caprimulgidae	*Chordeles*	*acutipennis*	Tapacaminos o Chotacabras	Ninguna	VERANO
31	Caprimulgiformes	Caprimulgidae	*Chordeles*	*minor*	Chotacabras zumbón	Ninguna	VERANO
32	Caprimulgiformes	Caprimulgidae	*Nyctidromus*	*albicollis*	Chotacabras paurecue	Ninguna	RESIDENTE

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COMISION NACIONAL DE AREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNA
LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO
LISTA DE DE AVES DEL LA ZONA NORTE DE LA LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO

NO	orden	familia	genero	especie	nombre comun	NOM 059	estacionalidad
33	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Actitis*	*macularia*	Playero alzacolita	Ninguna	INVIERNO
34	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Arenaria*	*iriterpres*	Vuelve piedras rojizo	Ninguna	INVIERNO
35	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Barramia*	*longicauda*	Zarapito ganga	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
36	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Calidris*	*alba*	Playero blanco	Ninguna	INVIERNO
37	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Calidris*	*canutus*	Playero canuto	Ninguna	INVIERNO
38	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Calidris*	*pusilla*	Playero semipalmeado	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
39	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Calidris*	*mauri*	Playero occidental	Ninguna	INVIERNO
40	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Calidris*	*minutilla*	Playero chichicuilote	Ninguna	INVIERNO
41	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Calidris*	*fuscicollis*	Playero rabadilla blanca	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
42	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Calidris*	*melanotos*	Playerito pectoral	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
43	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Calidris*	*alpina*	Playero dorso rojo	Ninguna	INVIERNO
44	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Calidris*	*himantopus*	Playero zancón	Ninguna	INVIERNO
45	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Catoptropho rus*	*semipalmatus*	Playero pihuiui	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
46	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	*Charadrius*	*alexandrinus*	Chorlo nevado	A	RESIDENTE
47	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	*Charadrius*	*wilsonia*	Chorlo pico grueso	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
48	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	*Charadrius*	*semipalmatus*	Chorlo semipalmeado	Ninguna	INVIERNO
49	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	*Charadrius*	*melodus*	Chorlo melodico	P	INVIERNO
50	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	*Charadrius*	*vociferus*	Chorlo tildio	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
51	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	*Charadrius*	*montanus*	Chorlo llanero	A	INVIERNO
52	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Chlidonias*	*niger*	Charran negro	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
53	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Gallinago*	*gallinago*	Agachona común	Ninguna	INVIERNO
54	Charadriiformes	Haematopodidae	*Haematopus*	*palliatus*	Ostrero americano	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
55	Charadriiformes	Recurvirostridae	*Himantopus*	*mexicanus*	Monjita	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
56	Charadriiformes	Jacanidae	*Jacana*	*spinosa*	Jacana del norte	Ninguna	RARO

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COMISION NACIONAL DE AREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNA
LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO
LISTA DE DE AVES DEL LA ZONA NORTE DE LA LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO

NO	orden	familia	genero	especie	nombre comun	NOM 059	estacionalidad
57	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Larus*	*atricilla*	Gaviota reidora	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
58	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Larus*	*pipixcan*	Gaviota de franklin	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
59	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Larus*	*philadelphia*	Gaviota de Bonaparte	Ninguna	INVIERNO
60	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Larus*	*delawarensis*	Gaviota de pico anillado	Ninguna	INVIERNO
61	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Larus*	*argentatus*	Gaviota plateada	Ninguna	INVIERNO
62	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Limnodromus*	*griseus*	Costurero pico corto	Ninguna	INVIERNO
63	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Limnodromus*	*scolopaceus*	Costurero pico largo	Ninguna	INVIERNO
64	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Limosa*	*fedoa*	Picopando canelo	Ninguna	INVIERNO
65	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Numerius*	*phaeopus*	Zarapito trinador	Ninguna	INVIERNO
66	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Numerius*	*americanus*	Zarapito pico largo	Ninguna	INVIERNO
67	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Phalaropus*	*tricolor*	Falarocio pico largo	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
68	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	*Pluvialis*	*squatarola*	Chorlo gris	Ninguna	INVIERNO
69	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	*Pluvialis*	*dominica*	Chorlo dominico	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
70	Charadriiformes	Recurvirostridae	*Recurvrostra*	*americana*	Avoceta americana	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
71	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Rynchops*	*niger*	Rayador americano	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
72	Charadriiformes	Sternidae	*Sterna*	*caspia*	Golondrina marina grande	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
73	Charadriiformes	Sternidae	*Sterna*	*sandvicensis*	Charrán patinegro	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
74	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Sterna*	*caspia*	Charran caspio	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
75	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Sterna*	*maxima*	Charran real	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
76	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Sterna*	*hirundo*	Charran común	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
77	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Sterna*	*forsteri*	Charran de Foster	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
78	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Sterna*	*antillarum*	Charran minimo	Pr	VERANO
79	Charadriiformes	Laridae	*Sterna*	*fuscata*	Charran sombrío	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
80	Charadriiformes	Sternidae	*Sterna*	*nilotica*	Charran pico grueso	Ninguna	RESIDENTE

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COMISION NACIONAL DE AREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNA
LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO
LISTA DE DE AVES DEL LA ZONA NORTE DE LA LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO

NO	orden	familia	genero	especie	nombre comun	NOM 059	estacionalidad
81	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Tringa*	*melanoleuca*	Patamarilla mayor	Ninguna	INVIERNO
82	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Tringa*	*flavipes*	Patamarilla menor	Ninguna	INVIERNO
83	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	*Tringa*	*solitaria*	Playero solitario	Ninguna	INVIERNO
84	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*Ardea*	*herodias*	Garza morena	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
85	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*Ardea*	*alba*	Garza blanca	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
86	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*Botcurus*	*lentiginosus*	Avetoro norteño	A	INVIERNO
87	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*Bubulcus*	*ibis*	Garza ganadera	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
88	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*Butorides*	*virescens*	Garceta verde	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
89	Ciconiiformes	Cathartidae	*Cathartes*	*aura*	Auta	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
90	Ciconiiformes	Cathartidae	*Corcgyps*	*atratus*	Zopilote	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
91	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*Egretta*	*thula*	Garza zapatitos	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
92	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*Egretta*	*caerulea*	Garceta azul	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
93	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*Egretta*	*tricolor*	Garceta tricolor	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
94	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*Egretta*	*rufescens*	Garceta rojiza	Pr	RESIDENTE
95	Ciconiiformes	Threskiornithidae	*Eudocimus*	*albus*	Ibis Blanco	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
96	Ciconiiformes	Ciconiidae	*Mycteria*	*americana*	Cigüeña americana	Pr	MIGRATORIO
97	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*Nyctanassa*	*violacea*	Pecrete corona clara	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
98	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae	*Nycticorax*	*nycticorax*	Pecrete corona negra	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
99	Ciconiiformes	Threskiornithidae	*Platalea*	*ajaja*	Espátula rosada	Ninguna	VERANO
100	Ciconiiformes	Threskiornithidae	*Plegadis*	*chii*	Ibis cara rosada	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
101	Ciconiiformes	Threskiornithidae	*Plegadis*	*falcinellus*	Ibis cara blanca	Ninguna	RARO
102	Columbiformes	Columbidae	*Columba*	*livia*	Paloma domestica	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
103	Columbiformes	Columbidae	*Columba*	*flavirostris*	Paloma morada	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
104	Columbiformes	Columbidae	*Columbina*	*inca*	Tortola cola larga	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
105	Columbiformes	Columbidae	*Columbina*	*passerina*	Tortola coquita	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
106	Columbiformes	Columbidae	*Leptotila*	*verreauxi*	Paloma arroyera	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
107	Columbiformes	Columbidae	*Zenaida*	*asiatica*	Paloma ala blanca	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
108	Columbiformes	Columbidae	*Zenaida*	*macroura*	Paloma huilota	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
109	Cuculiformes	Cuculidae	*Cocyzus*	*americanus*	Cuclillo pico amarillo	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
110	Cuculiformes	Cuculidae	*Crotophaga*	*sulcirostris*	Garrapatero pijuy	Ninguna	VERANO
111	Cuculiformes	Cuculidae	*Geococcyx*	*californianus*	Correcaminos norteño	Ninguna	RESIDENTE

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COMISION NACIONAL DE AREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNA
LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO
LISTA DE DE AVIS DEL LA ZONA NORTE DE LA LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO

NO	orden	familia	genero	especie	nombre comun	NOM 059	estacionalidad
112	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Accipitr*	*striatus*	Gavilán pecho rufo	Pr	INVIERNO
113	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Accipitr*	*cooperii*	Azor de Cooper	Pr	INVIERNO
114	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Asturina*	*nitida*	Aguilila gris	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
115	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Buteo*	*magnirostris*	Águila caminera	Ninguna	
116	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Buteo*	*platypterus*	Águila ala ancha	Pr	MIGRATORIO
117	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Buteo*	*swainsoni*	Águila de swainson	Pr	MIGRATORIO
118	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Buteo*	*albicaudatus*	Águila cola blanca	Pr	RESIDENTE
119	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Buteo*	*jamaicensis*	Águila cola roja	Ninguna	INVIERNO
120	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Buteogallus*	*anthracinus*	Aguilila negra menor	Pr	RARO
121	Falconiformes	Falconidae	*Caracara*	*cheriway*	Caracara	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
122	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Circus*	*cyaneus*	Gavilán rastrero	Ninguna	INVIERNO
123	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Elanoides*	*forficatus*	Gavilán tijerilla	Pr	RARO
124	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Elanus*	*leucurus*	Milano cola blanca	Ninguna	INVIERNO
125	Falconiformes	Falconidae	*Falco*	*sparverius*	Cernícalo americano	Ninguna	INVIERNO
126	Falconiformes	Falconidae	*Falco*	*columbarius*	Halcón esmerejón	Ninguna	INVIERNO
127	Falconiformes	Falconidae	*Falco*	*peregrinus*	Halcón peregrino	Pr	INVIERNO
128	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Haliaeetus*	*leucocephalus*	Águila calva	P	RARO
129	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Ictinia*	*mississippiensis*	milano boreal	Pr	MIGRATORIO
130	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Pandion*	*haliaetus*	Gavilán pescador	Ninguna	INVIERNO
131	Falconiformes	Accipitridae	*Parabuteo*	*unicinctus*	Aguilila roji negra	Pr	RESIDENTE
132	Gruiformes	Rallidae	*Fulica*	*americana*	Gallareta americana	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
133	Gruiformes	Rallidae	*Gallinula*	*chloropus*	Gallineta frente roja	Ninguna	INVIERNO
134	Gruiformes	Gruidae	*Grus*	*canadensis*	Grulla canadiense	Pr	INVIERNO
135	Gruiformes	Rallidae	*Porphyrula*	*martinica*	Polla azul	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
136	Gruiformes	Rallidae	*Porzana*	*carolina*	Polluela sora	Ninguna	INVIERNO
137	Gruiformes	Rallidae	*Rallus*	*limicola*	Rascón de Virginia	A	INVIERNO
138	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Agelaius*	*phoeniceus*	Tordo sargento	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
139	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	*Ammodramus*	*savannarum*	Gorrión sabanero pechileonado	Ninguna	INVIERNO
140	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	*Amphispiza*	*bilineata*	Zacatcnero gargarta negra	Ninguna	RESIDENTE

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LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO
LISTA DE DE AVES DEL LA ZONA NORTE DE LA LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO

NO	orden	familia	genero	especie	nombre comun	NOM 059	estacionalidad
141	Passeriformes	Motacillidae	*Anthus*	*rubescens*	Bisbita de agua	Ninguna	INVIERNO
142	Passeriformes	Motacillidae	*Anthus*	*spragueii*	Bisbita llanera	Ninguna	INVIERNO
143	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	*Arremonops*	*rufivirgatus*	Rascador oliváceo	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
144	Passeriformes	Re mizidae	*Auriparus*	*flaviceps*	Verdín	Ninguna	INVIERNO
145	Passeriformes	Paridae	*Baeolophus*	*bicolor*	Carbonero cresta negra	Ninguna	INVIERNO
146	Passeriformes	Bombycillidae	*Bombycilla*	*cedrorum*	Ampelis chinito	Ninguna	INVIERNO
147	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Camptostoma*	*imberbe*	Mosquerito imperbe	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
148	Passeriformes	Troglodytidae	*Campylorhynchus*	*brunneicapillus*	Matraca del desierto	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
149	Passeriformes	Cardinalidae	*Cardinalis*	*cardinalis*	Cardenal rojo	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
150	Passeriformes	Cardinalidae	*Cardinalis*	*sinuatus*	Cardenal pardo	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
151	Passeriformes	Turdidae	*Catharus*	*guttatus*	Zorzal ermitaño	Ninguna	INVIERNO
152	Passeriformes	Certhiidae	*Certhia*	*americana*	Agateador americano	Ninguna	INVIERNO
153	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	*Chondestes*	*grammacus*	Gorrión arlequín	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
154	Passeriformes	Corvidae	*Corvus*	*imparatus*	Cuervo tamaulipeco	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
155	Passeriformes	Cardinalidae	*Cyanocompsa*	*parellina*	Colorín azulnegro	Ninguna	RARO
156	Passeriformes	Corvidae	*Cyanocorax*	*Yncas*	Chara verde	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
157	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Dendroica*	*petechia*	Chipé amarillo	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
158	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Dendroica*	*coronata*	Chipé coronado	Ninguna	INVIERNO
159	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Dendroica*	*virens*	Chipé dorso verde	Ninguna	INVIERNO
160	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Dendroica*	*dominica*	Reinita rojiamarilla	Ninguna	INVIERNO
161	Passeriformes	Mimidae	*Dumetella*	*carolinensis*	Mímido gris	Ninguna	INVIERNO
162	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Empidonax*	*minimus*	Mosquero	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
163	Passeriformes	Alaudidae	*Eremophila*	*alpestris*	Alondra cornuda	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
164	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Euphagus*	*cyanocephalus*	Urraca de Brewer	Ninguna	INVIERNO
165	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Geothlypis*	*trinchas*	Mascarita común	Ninguna	INVIERNO
166	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Geothlypis*	*poliocephala*	Mascarita pico grueso	Ninguna	INVIERNO
167	Passeriformes	Cardinalidae	*Guiraca*	*caerulea*	Pico gordo azul	Ninguna	VERANO
168	Passeriformes	Hirundinidae	*Hirundo*	*rustica*	Golondrina tijereta	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
169	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Icterus*	*spurius*	Bolsero castaño	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
170	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Icterus*	*gularis*	Bolsero de Altamira	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
171	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Icterus*	*cucullatus*	Bolsero encapuchado	Ninguna	VERANO

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COMISION NACIONAL DE AREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS
AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNA
LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO
LISTA DE DE AVES DEL LA ZONA NORTE DE LA LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO

NO	orden	familia	genero	especie	nombre comun	NOM 059	estacionalidad
172	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Icterus*	*galbula*	Bolsero de Baltimore	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
173	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Icterus*	*graduacauda*	Bolsero cabeza negra	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
174	Passeriformes	Laniidae	*Lanius*	*ludovicianus*	Verdugo	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
175	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	*Melospza*	*melodia*	Gorrión melódico	Ninguna	INVIERNO
176	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	*Melospza*	*lincolnii*	Gorrión de Lincoln	Ninguna	INVIERNO
177	Passeriformes	Mimidae	*Mimus*	*polyglottos*	Cenzontle norteño	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
178	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Mniotilta*	*varia*	Chipé trepador	Ninguna	INVIERNO
179	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Molothrus*	*aeneus*	Tordo ojo rojo	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
180	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Molothrus*	*ater*	Tordo cabeza café	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
181	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Myiarchus*	*tyrannulus*	Papamoscas tirano	Ninguna	VERANO
182	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Myiarchus*	*cinerascens*	Copetón cenizo	Ninguna	VERANO
183	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Oporornis*	*philadelphia*	Chipé enlutado	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
184	Passeriformes	Tityridae	*Pachyrmphus*	*aglaiae*	Sin nombre	Ninguna	RARO-VERANO
185	Passeriformes	Passeridae	*Passer*	*domesticus*	Gorrión casero	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
186	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	*Passerculus*	*sandwichensis*	Gorrión sabanero	Ninguna	INVIERNO
187	Passeriformes	Cardinalidae	*Passerina*	*cyanea*	Colorín azul	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
188	Passeriformes	Cardinalidae	*Passerina*	*ciris*	Colorín siete colores	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
189	Passeriformes	Hirundinidae	*Petrochelidon*	*pyrrhonota*	Golondrina risqueia	Ninguna	VERANO
190	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	*Pipilo*	*erythrophthalmus magnirostris*	Rascador pinto obscuro	Pr	INVIERNO
191	Passeriformes	Thraupidae	*Piranga*	*flava*	Tangara roja piquioscura	Ninguna	RARO
192	Passeriformes	Thraupidae	*Piranga*	*Rubra*	Tangara roja	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
193	Passeriformes	Thraupidae	*Piranga*	*olivacea*	Tangara rojinegra migratoria	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
194	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Pitangus*	*sulphuratus*	Luis bienteveo	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
195	Passeriformes	Sylviidae	*Polioptla*	*caerulea*	Perlita azul gris	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
196	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	*Pooecetes*	*gramineus*	Gorrión cola blanca	Ninguna	INVIERNO
197	Passeriformes	Hirundinidae	*Progne*	*subis*	Golondrina azul negra	Ninguna	VERANO
198	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Pyrocephalus*	*rubinus*	Mosquero cardenal	Ninguna	INVIERNO
199	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Quiscalus*	*mexicanus*	Zanate mexicano	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
200	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Sayornis*	*phoebe*	Papamoscas fibi	Ninguna	INVIERNO

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LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO
LISTA DE DE AVES DEL LA ZONA NORTE DE LA LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO

NO	orden	familia	genero	especie	nombre comun	NOM 059	estacionalidad
201	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Sayornis*	*saya*	Papamoscas llanero	Ninguna	INVIERNO
202	Passeriformes	Cardinalidae	*Spiza*	*americana*	Arrocero americano	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
203	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	*Spizella*	*pallida*	Chimbito pálido	Ninguna	INVIERNO
204	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	*Spizella*	*passerina*	Gorrión ceja blanca	Ninguna	INVIERNO
205	Passeriformes	Hirundinidae	*Stelgidopteryx*	*serripennis*	Golondrina ala aserrada	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
206	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Sturnella*	*magna*	Pradero	Ninguna	INVIERNO
207	Passeriformes	Icteridae	*Sturnella*	*neglecta*	Pradero gorjeador	Ninguna	INVIERNO
208	Passeriformes	Sturnidae	*Sturnus*	*vulgaris*	Estornino pinto	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
209	Passeriformes	Hirundinidae	*Tachycineta*	*bicolor*	Golondrina bicolor	Ninguna	INVIERNO
210	Passeriformes	Troglodytidae	*Thryomanes*	*bewickii*	Chivirin cola oscura	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
211	Passeriformes	Mimidae	*Toxostoma*	*longirostre*	Cuitlacoche pico largo	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
212	Passeriformes	Mimidae	*Toxostoma*	*curvirostre*	Cuitlacoche pico curvo	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
213	Passeriformes	Troglodytidae	*Troglodytes*	*aedon*	Chivirin salta pared	Ninguna	INVIERNO
214	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Tyrannus*	*couchii*	Tirano silbador	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
215	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Tyrannus*	*melancholicus*	Tirano tropical	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
216	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Tyrannus*	*verticalis*	Tirano pálido	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
217	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Tyrannus*	*tyrannus*	Tirano dorso negro	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
218	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae	*Tyrannus*	*forficatus*	Tirano tijereta rosado	Ninguna	VERANO
219	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Vermivora*	*celata*	Chipé corona naranja	Ninguna	INVIERNO
220	Passeriformes	Vireonide	*Vireo*	*griseus*	Víreo ojo blanco	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
221	Passeriformes	Vireonide	*Vireo*	*bellii*	Víreo de bell	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
222	Passeriformes	Vireonide	*Vireo*	*solitarius*	Víreo solitario	Ninguna	INVIERNO
223	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Wilsonia*	*citrina*	Chipé encapuchado	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
224	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Wilsonia*	*pusilla*	Chipé corona negra	Ninguna	INVIERNO
225	Passeriformes	Parulidae	*Wilsonia*	*canadensis*	Chipé de collar	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
226	Pelecaniformes	Fregatidae	*Fregata*	*magnificens*	Cormorán orejudo	Ninguna	MIGRATORIO
227	Pelecaniformes	Sulidae	*Morus*	*bassanus*	Bobo norteño	Ninguna	INVIERNO
228	Pelecaniformes	Pelecanidae	*Pelecanus*	*erythrorhynchos*	Pelcano blanco	Ninguna	INVIERNO
229	Pelecaniformes	Pelecanidae	*Pelecanus*	*occidentalis*	Pelcano café	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
230	Pelecaniformes	Phalacrocoracidae	*Phalacrocorax*	*brasilianus*	Cormorán neotropical	Ninguna	RESIDENTE

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LISTA DE DE AVES DEL LA ZONA NORTE DE LA LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO

NO	orden	familia	genero	especie	nombre comun	NOM 059	estacionalidad
231	Pelecaniformes	Phalacrocoracidae	*Phalacrocorax*	*auritus*	Cormorán oliváceo	Ninguna	INVIERNO
232	Pelecaniformes	Sulidae	*Sula*	*dactylatra*	Boboenmascarado	Ninguna	RARO-MIGRATORIO
233	Piciformes	Picidae	*Melanerpes*	*aurifrons*	Carpintero cheje	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
234	Piciformes	Picidae	*Picoides*	*scalaris*	Carpintero mexicano	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
235	Podicipediformes	Podicipedidae	*Podiceps*	*nigricollis*	Zambullidor orejudo	Ninguna	INVIERNO
236	Podicipediformes	Podicipedidae	*Podilymbus*	*podiceps*	Zambullidor pico grueso	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
237	Podicipediformes	Podicipedidae	*Tachybaptus*	*dominicus*	Zambullidor menor	Pr	RESIDENTE
238	Strigiformes	Strigidae	*Athene*	*cunicularia*	Tecolote llanero	Ninguna	INVIERNO
239	Strigiformes	Strigidae	*Bubo*	*virginianus*	Búho cornudo	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
240	Strigiformes	Tytonidae	*Tyto*	*alba*	Lechuza de campanario	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
241	Trogoniformes	Alcedinidae	*Ceryle*	*alcyon*	Martin pescador norteño	Ninguna	INVIERNO
242	Trogoniformes	Alcedinidae	*Ceryle*	*torquata*	Martin pescador de collar	Ninguna	RESIDENTE
243	Trogoniformes	Alcedinidae	*Chloroceryle*	*americana*	Martin pescador verde	Ninguna	RESIDENTE

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**AREA DE PROTECCION DE FLORA Y FAUNA
LAGUNA MADRE Y DELTA DEL RIO BRAVO"**

ANEXO 1.

Riqueza biológica de Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Laguna Madre y Delta del Río Bravo.

Categoría Taxonómica	Géreros	Especies	Peligro de extinción	Amenazadas	Protección especial	Endémicas	Exóticas
CORDADOS							
Mamíferos	50	59	5	7	1	1	
Aves	155	267	4	6	16	2	
Reptiles	37	47	5	8	12	2	
Anfibios	12	15		1	2		
Peces	82	110		1	1		
EQUINODERMOS							
Equinoideos	5	7					
Asteroideos	5	6					
Ofiuroideos	1	1					
Holoturoideos	2	2					
ARTROPODOS							
Crustáceos	47	69					
MOLUSCOS							
Gasterópodos	28	33					
Bivalvos	31	39			2		
Cefalópodos	3	6					
ANELIDOS							
Poliquetos	5	6					
CNIDARIOS							
Hidrozoarios	4	4					
VEGETACIÓN							
Plantas	255	399	3	2	5	5	1
Macro algas	73	119					
Fitoplancton	50	96					
TOTAL	***857***	***1285***	***17***	***25***	***39***	***10***	***1***

Página ***1*** de ***1***

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6/24/2013 MON 10:10 FAX 512 475 2761 Secretary of State 002/001

John Steen
SECRETARY OF STATE
State of Texas

Also sent by email

June 21, 2013

Ms. Stacy M. Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

Thanks for this opportunity to write to you concerning the potential SpaceX launch site in Brownsville, Texas.

As the Texas Secretary of State, I want to offer my full and enthusiastic support for this project. Having toured the SpaceX testing facility in McGregor, Texas, I have seen how SpaceX is a good neighbor and a support to the local community. Here in Texas, we are proud to consider SpaceX a responsible partner in business.

I have also viewed the site at Brownsville and believe it offers unique advantages in regard to environmental considerations, local support, and practical use.

There is broad, statewide support for SpaceX to expand in the Lone Star State. As you may know, the Texas Legislature unanimously passed H.B. 2623 which will allow a beach near Brownsville to be closed to the public during rocket launches. Governor Rick Perry recently signed this legislation into law. I believe the strong support for this legislation reflects the state's eagerness to welcome SpaceX to Brownsville.

3.1.1

If I may answer any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

John Steen
Secretary of State

Post Office Box 12697, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 7871[illegible]-2697
512-463-577[illegible]

A-06

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

June 18, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Aviation Administration
Space X EIS
c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street—Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Space Exploration Technologies Corporation's (Space X's) proposal to launch the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy orbital vertical launch vehicles from a private site located in Cameron County, Texas. Comments previously made by the General Land Office (GLO) and not included in the remainder of this letter are considered adequately addressed.

As previously stated, all construction activities within 1,000 feet of mean high tide, *including the construction of roads and fences*, must comply with provisions of the Open Beaches Act and the Dune Protection Act and the Beach Dune Rules.[1] After comparing maps provided in the DEIS to recent aerial photography, it appears that construction of the perimeter security access road and fence line in the vertical launch area are between approximately 700 and 1,000 feet from mean high tide. A beachfront construction certificate and dune protection permit must be obtained from Cameron County prior to commencement of any construction as defined under 31 TAC § 15.2(18) within 1,000 feet of mean high tide. 3.7.4

Additionally, there appears to be dunes and dune vegetation near the proposed fire port in the vertical launch area. If dunes or dune vegetation will be damaged or destroyed as a result of space flight activities, or during construction activities, the applicant must submit to Cameron County an application for a dune protection permit along with a comprehensive mitigation plan that includes a detailed description of the methods that will be used to avoid, minimize, mitigate, and/or compensate for any adverse effects on dunes or dune vegetation.[2] 3.7.4

The DEIS identifies possible impacts to adjacent submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), but implies the impacts will not be significant because there will only be 12 launches per year. The Seagrass Conservation Plan for Texas identifies prop scarring from recreational boating as a cause of direct damage to SAV. The Texas Legislature recently passed an amendment (HB 3279) to the Parks and Wildlife Code 3.14.9

[1] TNRC §§ 61 and 63 and 31 TAC §§15.1-15.21.
[2] 31 TAC 15.3(s)(4)(A)(xii).

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A-06

Sec. 66.024 making it illegal to cause prop scarring (or rotor wash) damage to SAV. Impacts to SAV must be documented and mitigated in accordance with 31 Tex. Admin Code § 155.3 (g). 3.14.9 (Cont.)

The DEIS identifies two possible launch failures where the vehicle survives water impact or strike, but does not identify how the vehicle, payload or hazardous materials will be removed without damage to the natural resources. There is extensive SAV habitat in the adjacent bays, and significant damage could be done during removal or retrieval. The Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (HMERP) needs to account for possible impacts to SAV, and provide for mitigation of temporary and permanent impacts. 3.22.1

If you have any questions concerning theses issue please contact me at 512-463-5055 or by e-mail at tony.williams@glo.texas.gov.

Tony Williams
Environmental Review Coordinator
Texas General Land Office

A-07

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Life's better outside.

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Carter P. Smith
Executive Director

June 21, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
Federal Aviation Administration
c/o Cardno TEC Incorporated
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Review of Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared for Space Exploration Technologies' proposed construction of a vertical launch area and control center, Cameron County, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee:

This letter is in response to your request for review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared for the Space Exploration Technologies' (SpaceX) proposed Texas launch site.

Project Description

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST), in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Parks Service, U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has prepared a DEIS for the proposed construction of a vertical launch area and control center. The FAA/AST has prepared the DEIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the FAA/AST proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits that would allow SpaceX to launch the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy orbital vertical launch vehicles and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a launch site that would be constructed in Cameron County, Texas.

The Preferred Alternative would be for the FAA to issue licenses and/or experimental permits to SpaceX that would allow SpaceX to conduct up to 12 launches per year of vertical launch vehicles from the Cameron County, Texas, site. Specifically, the project would include the construction of a vertical launch area, control center, and utility connections in southern Cameron County near the terminus of State Highway (SH) 4.

Permanent structures at the vertical launch area would consist of a hangar, a launch pad and stand with associated flame duct, a water tower, four lightning protection towers, a retention basin for deluge water, propellant storage tanks and handling areas, a workshop, an office, a warehouse for parts storage, roads, parking areas, fencing, security lighting, and utilities. The control center, located approximately two miles west of the vertical launch site, would consist of two launch control center buildings, two payload processing facilities, a launch vehicle processing hangar, two radio frequency transmitter/receivers, generators and diesel storage facilities, roads, parking areas, fencing, security, lighting, utilities, and a satellite fuels storage facility.

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www.tpwd.state.tx.us

To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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The launch site is bounded to the north, west and east by property owned by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) (Boca Chica State Park) and leased to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as part of its Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge complex. One alternative site for the control center also shares common boundaries with TPWD-owned property.

TPWD is the agency with primary responsibility for protecting the state's fish and wildlife resources (Texas Parks and Wildlife Code §12.011(a)). TPWD is charged with providing information on fish and wildlife resources to any local, state, and federal agencies or private organizations that make decisions affecting those resources (Texas Parks and Wildlife Code §12.011(b)(3)).

TPWD staff has reviewed the DEIS and offers the following comments and recommendations to help assist in the avoidance and minimization of potential impacts to natural and cultural resources that may result from the construction of the project.

Chapter 2 Proposed Action and Alternatives

Section 2.1.1 Operational Activities

2.1.1.6 Launch Day Activities

The DEIS and information provided at the May 7, 2013, agency meeting in Brownsville indicate that as a requirement to receive an FAA license or experimental permit, "SpaceX must implement a plan that defines the process for ensuring that unauthorized persons, vessels, aircraft, or other vehicles are not within the 1.5 mile hazard area." Although several potential methods for conducting security sweeps through properties within the hazard area were mentioned at the agency meeting, to date a plan that defines the process for ensuring that unauthorized persons are not within the hazard area has not been developed.

TPWD-owned properties are located within the 1.5-mile hazard area. The significance of potential impacts to cultural and natural resources, including direct impacts to vegetation, habitat fragmentation, increased erosion, and direct and indirect impacts to wildlife (e.g., nesting birds) is dependent on the method used for conducting security sweeps. The potential methods of conducting security sweeps may include, but are not limited to, using all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), creating patrol roads and using other small vehicles and remote-controlled drones. 3.14.5

It is not possible to assess potential impacts to TPWD-owned lands without knowing the type and extent of activity being proposed to occur on those lands. Because the security sweeps and their potential impacts are directly related to the construction and scope of the project, a detailed security patrol plan and impact analysis should be

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June 21, 2013

included in the Final EIS per 40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)(ii-iii). The plan should include various scenarios and alternatives and address their specific impacts. 3.14.5 (Cont.)

According to the DEIS, SpaceX would work with agencies to identify a safe location on private land approximately seven miles from the vertical launch site, west of the soft checkpoint along SH 4 west of Massey Way, for the public to view launches. At the May 7, 2013 agency meeting, it was stated that the soft checkpoint would be approximately 15 miles away from the launch site. Currently there is no schematic identifying land or a parking lot. Given the level of local/public interest in viewing launches, large crowds are anticipated on launch day. If construction of a parking area either near Massey Way or 15 miles west of the launch site is anticipated to accommodate spectators, construction plans and associated impacts should be included in the Final EIS per 40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)(ii-iii). 3.14.1

Recommendation: TPWD recommends that vehicular traffic be excluded from the federal and state conservation land areas along SH 4 during launches. A checkpoint should be established outside the boundary of the federal and state conservation land area. Parking and viewing areas should be constructed at this location.

If spectators and vehicles cannot be excluded from conservation lands along SH 4, other provisions should be made to protect these conservation areas. The Final EIS should explain how conservation lands will be protected (e.g., fencing, monitoring), how the protection will be enforced, and the anticipated role of agencies such as TPWD.

Section 2.1.2 Construction Activities

2.1.2.2 Control Center Area

The DEIS states definitively that the "proposed control center would consist of three parcels." However, it was explained at the May 7, 2013 agency meeting and site visit that the control center would consist of either Parcel 1 alone or Parcels 2 and 3 together. 3.4.8

Recommendation: The Final EIS should identify the location of the control center. Because Parcel 3 contains wetlands, TPWD recommends Parcel 1 be considered as a preferred location for the control center.

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Chapter 3 Affected Environment

Section 3.7.4 Water Resources, Existing Conditions

3.7.4.3 Wetlands

Section 3.7.4.3 of the DEIS describes wetlands delineated only in the vertical launch area and three control center parcels. Wetlands occurring on TPWD property that may be subject to impacts during security patrols on launch day were not described. In order to develop a plan to conduct security patrols on adjacent TPWD and USFWS properties that avoids sensitive habitats (e.g. wetlands,) the locations of those sensitive areas should be delineated. 3.13.11 3.14.1 3.22.1

Recommendation: TPWD recommends conducting wetland delineations on any properties that may be affected by the project including adjacent properties used for launch day security patrols and any areas under consideration for construction of spectator parking lots.

Section 3.8 Biological Resources

3.8.4 Existing Conditions

The DEIS describes the Region of Influence (ROI) for biological resources to include the areas impacted by construction of the vertical launch and control areas, the area impacted by noise during launches, and the water/land closure areas on launch day. However, the DEIS did not fully address the resources known to occur within the defined ROI. 3.14.9

Moving westward from the beach and dune system along SH 4 beyond Massey Way, habitat suitability increases for several state-listed reptiles. Multiple occurrences of the Texas tortoise (*Gopherus berlandieri)*, Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum)*, and the Texas indigo snake (*Drymarchon melanurus erebennus)* have been documented near SH 4 near Massey Way and westward. Also, rare plant species uniquely adapted to habitats associated with lomas have been documented near SH 4 and Massey Way. Lomas are small mounds unique to the south Texas coast formed from wind-blown silt and clay that create "miniature ecosystems" of wooded islands that support assemblages of rare plants adapted to the saline environment. 3.14.9

Section 3.8.4.1 describes the vegetation at the vertical launch site and potential control center parcels but does not discuss vegetation at the proposed spectator parking area or areas that may be directly affected by security sweeps on TPWD or USFWS properties located within the closure areas on launch days. 3.14.1

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Section 3.8.4.3 of the DEIS states that seven state-listed species, six avian and one reptile, have the potential to occur in the proposed vertical launch and control center areas due to the presence of suitable habitat within the ROI. However, TPWD records indicate occurrences of state-listed species also have been documented near the soft checkpoint as described in the DEIS.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends that this section of Chapter 3 in the Final EIS include species for which occurrences have been documented within or near the project ROI. Also, Table 3.8–1 should be revised to reflect that the Texas horned lizard, Texas indigo snake and Texas tortoise have potential to occur in the proposed project area. If the soft checkpoint is moved 15 miles away as indicated during the May 7, 2013 agency meeting, this list should be further revised. A map and Element Occurrence Records for rare species that have been documented in the general project area are attached.

3.14.1
3.13.15
3.22.1

Chapter 4 Environmental Consequences

The introduction to Chapter 4 states that the impact analysis was evaluated by overlaying the components of the Proposed Action described in Chapter 2 of the DEIS onto baseline conditions within each ROI for each environmental resources area presented in Chapter 3 and considered both direct and indirect impacts. However, as stated previously, potential impacts to state-listed species known to occur with the biological resources ROI defined in Section 3.8.3 of the DEIS either were not considered or accurately evaluated. Also, potential impacts to wildlife and habitat as a result of security sweeps were not identified or evaluated.

Recommendation: In order to adequately assess all potential impacts to natural resources in the areas that would be associated with the project, TPWD recommends the Final EIS evaluate potential impacts to state-listed species on any properties that may be affected by the project, including adjacent properties subject to launch day security patrols and any areas considered for construction of a spectator parking lot.

3.14.1

Section 4.1 Compatible Land Use

4.1.1.1 Construction

Critical Dune Areas

The DEIS states that all construction at the vertical launch area is proposed inland of dunes and would not compromise dune structure. However, according to the site layout (Figure 2.1-3; east of the unpaved road), the proposed security road and two perimeter fences would cross a dune that may be within 1,000 feet of the mean high tide. Well-vegetated dunes provide protection from storm surges along the coast.

3.7.3

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Compared to dunes along the upper Texas coast, dunes along the south Texas coast typically have less vegetative cover that is necessary for stabilization; therefore, impacts due to disturbance (e.g., construction vehicles) on dunes along the lower Texas coast can be longer lasting than similar impacts to more vegetated dunes along the mid and upper Texas coast and can remove the natural protective buffer provided by dunes.

Additionally, dunes provide habitat for a state species of concern, the Keeled earless lizard (*Holbrookia propinqua*). When threatened by a perceived predator, the escape behavior employed by this lizard is to flee at most only a few meters to an available ground squirrel burrow or plant cover (Cooper 2003). During construction on a dune occupied by Keeled earless lizards, it is likely they would flee to an available burrow within the construction area and potentially be negatively impacted.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends avoiding construction in dune areas to the greatest extent practicable. If construction must occur in the dunes, TPWD recommends surveying for the presence of Keeled earless lizards prior to construction. If lizards are observed during surveys, TPWD recommends a biological monitor be present during construction in dune areas to capture and relocate individuals. Please contact TPWD for appropriate methods for surveying and capturing lizards.

3.7.3 (Cont.)

4.1.1.2 Operation

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

Page 4-10 of the DEIS states that the majority of areas of known seagrass are not used by recreational boat traffic but that increased boat traffic may result in seagrass impacts as spectators attempt to view launches by boat. This statement is unclear to TPWD, as virtually all known seagrass beds including South Bay, Mexiquita Flats, and the lower Laguna Madre, have recreational boat traffic.

Request: As South Bay is within the launch day closure area and Mexiquita Flats and the lower Laguna Madre are too far away to view a launch, TPWD requests clarification as to the source and location of the anticipated seagrass impacts.

Recommendation: If increased impacts are anticipated as a result of security patrols in South Bay, TPWD recommends those impacts be evaluated and included in the Final EIS as well as in the USACE permit (SWG-2012-00381). TPWD commented on the USACE permit application in separate and attached correspondence.

3.14.9

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Section 4.4 Visual Resources and Light Emissions

4.4.1.2 Operation

As proposed, the project would include lighting the entire vertical launch area between dusk and dawn with high pressure sodium (HPS) light fixtures mounted on poles.

Recommendation: Research indicates that sea turtle hatchlings are significantly more attracted to unfiltered HPS lights than filtered HPS lights (Salmon 2006). TPWD recommends when developing the Light Management Plan, consideration be given to utilizing filters on HPS lights to potentially reduce sea turtle attraction of the lights. 3.10.1

Section 4.7 Water Resources

4.7.1.1 Construction

Bio-retention cells vegetated with native plantings may be incorporated as a best management practice (BMP) to mitigate for the increase in impervious surface.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends that practices be implemented to sustain native plant species and prevent the establishment and spread of invasive plant species, particularly during the early stages of revegetation of disturbed soils in construction areas.

For any herbaceous revegetation effort, TPWD recommends the exclusive use of a mixture of native grasses and forbs that currently occur within the project area. Lists of suitable plants and seed sources can be found on the Texas Plant Information Database at http://tpid.tpwd.state.tx.us/ and/or by contacting the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) Plant Materials Center in Kingsville, Texas (http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/stpmc) at (361) 595-1313. Additional information regarding the importance of native vegetation in revegetation or restoration activities, suitable seed mixes for South Texas, and seed availability are available from South Texas Natives (http://ckwri.tamuk.edu/research-programs/south-texas-natives/) located in Kingsville, Texas. 3.22.9

4.7.1.2 Operation

A discussion regarding wetland impacts related to operations associated with the vertical launch and control center areas is included on Page 4-52 of the DEIS. As part of the operations, security patrols could occur on or through TPWD property. As 3.14.5

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previously stated, details regarding proposed security patrol methods were not included in the DEIS.

Recommendation: If security patrols will include driving ATVs or small vehicles through TPWD properties, those properties should be surveyed for wetlands prior to implementing the security patrol plan as part of the operation of the launch facility. Wetlands identified on TPWD properties should be avoided. 3.14.5 (Cont.)

Page 4-60 of the DEIS states that impacts to seagrasses are possible due to launch day spectators "within the vicinity of the vertical launch area," but impacts to seagrasses are dismissed since "launches would only occur 12 times per year."

Recommendation: As previously stated, TPWD is unclear as to the location of the referenced seagrasses since South Bay, the only area within view of launches that has seagrass, would be within the closure area. Any impacts to seagrasses, including those caused by security patrols, should be included in the Final EIS and the USACE permit. 3.14.9

Section 4.8 Biological Resources

4.8.1.1 Construction

TPWD recommends revising the section on Vegetation to include all potential impacts to vegetation, including rare vegetation series occurring along SH 4 within the ROI, that may result as a consequence of the project in its entirety including the construction and operation of the vertical launch area, control centers, spectator parking, and launch day security patrols on properties within the closure area. 3.14.11 3.14.1 3.14.5

TPWD appreciates that construction employees would be educated on the potential for wildlife collisions to occur along SH 4 and be required to maintain reduced speeds along SH 4 within the vertical launch and control areas. TPWD requests that all employees be informed that a higher potential exists for wildlife collisions, including state-listed species, west of the control center parcels. Collisions can be avoided or minimized by operating vehicles at the posted speed limit, especially along SH 4 adjacent to lands managed for wildlife, where wildlife encounters are highly probable.

Recommendation: To assist in avoiding impacts to state-listed species, TPWD recommends preparing an educational pamphlet for construction employees (published in English and Spanish) identifying state-listed species that may occur within the biological ROI. 3.14.7

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Only seven state-listed species were considered to occur or potentially occur within the biological ROI. These included six avian species and one reptile. Information provided by TPWD during scoping was limited to within 1.5 miles of the launch area and control center. The limits of the biological ROI extend to the soft checkpoint which may be 7-15 miles from the vertical launch site when the final plan is developed. 3.14.7

Recommendation: TPWD recommends incorporating the proposed measures of maintaining reduced speeds within the entire biological ROI and making all employees aware of the high probability of encountering wildlife, including state-listed species, on roads within the general project area.

Information in Sections 4.8.1.1 and 4.8.1.2 of the DEIS indicate that wildlife would be expected to avoid the project area due to noise during construction and increased traffic and human presence during operational activities. However, a plan to ensure wildlife is not in the closure area or in available habitat near the launch pad during launches has not been prepared. 3.14.12

Recommendation: TPWD recommends the Final EIS include procedures for ensuring wildlife is not present near the launch pad during launches.

Chapter 5 Mitigation and Special Conservation Measures

TPWD appreciates the mitigative and special conservation measures (SCM) that would be employed to avoid and/or minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources. To ensure that potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources are avoided and/or minimized to the greatest extent practicable, TPWD recommends that, in addition to the vertical launch area and control center, the proposed measures be implemented in all areas that may be affected by the project, including properties affected by security patrols and in spectator parking areas. 3.22.10

Section 6.7 Biological Resources

A number of SCMs would be implemented during construction and operation to avoid and minimize effects of the project on fish, wildlife, and habitat resources.

SCM #2d listed under Section 6.7.1.1–Construction of the DEIS addresses pits created during construction and the potential for animal entrapment. 3.22.10

Recommendation: In addition to the proposed SCM #2d, TPWD recommends that any excavated pits or trenches not be left open overnight in the project area in order to prevent wildlife from potential entrapment. If trenches must be left unfilled at the end of the workday, they should either be covered or have escape ramps placed in them (fashioned from boards or soil). Also, any trenches left

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open overnight should be inspected the following morning for wildlife that may have been trapped. If any state-listed species are trapped in trenches, they should be removed by personnel permitted by TPWD to handle state-listed species. 3.22.10 (Cont.)

SCM #5a would make construction personnel aware of endangered species that may occur in the project area. 3.22.10

Recommendation: TPWD recommends SCM # 5a be revised to apply to the seven state-listed threatened species referenced in the DEIS as well as endangered species as stated in the DEIS.

SCM #7 would incorporate raptor protection measures in the project design or when upgrading utility structures. 3.22.10

Recommendation: TPWD recommends following avian safety design features described in the following publication:

Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). 2012. *Reducing Avian Collision with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2012*. Edison Electric Institute and APLIC. Washington, D.C.

SCM #8 addresses vehicle collisions with wildlife and places particular emphasis on Ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis)* and Jaguarundis (*Herpailurus yaguarondi)*. 3.22.10

Recommendation: In addition to Ocelots and Jaguarundis, SCM #8 should include the state-listed threatened Texas indigo snake and Texas tortoise. In addition to being a naturally slow-moving animal susceptible to vehicle collisions, when startled (e.g., by oncoming traffic), the Texas tortoise may withdraw into its shell rather than fleeing, thus increasing its risk for collision with vehicles.

SCMs listed under Section 6.7.1.2–Operations include measures to educate employees on the potential for wildlife collisions along SH 4 between the vertical launch area and control center. 3.22.10

Recommendation: TPWD recommends revising SCM #2 to include the state-listed threatened Texas indigo snake and Texas tortoise as described above. Also, employees should be encouraged to abide by posted speed limits along all of SH 4, as there is a high potential for encountering wildlife along most of SH 4 east of Brownsville.

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Ms. Stacey Zee
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TPWD appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations on the DEIS prepared for this project. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Clayton Wolf, Wildlife Division Director, at (512) 389-8092.

Sincerely,

Ross Melinchuk
Deputy Executive Director, Natural Resources

RM:JW:RH:gg

Attachments (3)

References

Cooper, W. 2003. Shifted balance of risk and cost after autotomy affects use of cover, escape, activity, and foraging in the keeled earless lizard (*Holbrookia prop*). Behav Ecol Sociobiol 54:179-187

Salmon, M. 2006. Protecting Sea Turtles from Artificial Night Lighting at Florida's Oceanic Beaches. In: Rich, C and T. Longcore (eds), Ecological Consequences of Artificial Night Lighting. Island Press, Washington, p141-168

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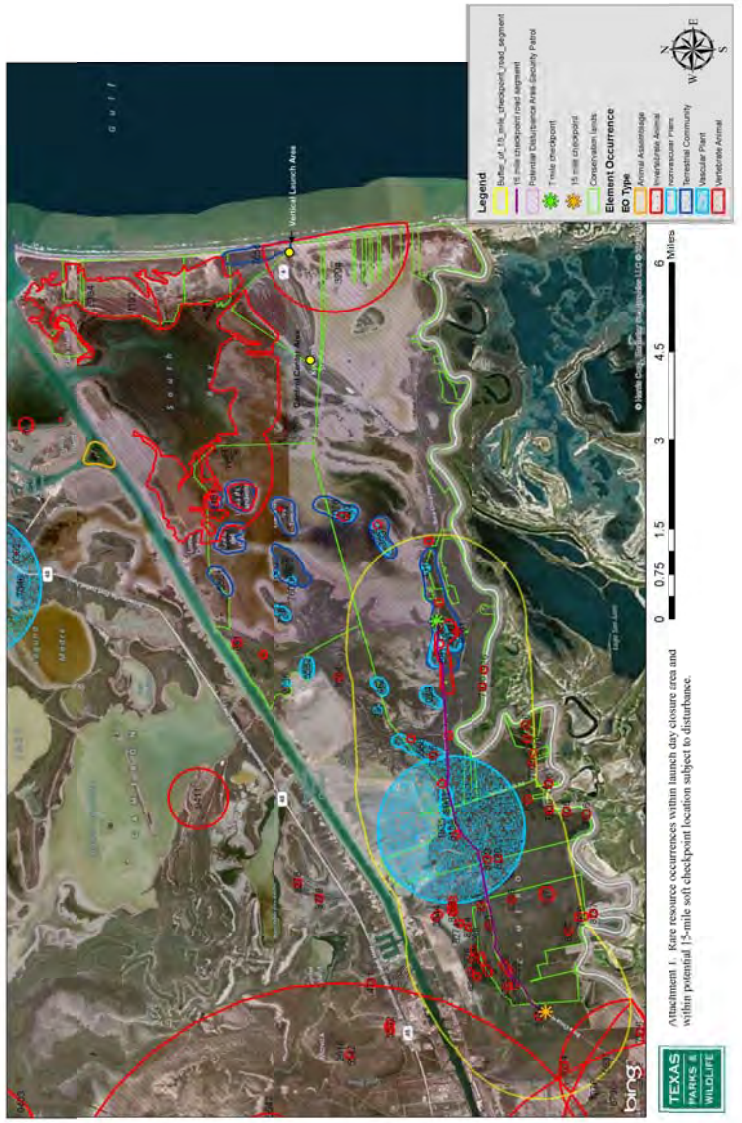

Attachment 1. Rare resource occurrences within launch day closure area and within potential 15-mile soft checkpoint location subject to disturbance.

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Code Key for Printouts from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD)

This information is for your assistance only; due to continuing data updates, vulnerability of private land to trespass and of species to disturbance or collection, **please refer all requesters to our office to obtain the most current information available**. Also, please note, identification of a species in a given area does not necessarily mean the species currently exists at the point or area indicated.

LEGAL STATUS AND CONSERVATION RANKS

FEDERAL STATUS (as determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service)

LE	Listed Endangered
LT	Listed Threatened
PE	Proposed to be listed Endangered
PT	Proposed to be listed Threatened
PDL	Proposed to be Delisted (Note: Listing status retained while proposed)
SAE, SAT	Listed Endangered on basis of Similarity of Appearance, Listed Threatened on basis of Similarity of Appearance
DL	Delisted Endangered/Threatened
C	Candidate. USFWS has substantial information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list as threatened or endangered. Data are being gathered on habitat needs and/or critical habitat designations.
C*	C, but lacking known occurrences
C**	C, but lacking known occurrences, except in captivity/cultivation
XE	Essential Experimental Population
XN	Non-essential Experimental Population
Blank	Species is not federally listed

TX PROTECTION (as determined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

E	Listed Endangered
T	Listed Threatened
Blank	Species not state-listed

GLOBAL RANK (as determined by NatureServe)

G1	Critically imperiled globally, extremely rare, typically 5 or fewer viable occurrences
G2	Imperiled globaly, very rare, typically 6 to 20 viable occurrences
G3	Very rare and local throughout range or found locally in restricted range, typically 21 to 100 viable occurrences
G4	Apparently secure globally
G5	Demonstrably secure globally
GH	Of historical occurrence through its range
GU	Possibly in peril range-wide, but status uncertain
G#G#	Ranked within a range as status uncertain
GX	Apparently extinct throughout range
Q	Rank qualifier denoting taxonomic assignment is questionable
#?	Rank qualifier denoting uncertain rank
C	In captivity or cultivation only
G#T#	"G" refers to species rank; "T" refers to variety or subspecies rank

STATE (SUBNATIONAL) RANK (as determined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

S1	Critically imperiled in state, extremely rare, vulnerable to extirpation, typically 5 or fewer viable occurrences
S2	Imperiled in state, very rare, vulnerable to extirpation, typically 6 to 20 viable occurrences
S3	Rare or uncommon in state, typically 21 to 100 viable occurrences
S4	Apparently secure in State
S5	Demonstrably secure in State
S#S#	Ranked within a range as status uncertain
SH	Of historical occurrence in state and may be rediscovered
SU	Unrankable – due to lack of information or substantially conflicting information
SX	Apparently extirpated from State
SNR	Unranked – State status not yet assessed
SNA	Not applicable – species id not a suitable target for conservation activities
?	Rank qualifier denoting uncertain rank in State

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ELEMENT OCCURRENCE RECORD

Element Occurrence Record (EOR)	Spatial and tabular record of an area of land and/or water in which a species, natural community, or other significant feature of natural diversity is, or was, present and associated information; may be a single contiguous area or may be comprised of discrete patches or subpopulations
Occurrence #	Unique number assigned to each occurrence of each element when added to the NDD

LOCATION INFORMATION

Watershed Code	Eight digit numerical code determined by US Geological Survey (USGS)
Watershed	Name of watershed as determined by USGS
Quadrangle	Name of USGS topographical map
Directions	Directions to geographic location where occurrence was observed, as described by observer or in source

SURVEY INFORMATION

First/Last Observation	Date a particular occurrence was first/last observed; refers only to species occurrence as noted in source and does not imply the first/last date the species was present
Survey Date	If conducted, date of survey
EO Type	State rank qualifiers: **M** Migrant – species occurring regularly on migration at staging areas, or concentration along particular corridors; status refers to the transient population in the State **B** Qualifier indicating basic rank refers to the breeding population in State **N** Qualifier indicating basic rank refers to the non-breeding population in State
EO Rank	**A** Excellent; **AI** Excellent, Introduced **B** Good; **BI** Good, Introduced **C** Marginal; **CI** Marginal, Introduced **D** Poor; **DI** Poor, Introduced **E** Extant/Present; **EI** Extant, Introduced **H** Historical/No Field Information; **HI** Historical, Introduced **X** Destroyed/Extirpated; **XI** Destroyed, Introduced **O** Obscure; **OI** Obscure, Introduced
EO Rank Date	Latest date EO rank was determined or revised
Observed Area	Acres, unless indicated otherwise

COMMENTS

Description	General physical description of area and habitat where occurrence is located, including associated species, soils, geology, and surrounding land use
Comments	Comments concerning the quality or condition of the element occurrence at time of survey
Protection Comments	Observer comments concerning legal protection of the occurrence
Management Comments	Observer comments concerning management recommendations appropriate for occurrence conservation

DATA

EO Data	Biobgical data; may include number of individuals, vigor, flowering/fruiting data, nest success, behaviors observed, or unusual characteristic, etc.

SITE

Site Name	Title given to site by surveyor

MANAGED AREA INFORMATION

Managed Area Name	Place name or (on EOR printout) name of area when the EO is located within or partially within an area identified for conservation, such as State or Federal lands, nature preserves, parks, etc.
Alias	Additional names the property is known by
Acres	Total acreage of property, including non-contiguous tracts
Manager	Contact name, address, and telephone number for area or nearest area land steward

Please use one of the following citations to credit the source for the printout information:

Texas Natural Diversity Database. [year of printouts]. Wildlife Diversity Program of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. [day month year of printouts].

Texas Natural Diversity Database. [year of printouts]. Element occurrence printouts for [scientific name] *records # [occurrence number(s)]. Wildlife Diversity Program of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. [day month year of printouts]. *Use of record #'s is optional.

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TXNDD Tracked Species in Project Area

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 2830
Scientific Name Coniophanes imperialis
Common Name Black-striped Snake
Global Rarity Rank G4G5 State RarityRank S2 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date <null>
EO Data
<null>
General Description
<null>
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 8274
Scientific Name Buteo albicaudatus
Common Name White-tailed Hawk
Global Rarity Rank G4G5 State Rarity Rank S4B Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date 2000-03 Survey Date 6/27/2002 Last Observation Date 6/27/2002
EO Data
Nest I - nesting pair first observed at this location on 28 April 2001; one fledgling observed in May 2001; a pair was again observed using this nest in 2002; two nestlings observed on the nest in April 2002; two adults nearby, one nestling observed May 2002; two adults nearby, one juvenile nearby June 2002. Nest J - nesting pair first observed at this location in March 2001; two hawks fledged and were last observed in June 2001; adults again observed using this nest in 2002; an adult was observed sitting on the nest on 17 April 2002; two adults near nest with one fledgling May 2002; one juvenile on nest June 2002. Nest K - nesting pair first observed at this location in April 2000 along with one chick and one egg; one chick observed at nest in May 2000. Nest L - nesting pair first observed at this location on 25 March 2001; one nestling was observed in May 2001; adult observed on nest on 5 March 2002; in April 2002 no activity observed, inspection of the nest revealed an empty nest except for a number of downy feathers, possible predation; adult on nest May 2002; two nestlings observed June 2002. Nest M - adult first observed sitting on this nest in March 2000 and last observed at the nest in June 2000; no nestlings or fledglings were ever observed. Nest N - nesting pair with two fledglings were first observed on 1 June 2001; adults and both fledglings observed at nest on 27 June 2001.
General Description
General area is coastal prairie with interspersed thornscrub lomas; Nest I - nest tree is a dead mesquite ~7' tall, the nest is ~5' above ground; Nest J - nest tree is a tall Spanish dagger (Yucca treculeana) in coastal prairie; Nest K - nest in low dead shrub (probably mesquite), nest was deteriorating by June, 2000 and gone by 2001; Nest L - nest is in a small mesquite Nest M - nest in a mesquite; Nest N - nest is in a low mesquite ~5' tall.
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
Nest I observed from Port of Brownsville property. Data for nests J and K may actually be for one nesting pair since nest K was gone by 2001. Nest J was found in 2001 ~300m southwest of nest K's location. Nest M observed from State Hwy 4.

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 7926
Scientific Name Drymarchon melanurus erebennus
Common Name Texas Indigo Snake
Global Rarity Rank G4 State RarityRank S4 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date 4/2/1998 Survey Date 2/15/2002 Last Observation Date 2/15/2002
EO Data
18 individual observations of this snake over a three year period.
General Description
Descriptions for 18 observations over three years include: thornscrub along the Rio Grande River; thornscrub lomas; plowed dirt field; paved road with brush on both sides; re-growth area (tepeguaje, hackberry, buffegrass) along the Rio Grande River; unpaved road with brush on both sides; buffelgrass and hackberry trees along the Rio Grande River.
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
State Highway 4 runs through Vista del Mar Tract of LRGVNWR where roadkill snakes were documented. The observer, Rick Phillips, stated that the 2 April 1998 observation was on the Palmito Hill Tract of LRGVNWR; however, this location does not fall within (only nearby) the boundary currently mapped on our paper quad for the Palmito Hill Tract.

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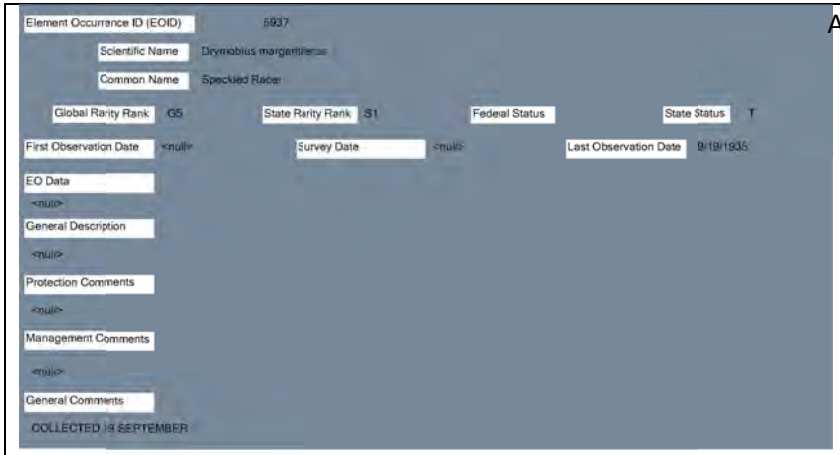
Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 5937
Scientific Name Drymobius margaritiferus
Common Name Speckled Racer
Global Rarity Rank G5 State Rarity Rank S1 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 9/19/1935
EO Data
<null>
General Description
<null>
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
COLLECTED 19 SEPTEMBER

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 462
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State RarityRank S2S3 Federal Satus State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1967
EO Data
MORE THAN 100,000 PLANTS
General Description
EXTENSIVE POPULATION COVERING CENTRAL PORTION OF LOMA, OCCURRING IN BRUSH AND OPEN AREAS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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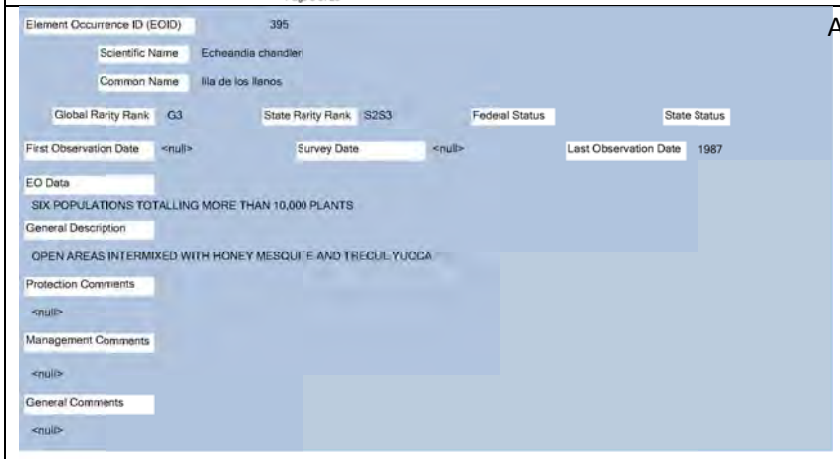
Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 395
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State Rarity Rank S2S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1987
EO Data
SIX POPULATIONS TOTALLING MORE THAN 10,000 PLANTS
General Description
OPEN AREAS INTERMIXED WITH HONEY MESQUITE AND TRECUL YUCCA
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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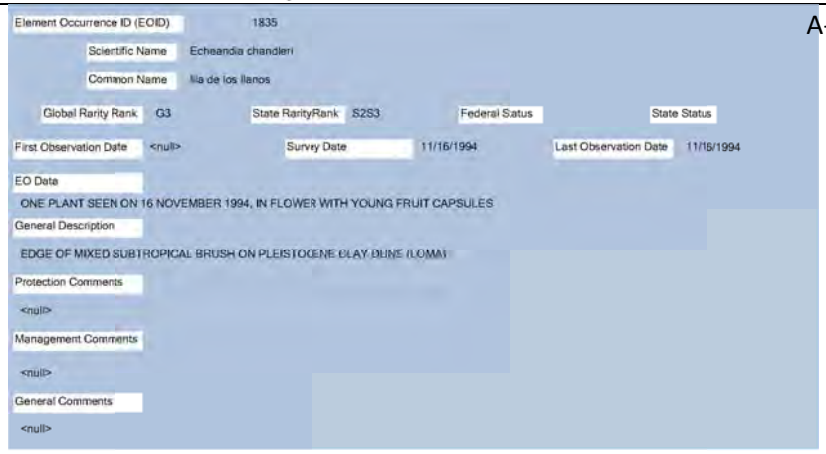
Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 1835
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State RarityRank S2S3 Federal Satus State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date 11/16/1994 Last Observation Date 11/16/1994
EO Data
ONE PLANT SEEN ON 16 NOVEMBER 1994, IN FLOWER WITH YOUNG FRUIT CAPSULES
General Description
EDGE OF MIXED SUBTROPICAL BRUSH ON PLEISTOCENE CLAY DUNE (LOMA)
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 3961
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State Rarity Rank S2S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1987
EO Data
CA. 4500 PLANTS
General Description
THORN-BRUSH GRASSLAND WITH TRECUL YUCCA, JACAMILLA, AND SNAKE-EYES IMPORTANT; NATURALLY DISTURBED AREA OF HIGH RELIEF
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>
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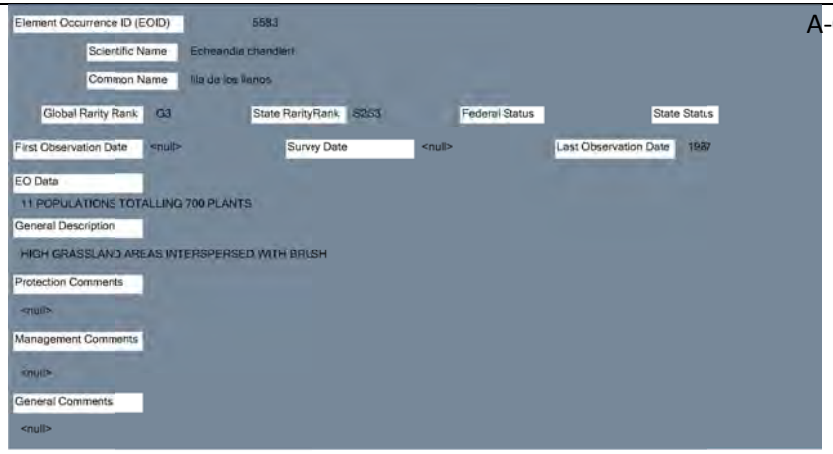

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 5583
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State RarityRank S2S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1987
EO Data
11 POPULATIONS TOTALLING 700 PLANTS
General Description
HIGH GRASSLAND AREAS INTERSPERSED WITH BRUSH
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>
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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 4310
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State Rarity Rank S2S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date 9/6/1973 Survey Date 10/17/1984 Last Observation Date 10/17/1984
EO Data
IN FLOWER AND FRUIT; APPROXIMATELY 2600 INDIVIDUALS IN GOOD CONDITION; CLUSTERS OF NUMEROUS PLANTS SCATTERED ACROSS LENGTH OF LOMA
General Description
CLAY DUNE SLIGHTLY ELEVATED ABOVE SURROUNDING SAND, WITH SCATTERED SHRUBBY TEXAS EBONIES AND THICK HERBACEOUS GROUND COVER
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
SOON TO BE LISTED AS CATEGORY ONE BY USF& WS, EVENTUALLY TO BE LT OR LE;FLOWERS OPEN EARLY IN THE MORNING
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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 6669
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State RarityRank S2S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1987
EO Data
THREE COLONIES TOTALLING 3100 PLANTS
General Description
OPEN GRASSY AREAS NEAR EDGE OF BRUSH
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>
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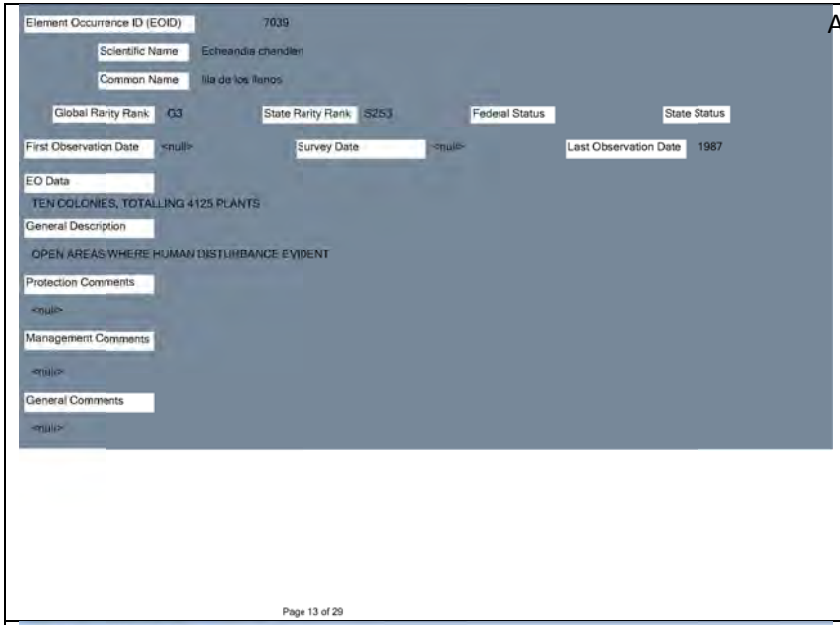

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 7039
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State Rarity Rank S2S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1987
EO Data
TEN COLONIES, TOTALLING 4125 PLANTS
General Description
OPEN AREAS WHERE HUMAN DISTURBANCE EVIDENT
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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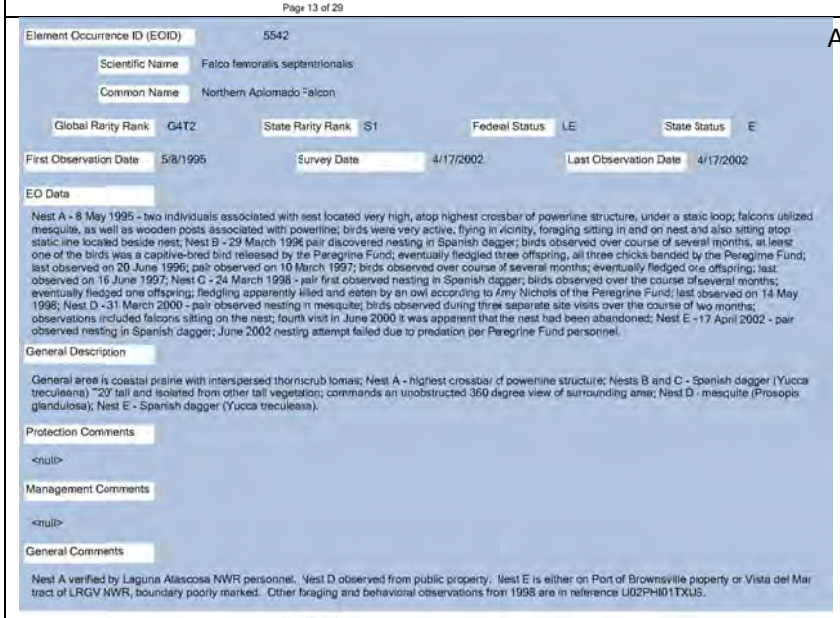

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 5542
Scientific Name Falco femoralis septentrionalis
Common Name Northern Aplomado Falcon
Global Rarity Rank G4T2 State Rarity Rank S1 Federal Status LE State Status E
First Observation Date 5/8/1995 Survey Date 4/17/2002 Last Observation Date 4/17/2002
EO Data
Nest A - 8 May 1995 - two individuals associated with nest located very high, atop highest crossbar of powerline structure, under a static loop; falcons utilized mesquite, as well as wooden posts associated with powerline; birds were very active, flying in vicinity, foraging sitting in and on nest and also sitting atop static line located beside nest; Nest B - 29 March 1996 pair discovered nesting in Spanish dagger; birds observed over course of several months, at least one of the birds was a captive-bred bird released by the Peregrine Fund; eventually fledgled three offspring, all three chicks banded by the Peregrine Fund; last observed on 20 June 1996; pair observed on 10 March 1997; birds observed over course of several months; eventually fledged one offspring; last observed on 16 June 1997; Nest C - 24 March 1998 - pair first observed nesting in Spanish dagger; birds observed over the course of several months; eventually fledged one offspring; fledgling apparently killed and eaten by an owl according to Amy Nichols of the Peregrine Fund; last observed on 14 May 1998; Nest D - 31 March 2000 - pair observed nesting in mesquite; birds observed during three separate site visits over the course of two months; observations included falcons sitting on the nest; fourth visit in June 2000 it was apparent that the nest had been abandoned; Nest E - 17 April 2002 - pair observed nesting in Spanish dagger; June 2002 nesting attempt failed due to predation per Peregrine Fund personnel.
General Description
General area is coastal prairie with interspersed thornscrub lomas; Nest A - highest crossbar of powerline structure; Nests B and C - Spanish dagger (Yucca treculeana) ~20' tall and isolated from other tall vegetation; commands an unobstructed 360 degree view of surrounding area; Nest D - mesquite (Prosopis glandulosa); Nest E - Spanish dagger (Yucca treculeana).
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
Nest A verified by Laguna Atascosa NWR personnel. Nest D observed from public property. Nest E is either on Port of Brownsville property or Vista del Mar tract of LRGV NWR, boundary poorly marked. Other foraging and behavioral observations from 1998 are in reference U02PHI01TXLS.

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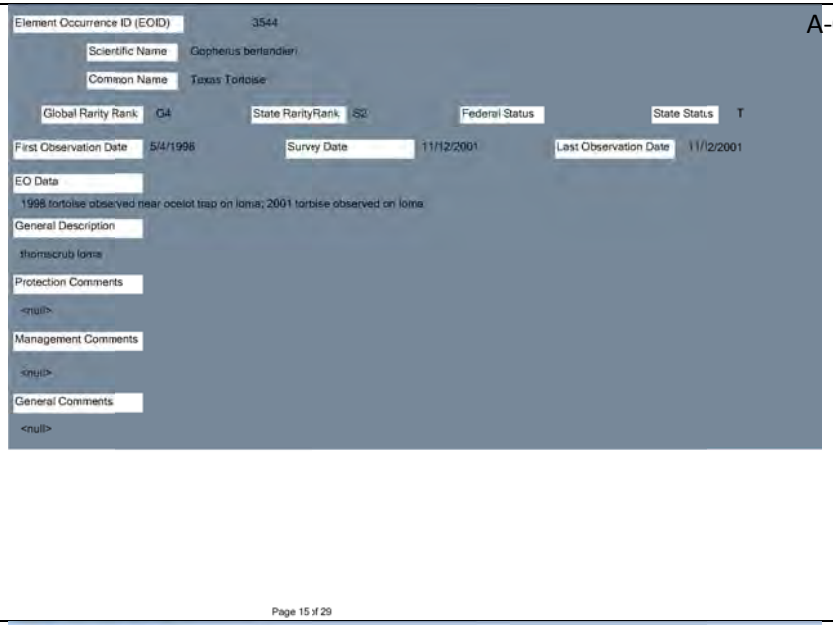

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 3544
Scientific Name Gopherus berlandieri
Common Name Texas Tortoise
Global Rarity Rank G4 State RarityRank S2 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date 5/4/1998 Survey Date 11/12/2001 Last Observation Date 11/12/2001
EO Data
1998 tortoise observed near ocelot trap on loma; 2001 tortoise observed on loma
General Description
thornscrub loma
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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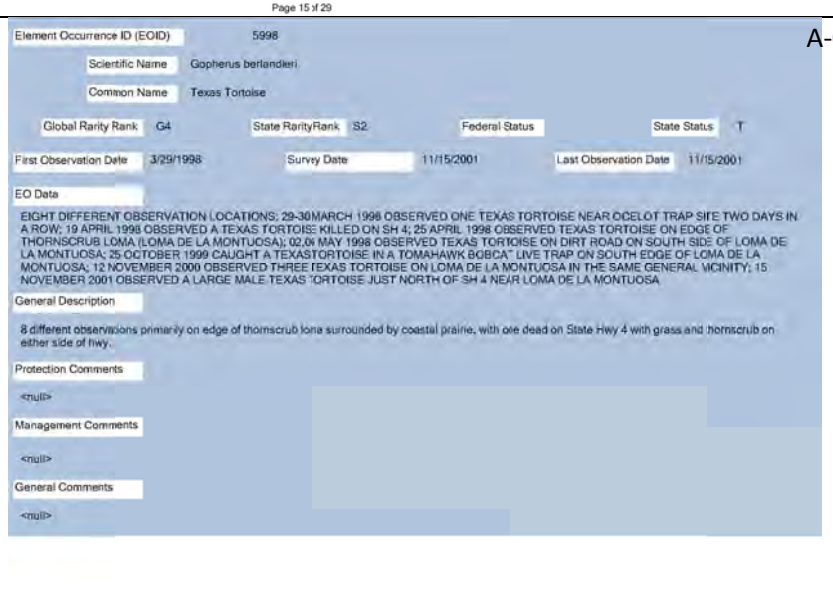

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 5998
Scientific Name Gopherus berlandieri
Common Name Texas Tortoise
Global Rarity Rank G4 State RarityRank S2 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date 3/29/1998 Survey Date 11/15/2001 Last Observation Date 11/15/2001
EO Data
EIGHT DIFFERENT OBSERVATION LOCATIONS: 29-30 MARCH 1998 OBSERVED ONE TEXAS TORTOISE NEAR OCELOT TRAP SITE TWO DAYS IN A ROW; 19 APRIL 1998 OBSERVED A TEXAS TORTOISE KILLED ON SH 4; 25 APRIL 1998 OBSERVED TEXAS TORTOISE ON EDGE OF THORNSCRUB LOMA (LOMA DE LA MONTUOSA); 02 06 MAY 1998 OBSERVED TEXAS TORTOISE ON DIRT ROAD ON SOUTH SIDE OF LOMA DE LA MONTUOSA; 25 OCTOBER 1999 CAUGHT A TEXAS TORTOISE IN A TOMAHAWK BOBCAT LIVE TRAP ON SOUTH EDGE OF LOMA DE LA MONTUOSA; 12 NOVEMBER 2000 OBSERVED THREE TEXAS TORTOISE ON LOMA DE LA MONTUOSA IN THE SAME GENERAL VICINITY; 15 NOVEMBER 2001 OBSERVED A LARGE MALE TEXAS TORTOISE JUST NORTH OF SH 4 NEAR LOMA DE LA MONTUOSA
General Description
8 different observations primarily on edge of thornscrub loma surrounded by coastal prairie, with one dead on State Hwy 4 with grass and thornscrub on either side of hwy.
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 8279
Scientific Name Gopherus berlandieri
Common Name Texas Tortoise
Global Rarity Rank G4 State Rarity Rank S2 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date 4/26/1998 Survey Date 11/17/2001 Last Observation Date 11/17/2001
EO Data
26 April 1998 tortoise observed near ocelot trap in area with mix of brush and open land; 30 April 1998 tortoise observed on dirt road through coastal prairie; 9 November 1999 tortoise observed feeding on tasajillo on edge of thornshrub loma; 17 November 2001 tortoise observed on county road with brushline on either side of road.
General Description
4 observations individually located on edge of thornshrub loma, county road with brush line onboth sides, mix of brush and open land, and dirt road through coastal prairie (sea-oxeye, camphor daisy, etc.).
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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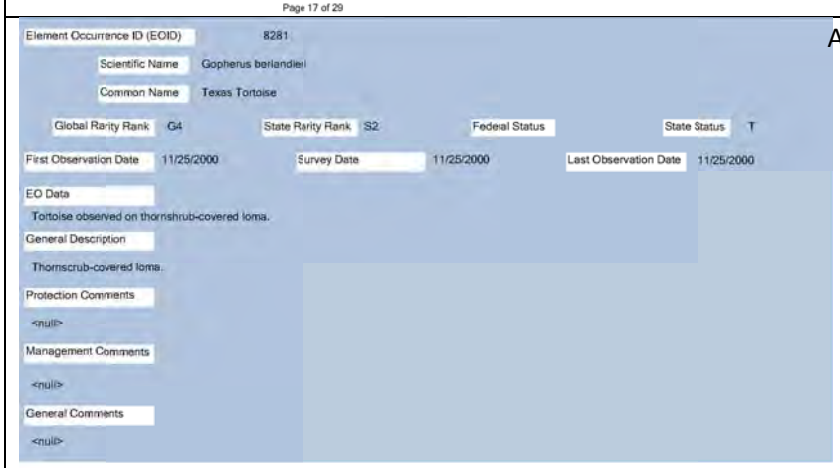

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 8281
Scientific Name Gopherus berlandieri
Common Name Texas Tortoise
Global Rarity Rank G4 State Rarity Rank S2 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date 11/25/2000 Survey Date 11/25/2000 Last Observation Date 11/25/2000
EO Data
Tortoise observed on thornshrub-covered loma.
General Description
Thornscrub-covered loma.
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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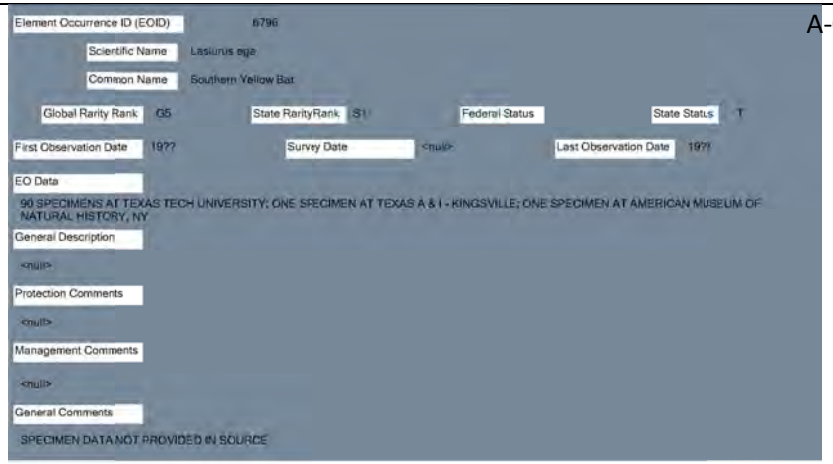

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 6796
Scientific Name Lasiurus ega
Common Name Southern Yellow Bat
Global Rarity Rank G5 State RarityRank S1 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date 19?? Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 19??
EO Data
90 SPECIMENS AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY; ONE SPECIMEN AT TEXAS A & I - KINGSVILLE; ONE SPECIMEN AT AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, NY
General Description
<null>
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
SPECIMEN DATA NOT PROVIDED IN SOURCE

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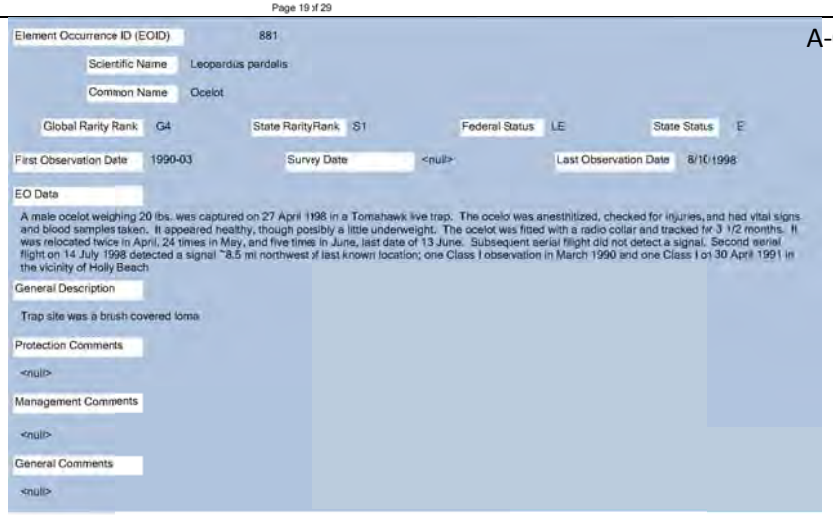

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 881
Scientific Name Leopardus pardalis
Common Name Ocelot
Global Rarity Rank G4 State RarityRank S1 Federal Status LE State Status E
First Observation Date 1990-03 Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 8/10/1998
EO Data
A male ocelot weighing 20 lbs. was captured on 27 April 1998 in a Tomahawk live trap. The ocelo was anesthitized, checked for injuries, and had vital signs and blood samples taken. It appeared healthy, though possibly a little underweight. The ocelot was fitted with a radio collar and tracked for 3 1/2 months. It was relocated twice in April, 24 times in May, and five times in June, last date of 13 June. Subsequent aerial flight did not detect a signal. Second aerial flight on 14 July 1998 detected a signal ~8.5 mi northwest of last known location; one Class I observation in March 1990 and one Class I on 30 April 1991 in the vicinity of Holly Beach
General Description
Trap site was a brush covered loma
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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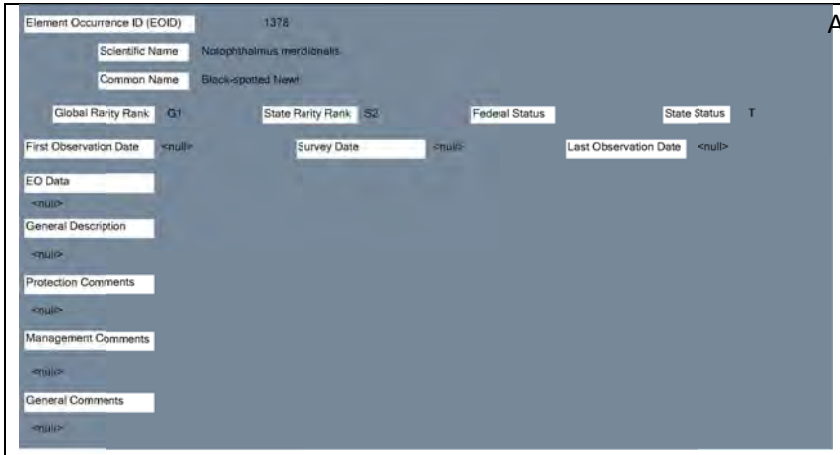

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 1378
Scientific Name Notophthalmus meridionalis
Common Name Black-spotted Newt
Global Rarity Rank G1 State Rarity Rank S2 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date <null>
EO Data
<null>
General Description
<null>
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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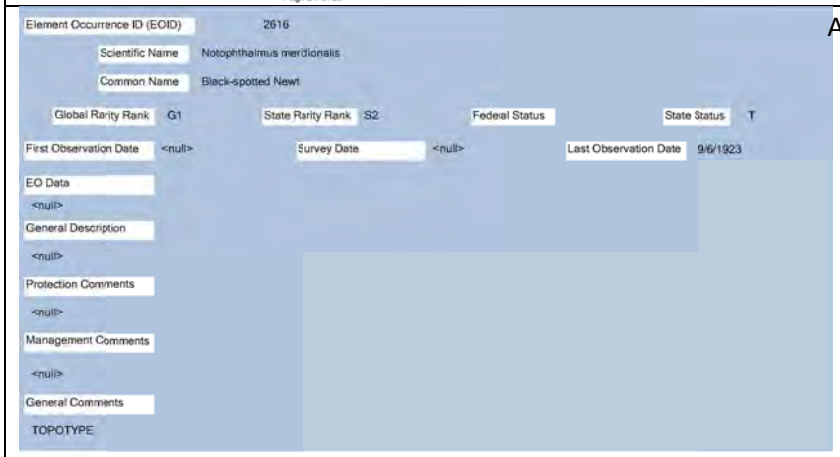

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 2616
Scientific Name Notophthalmus meridionalis
Common Name Black-spotted Newt
Global Rarity Rank G1 State Rarity Rank S2 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 9/6/1923
EO Data
<null>
General Description
<null>
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
TOPOTYPE

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 8285
Scientific Name Phrynosoma cornutum
Common Name Texas Horned Lizard
Global Rarity Rank G4G5 State RarityRank S4 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date 5/13/1998 Survey Date 11/3/2001 Last Observation Date 11/3/2001
EO Data
1998 and 2001 horned lizard observations on dirt road through coastal prairie around Ioma.
General Description
Dirt road through coastal prairie, cordgrass, sea-oxeye, camphor daisy
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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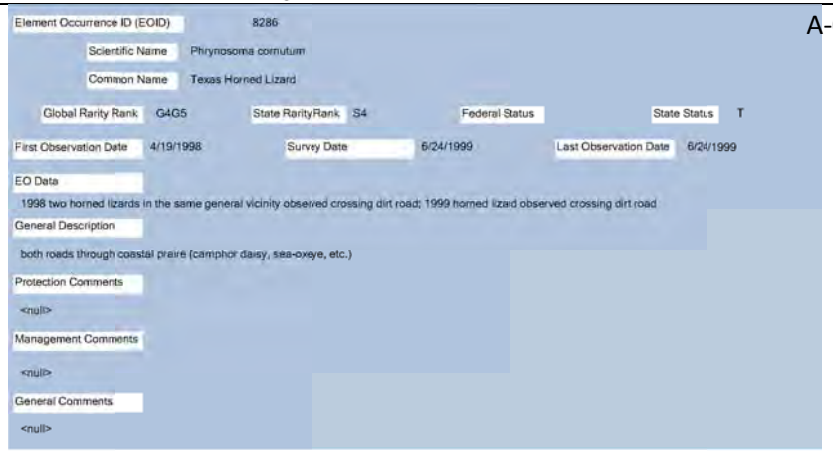

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 8286
Scientific Name Phrynosoma cornutum
Common Name Texas Horned Lizard
Global Rarity Rank G4G5 State RarityRank S4 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date 4/19/1998 Survey Date 6/24/1999 Last Observation Date 6/24/1999
EO Data
1998 two horned lizards in the same general vicinity observed crossing dirt road; 1999 horned lizard observed crossing dirt road
General Description
both roads through coastal prairie (camphor daisy, sea-oxeye, etc.)
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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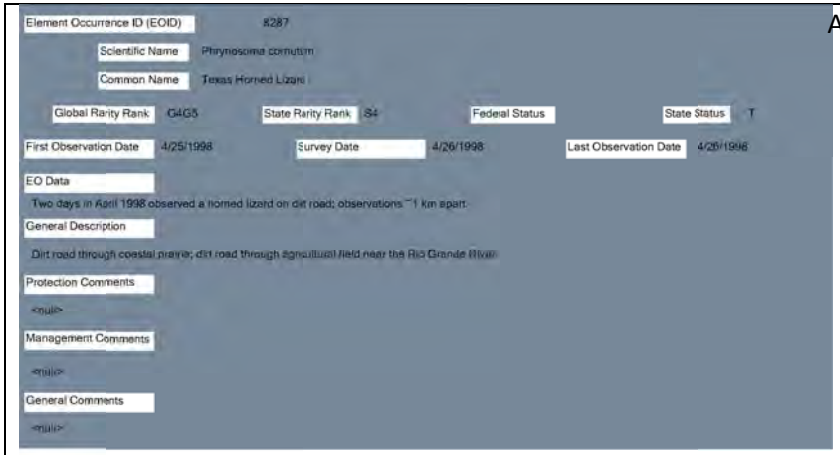

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 8287
Scientific Name Phrynosoma cornutum
Common Name Texas Horned Lizard
Global Rarity Rank G4G5 State Rarity Rank S4 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date 4/25/1998 Survey Date 4/26/1998 Last Observation Date 4/26/1998
EO Data
Two days in April 1998 observed a horned lizard on dirt road; observations ~1 km apart.
General Description
Dirt road through coastal prairie; dirt road through agricultural field near the Rio Grande River.
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 895
Scientific Name Pithecellobium ebano-plaulothamnus spinescens-citharexylum berlandieri series
Common Name Texas Ebony-snake-eyes-berlandier Fiddlewood Series
Global Rarity Rank G2 State RarityRank S2 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date 1984 Survey Date 10/17/1984 Last Observation Date 1984-10
EO Data
<null>
General Description
CLAY LOAM LOMA WITH RUNNING MESQUITE, CROSS THORN, MAYTENAS, EBONY, SNAKE-EYES, BRAZIL AND A VARIETY OF SUBTROPICAL SHRUBS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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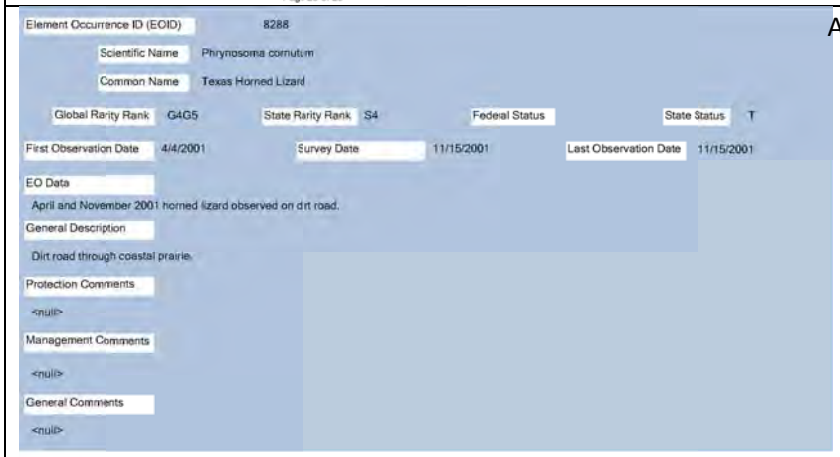
A-07



Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 8288
Scientific Name Phrynosoma cornutum
Common Name Texas Horned Lizard
Global Rarity Rank G4G5 State Rarity Rank S4 Federal Status State Status T
First Observation Date 4/4/2001 Survey Date 11/15/2001 Last Observation Date 11/15/2001
EO Data
April and November 2001 horned lizard observed on dirt road.
General Description
Dirt road through coastal prairie.
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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A-07



Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 3937
Scientific Name Pithecellobium ebano-plaulothamnus spinescens series
Common Name Texas Ebony-snake-eyes Series
Global Rarity Rank G2 State RarityRank S2 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date <null>
EO Data
<null>
General Description
DOMINATED BY LOW SUBTROPICAL SHRUBS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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A-07

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 8199
Scientific Name Tillandsia baileyi
Common Name Bailey's ballmoss
Global Rarity Rank G2G3 State Rarity Rank S2 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1952-06
EO Data
<null>
General Description
CLAY DUNES; GROWING 2 FEET ABOVE GROUND
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 1020
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State RarityRank S2S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1987
EO Data
3250 PLANTS
General Description
OPEN GRASSY AREAS ALONG MARGIN OF IMPENETRABLE BRUSH
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

Page 2 of 20

TXNDD Tracked Species in Project Area

A-07

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 1152
Scientific Name Charadrius melodus
Common Name Piping Plover
Global Rarity Rank G3 State Rarity Rank S2 Federal Status LT State Status T
First Observation Date 1991 Survey Date 1991 Last Observation Date 1991
EO Data
<null>
General Description
algal mat and sand/silt with algal mat
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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A-07

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 4310
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State RarityRank S2S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date 9/6/1973 Survey Date 10/17/1984 Last Observation Date 10/17/1984
EO Data
IN FLOWER AND FRUIT; APPROXIMATELY 2600 INDIVDUALS IN GOOD CONDITION; CLUSTERS OF NUMEROUS PLANTS SCATTERED ACROSS LENGTH OF LOMA
General Description
CLAY DUNE SLIGHTLY ELEVATED ABOVE SURROUNDING SAND, WITH SCATTERED SHRUBBY TEXAS EBONIES AND THICK HERBACEOUS GROUND COVER
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
SOON TO BE LISTED AS CATEGORY ONE BY USF& WS, EVENTUALLY TO BE LT OR LE; FLOWERS OPEN EARLY IN THE MORNING

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 6669
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State Rarity Rank S2S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1987
EO Data
THREE COLONIES TOTALLING 3100 PLANTS
General Description
OPEN GRASSY AREAS NEAR EDGE OF BRUSH
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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A-07


Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 7600
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State RarityRank S2S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date 9/6/1994 Last Observation Date 9/6/1994
EO Data
NO COUNT ATTEMPTED, FEWER THAN 1000 PLANTS SEEN; NOT FLOWERING, NOT EVEN IN BUD
General Description
ONE POPULATION ON TOP OF HIGH BLUFF, AMONG TYPICAL LOMA BRUSH; OTHER ON FLAT SCARCELY ELEVATED ABOVE HALOPHYTE ZONE
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 7181
Scientific Name Echeandia chandleri
Common Name lila de los llanos
Global Rarity Rank G3 State Rarity Rank S2S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1987
EO Data
FOUR POPULATIONS TOTALLING MORE THAN 400 PLANTS
General Description
OPEN GRASSY AREAS INTERMIXED WITH YUCCA AND OTHER BRUSH
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 6384
Scientific Name Falco peregrinus
Common Name Peregrine Falcon
Global Rarity Rank G4 State RarityRank S3 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 199
EO Data
<null>
General Description
<null>
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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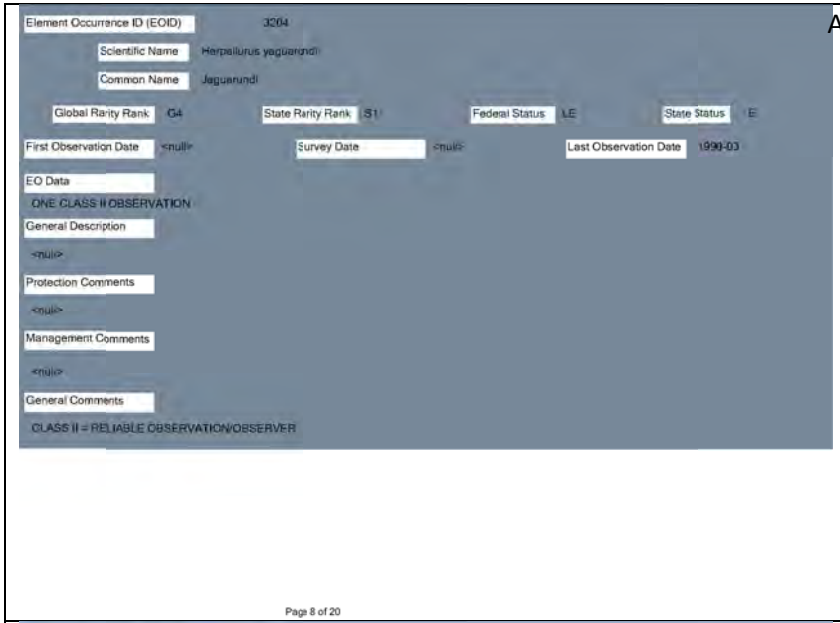

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 3204
Scientific Name Herpailurus yagouaroundi
Common Name Jaguarundi
Global Rarity Rank G4 State Rarity Rank S1 Federal Status LE State Status E
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1990-03
EO Data
ONE CLASS II OBSERVATION
General Description
<null>
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
CLASS II = RELIABLE OBSERVATION/OBSERVER

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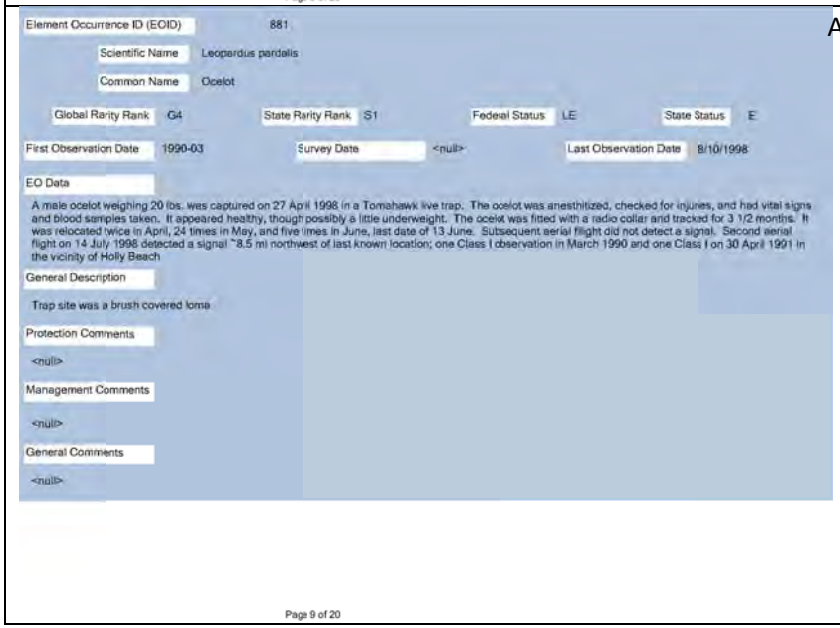

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 881
Scientific Name Leopardus pardalis
Common Name Ocelot
Global Rarity Rank G4 State Rarity Rank S1 Federal Status LE State Status E
First Observation Date 1990-03 Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 8/10/1998
EO Data
A male ocelot weighing 20 lbs. was captured on 27 April 1998 in a Tomahawk live trap. The ocelot was anesthitized, checked for injuries, and had vital signs and blood samples taken. It appeared healthy, though possibly a little underweight. The ocelot was fitted with a radio collar and tracked for 3 1/2 months. It was relocated twice in April, 24 times in May, and five times in June, last date of 13 June. Subsequent aerial flight did not detect a signal. Second aerial flight on 14 July 1998 detected a signal ~8.5 mi northwest of last known location; one Class I observation in March 1990 and one Class I on 30 April 1991 in the vicinity of Holly Beach
General Description
Trap site was a brush covered loma
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 895
Scientific Name Pithecellobium ebano-plaulothamnus spinescens-clinarexylum berlandieri series
Common Name Texas Ebony-snake-eyes-berlandier Fiddlewood Series
Global Rarity Rank G2 State RarityRank S2 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date 1984 Survey Date 10/17/1984 Last Observation Date 1984-10
EO Data
<null>
General Description
CLAY LOAM LOMA WITH RUNNING MESQUITE, CROSS THORN, MAYTENAS, EBONY, SNAKE-EYES, BRAZIL AND A VARIETY OF SUBTROPICAL SHRUBS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 377
Scientific Name Pithecellobium ebano-plaulothamnus spinescens series
Common Name Texas Ebony-snake-eyes Series
Global Rarity Rank G2 State RarityRank S2 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date <null>
EO Data
<null>
General Description
DOMINATED BY LOW TROPICAL SHRUBS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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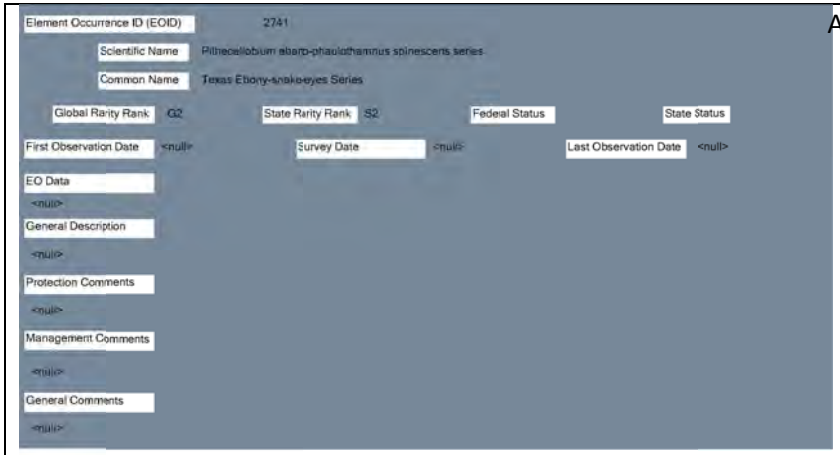
Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 2741
Scientific Name Pithecellobium ebano-phaulothamnus spinescens series
Common Name Texas Ebony-snake-eyes Series
Global Rarity Rank G2
State Rarity Rank S2
Federal Status
State Status
First Observation Date <null>
Survey Date <null>
Last Observation Date <null>
EO Data
<null>
General Description
<null>
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>
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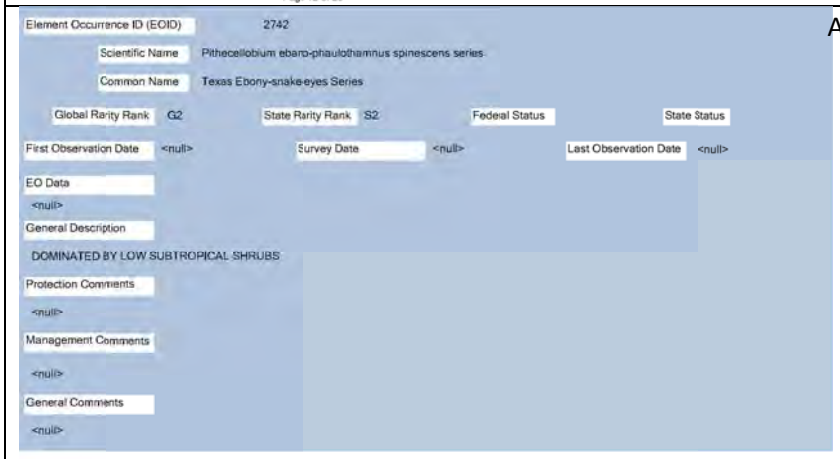
Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 2742
Scientific Name Pithecellobium ebano-phaulothamnus spinescens series
Common Name Texas Ebony-snake-eyes Series
Global Rarity Rank G2
State Rarity Rank S2
Federal Status
State Status
First Observation Date <null>
Survey Date <null>
Last Observation Date <null>
EO Data
<null>
General Description
DOMINATED BY LOW SUBTROPICAL SHRUBS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>
Page 13 of 20

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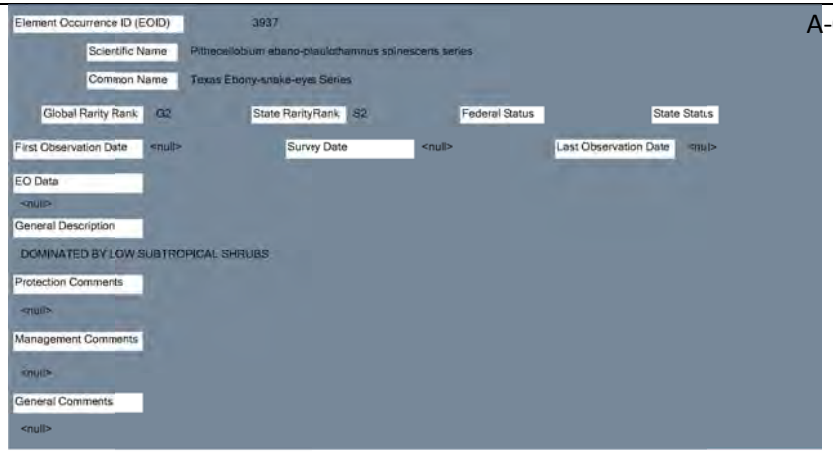
Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 3937
Scientific Name Pithecellobium ebano-phaulothamnus spinescens series
Common Name Texas Ebony-snake-eyes Series
Global Rarity Rank G2
State RarityRank S2
Federal Status
State Status
First Observation Date <null>
Survey Date <null>
Last Observation Date <null>
EO Data
<null>
General Description
DOMINATED BY LOW SUBTROPICAL SHRUBS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>
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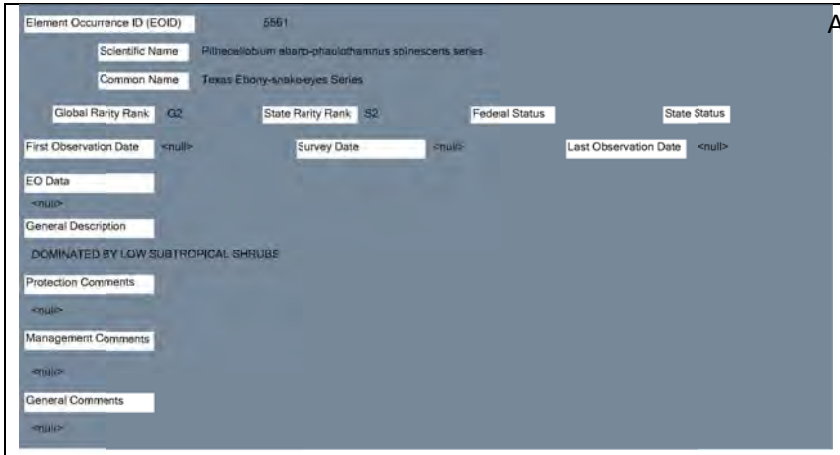
Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 4673
Scientific Name Pithecellobium ebano-phaulothamnus spinescens series
Common Name Texas Ebony-snake-eyes Series
Global Rarity Rank G2
State RarityRank S2
Federal Status
State Status
First Observation Date <null>
Survey Date <null>
Last Observation Date <null>
EO Data
<null>
General Description
DOMINATED BY LOW SUBTROPICAL SHRUBS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>
Page 15 of 20

A-07



Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 5561
Scientific Name Pithecellobium ebano-phaulothamnus spinescens series
Common Name Texas Ebony-snake-eyes Series
Global Rarity Rank G2 State Rarity Rank S2 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date <null>
EO Data
<null>
General Description
DOMINATED BY LOW SUBTROPICAL SHRUBS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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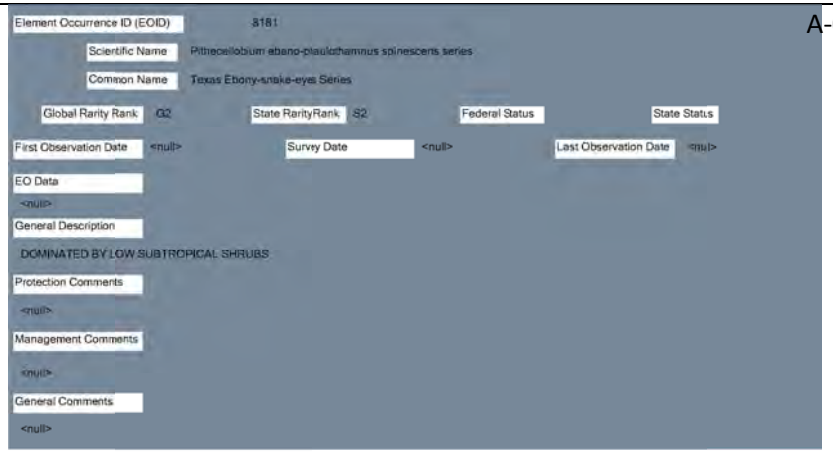

Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 8181
Scientific Name Pithecellobium ebano-phaulothamnus spinescens series
Common Name Texas Ebony-snake-eyes Series
Global Rarity Rank G2 State RarityRank S2 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date <null>
EO Data
<null>
General Description
DOMINATED BY LOW SUBTROPICAL SHRUBS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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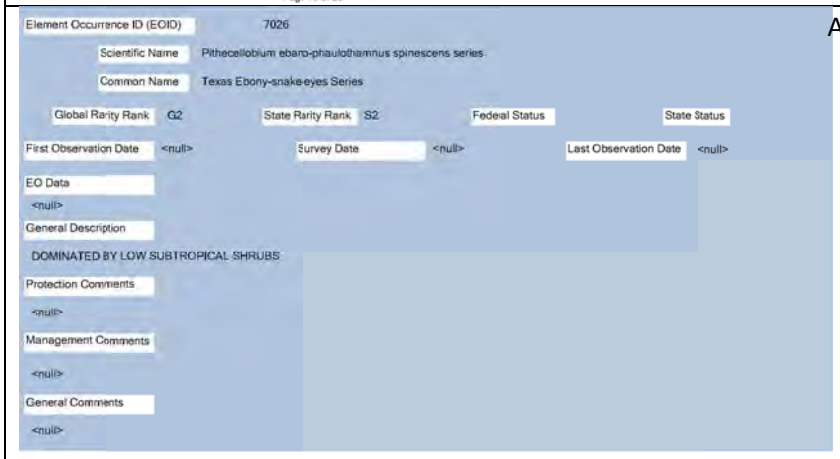
A-07



Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 7026
Scientific Name Pithecellobium ebano-phaulothamnus spinescens series
Common Name Texas Ebony-snake-eyes Series
Global Rarity Rank G2 State Rarity Rank S2 Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date <null> Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date <null>
EO Data
<null>
General Description
DOMINATED BY LOW SUBTROPICAL SHRUBS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
<null>

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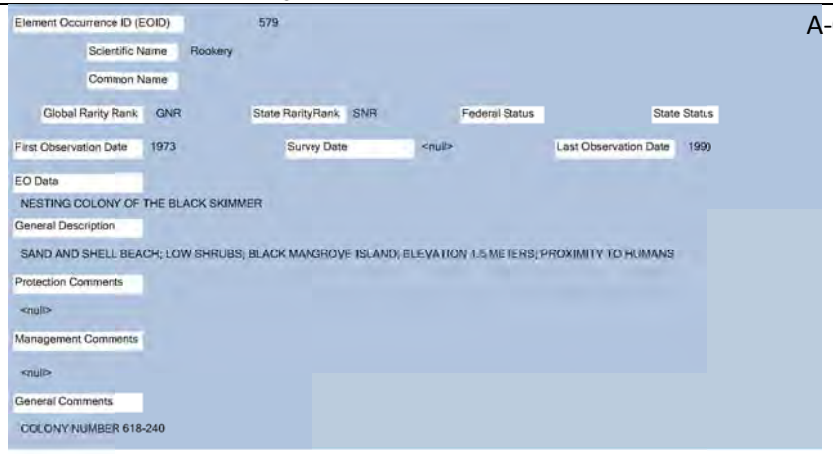
A-07



Element Occurrence ID (EOID) 579
Scientific Name Rookery
Common Name
Global Rarity Rank GNR State RarityRank SNR Federal Status State Status
First Observation Date 1973 Survey Date <null> Last Observation Date 1999
EO Data
NESTING COLONY OF THE BLACK SKIMMER
General Description
SAND AND SHELL BEACH; LOW SHRUBS; BLACK MANGROVE ISLAND; ELEVATION 1.5 METERS; PROXIMITY TO HUMANS
Protection Comments
<null>
Management Comments
<null>
General Comments
COLONY NUMBER 618-240

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A-07



Element Occurrance ID (EOID)	7656
Scientific Name	Uniola paniculata-panicum amarum series
Common Name	Sea Oats-bitter Panicum Series
Global Rarity Rank	G4
State Rarity Rank	S3
Federal Status	
State Status	
First Observation Date	<null>
Survey Date	12/1/1991
Last Observation Date	12/1/1991

EO Data

NO DATA COLLECTED, CASUAL VISIT; ONLY SOUTHERN TIP VISITED; NEEDS EXTENSIVE SURVEY

General Description

DUNES TO CA. 10-12 FEET, SOME STABILIZED BYSEA OATS, BITTER PANICUM, BEACH CROTON (CROTON PUNCTATUS), ETC.; OTHER TERRESTRIAL BARRIER ISLAND PLANT COMMUNITIES NOT WELL DEVELOPED AT SOUTHERN END OF STATE RECREATION AREA

Protection Comments

<null>

Management Comments

<null>

General Comments

4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES WERE DRIVING OVER HIGHEST DUNE TOPS AT TIME OF VISIT; NO TPWD STAFF ON SITE, NO LAW ENFORCEMENT OF ANY KIND

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A-08

Charlie Cabler
City Manager

City of BROWNSVILLE Texas
On the Border, By the Sea

May 7, 2013

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX)
1 Rocket Rd.
Hawthorne, CA 90250

I would like to thank your organization's continual interest in considering Brownsville as the future launch site. I would like to extend my support to such endeavor and my office is available to assist in any questions your organization may have. Brownsville's municipal government is comprised of over 1200 employees working in diverse settings from police, fire protection through public works. Each and every one of us is committed in providing our citizens and visitors with efficient and quality municipal services with courtesy and concern.

As mentioned before, the community in Brownsville has great resources in education, medical services, transportation, workforce development, commercial infrastructure, residential housing and great quality of life activities year round. Your company's workforce will be able to enjoy all there is to do in Brownsville and its surrounding areas. Your future workforce benefits from the several educational institutions located in Brownsville that can prepare the workforce from a technical certification through graduate level studies. This diversity of resources will help ensure that your organization has local workforce educational development resources for present and future labor needs. 3.1.1

In selecting Brownsville for your future site, you are drawing from the strength of our community and beyond its borders. This partnership between SpaceX and Brownsville will be a long and fruitful relationship that will yield many positive effects for both organizations that will span generations.

Again I would like to extend my support of SpaceX and if I could be of any assistance, please contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Charlie Cabler, City Manager
Cameron County Spaceport Development Corporation,
Board Member

CC:bba

City of Brownsville
P.O. Box 911 / 1001 E. Elizabeth St / Brownsville, Texas 78522
(956) 548-6000
www.cob.us

A-09

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

Please Note: Written comments become part of the administrative record associated with this Proposed Action. Individual citizens may request that their name and/or home address be withheld from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or home address withheld, you must check the box(es) below. Please note that contact information for individuals or officials representing organizations and businesses may be disclosed.

- ☒ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Alfonso Vallejo Date: 05/07/13

Organization/Affiliation: Brownsville MPO

Address: PO Box 911

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville Tx 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

A-09

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statemen:

I am in forward for the project.

We need open windows for future generations & human life. 3.1.1

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

A-10

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

Please Note: Written comments become part of the administrative record associated with this Proposed Action. Individual citizens may request that their name and/or home address be withheld from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or home address withheld, you must check the box(es) below. Please note that contact information for individuals or officials representing organizations and businesses may be disclosed.

- ☑ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: LARRY A. BROWN Date: 5-7-13

Organization/Affiliation: BROWNSVILLE SOUTH PADRE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL

Address: 700 AMELIA EARHART

City, State, Zip Code: BROWNSVILLE TEXAS 78520

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

A-10

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

A-11

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

Brownsville, Texas
May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider my letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas.

I am convinced that the Brownsville community needs more opportunities for future generations, SpaceX represents that to our children and grandchildren.

The creation of new jobs and growth of technical needs will certainly attract people from multiple disciplines come and establish new satellite business with the direct impact to the economic growth, that will reduce the unemployment with new well paid jobs. 3.1.1

We can list multiple reasons that will impact the whole Rio Grande Valley community not only in permanent jobs but those related to visitors spending, transportation, and the opportunity of growing our university in technology carriers, we have the base support with UTB and the backup of the UT system.

Space X will be placing us in the map as a community of the future.

Sincerely,

Manuel Alcocer
Brownsville South Padre International Airport - Chair of the Advisory Board
University of Texas at Brownsville – School of Business Lecturer
177 Shoreline Dr. Brownsville TX 78521
956 5443026
E-mail: manuel.alcocer@utb.edu

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / P(956) 541-1183 - F(956) 546-3938 / www.BEDC.com

CompetitiveReady

A-12

City of BROWNSVILLE Texas
On the Border By the Sea

From the office of the
Director of Aviation
Larry A. Brown

Presentation to FAA

5/7/2013

On behalf of the Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport we are pleased to welcome the FAA and Space X to Brownsville both now and permanently. At the Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport we have experienced many firsts in Aviation History – Charles Lindbergh flew the First International airmail from Mexico City to NY through Brownville, Ameila Earhart borrowed the airport managers plane and got her first pilots license here and we propose to see the first launch by space X in the future of a trip to mars.

We also note that in chapter 11, in appendix II, of the EIS draft there is no mention of any negative impact on the approaches to BRO and furthermore we welcome the people that will come to our airport and our City to assist space X. 3.1.1

We believe that the ATCT at BRO will be an important, integral part of the safety management system for your launches. The ATCT at BRO will be looking over TFRs as appropriate to your launches and we welcome the opportunity to do so.

And in conclusion:

"Fly Brownsville"

Larry A Brown

Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport
700 Amelia Earhart Drive, Brownsville, Texas 78521 Telephone: 956-542-4373 Fax: 956-542-4374 flybrownsville.com

A-13

PORT OF BROWNSVILLE
• WORLD CLASS •

May 7, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee:

Please accept this letter in support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in Cameron County east of Brownsville, Texas.

The proposed location for the commercial rocket launch site is in close proximity to the Port of Brownsville. We believe that the operations proposed by SpaceX will not interfere with the operations of the Port or have a significant impact on the many interests that utilize Boca Chica Beach. Space X has a proven track record of designing and operating launch facilities in and around diverse and environmentally protected areas. SpaceX proposes to conduct its operations in a cooperative manner and will do so in a way that will respect the many users of Boca Chica Beach. They will work to clean up Boca Chica Beach and protect it for future generations of beach goers.

The development of the SpaceX facilities will result in the creation of many badly needed jobs in the region. These jobs will be high paying jobs that will contribute greatly to the economic well-being of the region. In addition, SpaceX will provide incredible opportunities for our academic institutions and will help attract other aerospace companies to our area. SpaceX has a proven record of exceptional corporate citizenship at their other facilities, and we would expect no different from SpaceX in our communities. We wholeheartedly support and welcome SpaceX's efforts to develop their vertical launch site and launch command center in the Brownsville area.

3.1.1

Sincerely,

Eduardo A. Campirano
Port Director & CEO
Port of Brownsville
eacampirano@portofbrownsville.com
Phone: 956-838-7008

Brownsville Navigation District
1000 Foust Road • Brownsville, Texas 78521 • Ph (956) 831-4592 • (800) 378-5395 • Fax (956) 831-5006
www.portofbrownsville.com

ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS

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E-01

FILEMON VELA
34th District, Texas

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management
Subcommittee on Livestock, Rural Development, and Credit

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4334

437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-9901

303 Leroy Avenue
Brownsville, TX 78520
(956) 544-8352

1250 W. Expressway 83
San Benito, TX 78586

500 East Main
Alice, TX 78332

May 6, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cadno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

I write in response to the May 7, 2013 Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts that may result from the Federal Aviation Administration Office of Commercial Space Transportation proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX). I strongly support the preferred alternative detailed in the draft EIS, and I urge timely approval of the document to allow the planned development to move forward.

The draft EIS is the product of a careful and thorough analysis of the impact of the proposed launch site. SpaceX worked with federal, state, and local officials along with affected citizens to develop a balanced proposal that provides significant benefit to the region while mitigating the impact of the construction and operations of the facility. The draft EIS reflects SpaceX's comprehensive approach in siting the facility at a location which will provide optimal launch conditions without unduly impacting the environment or the surrounding communities. The forethought that went into this initiative will have a long-term positive impact, positioning the launch site for future success.

The preferred alternative, which would allow construction of a new launch site in South Texas to commence, is in our national interest; the establishment of a new location to support commercial space launch and reusable launch vehicles increases our economic competitiveness and national security.

The proposed facility would also provide substantial benefits to the entire South Texas region. In addition to employment opportunities in the construction, maintenance, and operation of the facility, the launch site will have a significant positive economic impact. The State of Texas, as the home of Space Center Houston, has a long history as a tourist destination for those interested in space, and the opportunity to experience a launch would bring observers from across the state and the nation. The SpaceX facility would also benefit students throughout the region by inspiring young people to study and pursue careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields and by providing cooperative research and employment opportunities for students and educators at nearby institutions. Hispanics have historically been underrepresented in the STEM fields, and this proposed facility, in close proximity to several Hispanic-Serving Institutions, will help address that shortfall by developing partnerships to enhance research opportunities. 3.1.1

The SpaceX South Texas Launch Site has my support, and I appreciate the hard work that went into the creation of the draft EIS. SpaceX has a deep understanding of the community, and the draft EIS's support for the Preferred Alternative reflects the effort that went into crafting a proposal for the construction and operation of a facility which will serve both the nation and the community.

Sincerely,

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

E-02

Office of the Governor

May 2, 2013

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

Mr. Michael McElligott
Manager
Space Transportation Development Division
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW (AST)
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Mr. McElligott:

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) has made great progress in its evaluation of a South Texas site for a new rocket launch facility. Last year I wrote to you to express my support for SpaceX, for your efforts in this process and for the Brownsville officials who are working to make this project happen. I want to make certain you know that this project continues to have my support.

As our nation moves toward a more commercial model for space exploration, companies like SpaceX are needed to step up and blaze new trails in space. As we know from our 50 years of space exploration, SpaceX will also be required to expend a certain amount of money and assume a certain amount of risk as it moves from the relative safety of Earth into outer space, both near and far.

The State of Texas and the local community are working with SpaceX to mitigate those risks. We will continue to support SpaceX as it moves through the site evaluation process. In return, we expect to benefit from economic development in the form of new, well-paying jobs and capital investment in the Brownsville area. Perhaps more importantly, the presence of a rocket launch facility in South Texas will inspire generations of young Texans to pursue education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Those educated workers will lead our state and our nation into the next great frontier. 3.1.1

We know from our experience at Kennedy Space Center that rocket launch facilities can operate successfully within an environmentally sensitive area. Please know that I strongly support the efforts of SpaceX and the Brownsville community to bring this business to Texas. Your approval of their application for a launch facility will open the door to the next 50 years of space exploration and commercialization in the United States. 3.4.5

My office of Aerospace, Aviation and Defense stands ready to assist you in any way we can. You may contact Keith Graf at (512) 475-0487 to engage him and his staff in support of this project.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:lsp

Post Office Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711 (512)463-2000 (Voice)/Dial 7-1-1 for Relay Services
Visit www.TexasOnline.com the Official Web Site of the State of Texas

E-03

Pete Sepulveda, Jr.
County Administrator

May 7, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

This letter is submitted in response to the May 7, 2013, Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the FAA/AST proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (Space X). I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Space X's proposal to launch from a site in Cameron County, Texas.

Locating the proposed launch facility on the Boca Chica Beach site off of Highway 4 would be an ideal location because of its close proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and because the land that Space X will need remains undeveloped today. I am confident that Space X will conduct its operations in a mutually beneficial and cooperative manner with respect to the environment, local residents, beachgoers, and the community as a whole. Just as they have in other areas, Space X's experience operating complex launches in and around wildlife refuges and other environmentally protected areas can lead to an eco-friendly facility for wildlife and natural habitat.

The proposed project will be an asset to the entire South Texas region. It will inspire our local school children to reach for the stars and focus more than ever on critical science, technology, engineering and math studies. It could also create opportunities for programs and degrees as well as research facilities at our local institutions of higher learning here in the Rio Grande Valley. The Space X project will create high-paying job opportunities for local residents and stimulate other indirect jobs. In addition, the tourism potential a project of this magnitude can bring to the region is immeasurable. 3.1.1

I am in full support of the project and am delighted that this commercial company is strongly considering Cameron County.

Sincerest regards,

Pete Sepulveda, Jr.
County Administrator

Dancy Courthouse *1100 E. Monroe Street – Suite 256* *Brownsville, Texas 78520*
Phone (956) 982-5414 *psepulveda@co.cameron.tx.us* *Fax (956) 983-5099*

E-04

RESOLUTION 04-23-2013-01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ON THE 23rd DAY OF APRIL, 2013, THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PORT ISABEL, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS CONVENED IN REGULAR SESSION, AND UPON THE REQUEST OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PORT ISABEL, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE SAID COURT FOR SUCH MEETING, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.041 *ET. SEQ.*, VERNON'S TEXAS CIVIL STATUTES (THE TEXAS OPEN MEETING ACT) TO BE CONSIDERED

"CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TO ALLOW SPACE EXPLORATIONS TECHNOLOGIES, INC (SPACEX) TO LAUNCH THE FALCON 9 AND FALCON HEAVY ORBITAL VERTICAL LAUNCH VEHICLES AND A VARIETY OF SMALLER REUSABLE SUBORBITAL LAUNCH VEHICLES FROM A LAUNCH SITE ON PRIVATELY-OWNED PROPERTY IN CAMERON, COUNTY, TEXAS"

WHEREAS, Space X, Inc. was founded in 2002 by Elon Musk for the purpose of solving the problem of providing a simple, low cost and reliable way to access and explore outer space; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Port Isabel, Cameron County, Texas recognizes the importance of space exploration; and

WHEREAS, Space X Inc. has established its credibility in the area of private manned and unmanned space flight, having been awarded a significant contract with NASA for 12 flights for their Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon spacecraft to the International Space Station after the retirement of the Space Shuttle in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Space X, Inc. has expressed a strong interest in considering an area within Cameron County, Texas as a possible launch site for its Falcon 1 and Falcon 9 rockets and Dragon spacecraft; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Port Isabel, Cameron County, Texas recognizes that the development of such a commercial launch site would have a tremendous positive economic impact on both job creation and economic growth to the region; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Port Isabel, Cameron County, Texas wishes to express its strong support and pledges to work in cooperation with Space X, Inc. on this important project. 3.1.1

E-04

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Port Isabel, Cameron County, Texas unanimously expresses its strong support to Space X, Inc. for the establishment of a commercial launch site and command center within Cameron County, Texas.

Passed, Approved and Adopted on this 23rd day of April, 2013.

Joe E. Vega, Mayor

Juan Jose Zamora, Commissioner Place 1

Maria de Jesus Garza, Commissioner Place 2

Martin C. Cantu, Commissioner Place 3

Guillermo Torres, Commissioner Place 4

ATTEST:

Susie Alcocer, City Secretary

E-05

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Jessica Tetreau-Kalifa <jtetreau@cob.us>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 7:01 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: SpaceX Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in eastern Cameron County, Texas. 3.1.1

As a Commissioner for the City of Brownsville, I am painfully aware of the challenges and obstacles that our community faces, and it is often a very harsh reality check as a leader to know that alone we cannot create high paying jobs, tourism, and the educational opportunities that SpaceX will bring as the world's first private launch site. Brownsville's median income is about $24,000 which lands us below poverty level, median income. SpaceX will create several hundred high paying jobs that start at $55,000, along with several hundred additional indirect, induced jobs. Most of these jobs provided would be local workforce- which would create a new skill set for aerospace and aviation within the area. Our local families need these jobs to provide for their families. 3.16.1

One of the most attractive aspects about this proposed project is the minimal impact it will have on our wetlands. I have had the privilege to visit the Florida launch site, and I have seen how the SpaceX company is active in protecting and preserving the surrounding areas. The proposed Cameron County launch site, will have minimal effect of the surrounding ecosystem, and I am confident that SpaceX will do anything and everything to adapt and preserve with the wetland, as they have already modified plans to meet the needs of the area. 3.13.8
The two species that were of concern to the environmental impact study were the piping plover, and the sea turtles. 3.13.9
SpaceX has been successful in mitigating risks to both of these species in Florida. 3.13.10

As someone who has visited Florida during a launch, I am aware of the fact that hotels book solid, restaurants fill to capacity, and souvenir shops are filled with shoppers with the thousands of visitors who travel to view the launch. This would be a much needed boost to our struggling tourism economy, that will create jobs and expands our sales tax base.

The SpaceX Texas launch Site is the one project that students from kinder- high school seniors, as well as our college students are truly inspired and excited about. This is the one opportunity, chance of a lifetime Brownsville has patiently been waiting for to come our way. It is not every day that a company as special SpaceX needs you the way we need them.

Jessica Tetreau
Commissioner, District2
City Of Brownsville
1001 E. Elizabeth St.
956 459-4444
JTetreau@cob.us

1

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMENTS

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N-01

421 Aviation Way
Frederick, Maryland 21701

T. 301-695-2000
F. 301-695-2375

www.aopa.org

May 29, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist, SpaceX EIS
c/o Cardno TEC Inc.,
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Notice of Availability and Request for Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the SpaceX Texas Launch Site

Ms. Zee,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing nearly 385,000 pilots and general aviation enthusiasts nationwide, submits the following comments in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the SpaceX Texas Launch Site near Brownsville, TX. Greater clarity is needed on the impacts to general aviation before AOPA can agree that the cumulative impacts are not significant.

The DEIS states that, "because there would be few launches each year and the launches would only last for a few minutes, temporary closures of existing airspace would not impact the performance and capability of the NAS." AOPA disagrees that temporary flight restrictions would last only a few minutes or that such closures would not impact the performance and capacity of the NAS. Similar launches have resulted in TFRs lasting several hours, oftentimes over successive days due to launch delays from unforeseen circumstances. 3.23.1

While AOPA appreciates that such unforeseen delays result in the TFR being canceled early, there is no reliable or efficient mechanism to communicate such an early closure to general aviation pilots. AOPA requests that the FAA quantify the duration and frequency of anticipated temporary flight restrictions and the cumulative impact on general aviation flight operations in the area as part of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the SpaceX Texas Launch Site near Brownsville, TX.

Sincerely,

Tom Kramer

Tom Kramer
Manager
Airspace and Modernization

AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

N-02

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

A RESOLUTION BY THE ASOCIACION DE EMPRESARIOS MEXICANOS – BROWNSVILLE/SOUTH PADRE ISLAND CHAPTER TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND MOVE TO EXTEND GREAT APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT OF THE COMMERCIAL LAUNCH SITE PROJECT BY SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGY CORP.

WHEREAS, the Asociacion de Empresarios Mexicanos – Brownsville/South Padre Island Chapter (AEM) is a business league that promotes the economic and industrial development of Brownsville-Matamoros Borderplex and is dedicated to building economic prosperity in the region; and

WHEREAS, Brownsville, Texas is the southernmost city in the continental United States and closest to the equator, and a region broadleaf plants, with native parrots where Tropical Savanna, Chihuahuan desert, Gulf Coast Plain and Great Plains climates all intersect; And Brownsville, being the 16th largest city in the Lone Star State, saddles the Rio Grande, lies along the Gulf of Mexico and is the 4th largest Border Metro on the U.S.-Mexico border; and

WHEREAS, the Boca Chica Beach area at one point was considered for launch site 50 years ago when NASA was exploring launch options for its program; and

WHEREAS, Space Exploration Technology Corp., also known as SpaceX, is a sustainable and environmentally conscious enterprise practicing and designing efforts on a major project, has shortlisted Brownsville, Texas as one of three finalists for a rocket launch site operation; And the SpaceX project, dubbed a Commercial Cape Canaveral, will increase the presence of the aerospace industry in South Texas and solidify the state in space leadership; and

WHEREAS, SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy orbital launch vehicles from a private site in proximity to Boca Chica Beach and proposes to build a vertical launch site and a launch control center; And the proposed vertical launch site land is currently undeveloped and located away from populated areas in proximity to State Highway 4; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Brownsville Borderplex has been actively working with SpaceX for over 2 years, and SpaceX would add a seventh mode of transportation for Brownsville, which include international bridge, interstate highway, barge traffic, deep-sea vessel, air cargo, international pipeline, and now be adding transport to space; and

WHEREAS, SpaceX would have a significant impact in Cameron County through direct, indirect and induced job creation through the emergence of an aerospace cluster; And project of this magnitude would great opportunities for local schools and higher education; and

WHEREAS, Of utmost importance is the public-private partnership between SpaceX, Greater Brownsville and Cameron County which will embrace stewardships between business, trade, commerce, education, culture, history and the environment

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Asociacion de Empresarios Mexicanos – Brownsville/South Padre Island Chapter (AEN) move to extend great appreciation and support of the commercial launch site project by Space Exploration Technology Corp. 3.1.1

Asociacion de Empresarios Mexicanos Board of Directors **Done this 9th day of April, 2013**

N-03

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409
RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

On the behalf of the Brownsville Economic Development Council (BEDC) please consider this letter in support of SpaceX building a commercial launch site and launch command center near Boca Chica Beach, on the eastern edge of Brownsville.

The BEDC is a business league which is commissioned with the responsibility of developing and working with projects that will provide a positive economic impact in the Brownsville community which in turn will create employment opportunities and wealth for our citizens. The development of the commercial launch site for SpaceX is a project that will not only directly create higher paying jobs in the community, it will foster the development of suppliers and new ventures in the region, the aerospace industrial cluster will begin to develop, and the tourism industry will gain a tremendous boost. 3.1.1

Not only will the region benefit by the economic numbers, new educational opportunities will emerge, the math and science programs from the local school districts and universities will gain new life, and internships and educational partnerships will be created between the public and private sectors. The perception of Brownsville, a border community will change and a new image of our city will be formed.

We are equally excited and much appreciative of our working relationship with SpaceX over the last two years and their willingness and desire to do the right thing for the Brownsville community and our local environment. The fact that since the beginning they have reached out and tried to meet with every known group in the community, to explain their project and the potential impacts has been important. Knowing that they will work with Sea Turtle Inc., they will develop and will train their employees, contractors and the general public on issues related to the environment and its protection, and that the construction of the site will minimize effects on wetlands, provides us with the knowledge that SpaceX will be a good corporate citizen.

The BEDC supports this project!

Sincerely,

Jason Hilts
President and CEO
jhilts@bedc.com

301 Mexico Blvd., Ste. F1 (ITEC Campus), Brownsville, TX 78520 / Office: (956) 541-1183 / Toll: (800) 552-5352
Fax: (956) 546-3938 / Site: www.BEDC.com

BROWNSVILLE&MATAMOROS

N-04

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

I am writing in support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation and their plans to build a launch site in my hometown of Brownsville, Texas. While I understand and appreciate the environmental concerns, I do believe that the impact will be minimal and that the economic returns will mitigate it. 3.1.1

In making your decision, please consider the benefit to the people of Brownsville. As of March 2013 the unemployment rate was 10.2%. The proposed SpaceX project would add 600 direct jobs, the majority of which will be filled by Brownsville area workers. In addition, we expect the project to attract new businesses and give a robust economic boost to existing local businesses due to the need for lodging and food for tourists and visiting vendors. 3.16.1

Protecting the environment is crucial, and I have all confidence that the FAA, while allowing the project to go forward, will also follow the guidelines outlined in the 2005 "Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Horizontal Launch and Reentry of Reentry Vehicles"; in short, I look forward to the SpaceX program and the much-needed economic development it will bring existing in harmony with solid environmental values monitored by the FAA.

Very sincerely yours,,

Beth A. Pritchard
Assistant Vice President of Payroll Services
301 Mexico Blvd Brownsville TX 78520
bpritchard@thesba.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC; 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 /'956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

N-05

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.EEDC.com

A RESOLUTION OF THE BROWNSVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LAUNCH SITE, BY SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES, INC. (SPACEX), IN THE AREA OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS.

Whereas, the Brownsville Economic Development Council of the City of Brownsville, Texas, shares in SpaceX, Inc.'s vision of the importance of space exploration to expand and preserve the consciousness of human life; and

Whereas, the Brownsville Economic Development Council of the City of Brownsville, Texas; recognizes that the development of the first ever, commercial launch site in the world, in the Brownsville, Texas area, would be a community changer that would change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County and have a tremendous positive economic impact on both job creation and economic growth; and

Whereas, SpaceX is seeking approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to conduct up to 12-comercial launches per year, with ten being launches of their Falcon-9 rockets and two of their Falcon Heavy rockets; and

Whereas, the development of this project should create 600 direct and 400 indirect jobs well exceeding the average county wage with an annual economic impact in excess of $70 million once fully operational, with the majority of employment being from the region, and 3.16.1

Whereas, the launch project falls within the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program of Brownsville Independent School District (BISD), and should support the development of an aerospace magnet program, foster partnerships between schools and industry, create internship opportunities, and enhance UTB's Astrophysics Program; and

Whereas, environmentally, SpaceX will design their private launch site to minimize construction on wetland, will develop an adopt-a-beach program for Boca Chica Beach, create environmental awareness programs for staff, contractors and public, and mitigate risks to wildlife much like which is done at Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center in Florida,

Whereas, the Brownsville Economic Development Council of the City of Brownsville, Texas, wishes to express its support and pledge of future cooperation to SpaceX, Inc., for establishing a commercial launch site within the city of Brownsville, Texas, extraterritorial jurisdiction. 3.1.1

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

The Brownsville Economic Development Council of the City of Brownsville, Texas, unanimously expresses its strong unwavering support to SpaceX, Inc., for the establishment of a commercial launch site within the city of Brownsville, Texas, extraterritorial jurisdiction.

DONE this 21st day of May, 2013.

Keith Uhles, Board Chairman

N-06

CCRMA
CAMERON COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY

STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF CAMERON §

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ON THE 29TH DAY OF APRIL, 2013, THE CAMERON COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONVENED IN A SPECIAL MEETING AND UPON THE REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE SAID BOARD FOR SUCH MEETING

"CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TO ALLOW SPACE EXPLORATIONS TECHNOLOGIES, INC. (SPACE X) TO LAUNCH THE FALCON 9 AND FALCON HEAVY ORBITAL VERTICAL LAUNCH VEHICLES AND A VARIETY OF SMALLER REUSABLE SUBORBITAL LAUNCH VEHICLES FROM A LUNCH SITE ON PRIVATELY-OWNED PROPERTY IN CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS"

WHEREAS, Space X, Inc. was founded in 2002 by Elon Musk for the purpose of solving the problem of providing a simple, low cost and reliable way to access and explore outer space; and

WHEREAS, the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors recognizes the importance of space exploration; and

WHEREAS, Space X, Inc. has established its credibility in the area of private manned and unmanned space flight, having been awarded a significant contract with NASA for 12 flights for their Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon spacecraft to the International Space Station after the retirement of the Space Shuttle in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Space X, Inc. has expressed a strong interest in considering an area within Cameron County, Texas as a possible launch site for its Falcon 1 and Falcon 9 rockets and Dragon spacecraft; and

WHEREAS, the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors recognizes that the development of such a commercial launch site would have a tremendous positive economic impact on both job creation and economic growth to the region; and

N-06

WHEREAS, the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors wishes to express its strong support and pledges to work in cooperation with Space X, Inc. on this important project. 3.1.1

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cameron County Regional Mobility Board of Directors unanimously expresses its strong support to Space X, Inc. for the establishment of a commercial launch site and command center within Cameron County, Texas.

Passed, Approved and Adopted on this 29th day of April, 2013.

CAMERON COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAVID E. ALLEX
CHAIRMAN

absent
MICHAEL SCAIEF
TREASURER

RUBEN GALLEGOS, JR.
SECRETARY

DAVID N. GARZA
DIRECTOR

NAT LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

absent
HORACIO BARRERA
DIRECTOR

MARK ESPARZA
DIRECTOR

N-07

CIVIL WAR TRUST
Saving America's Civil War Battlefields
Civilwar.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Henry E. Simpson
Birmingham, Alabama
Chairman
O. James Lighthizer
Crofton, Maryland
President
Michael Grainger
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Edinburg, Virginia
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June 24, 2013

Stacy M. Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

I am writing on behalf of the Civil War Trust, the nation's largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization. Our mission is to protect America's endangered Civil War sites and promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds through education and heritage tourism. To date, the Trust has preserved more than 36,000 acres of battlefield land in 20 states, including 3 acres at Texas's historic Palmito Ranch Battlefield.

The purpose of his letter is to convey the Civil War Trust's chief concerns with the proposed Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) Launch Site in Cameron County, Texas, as well as the corresponding Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Trust agrees with the shared assessment of the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Texas Historical Commission (THC) that this project, as currently proposed, stands to negatively impact the Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic Landmark (NHL). Further, we find that the current version of the DEIS often falls short in adequately acknowledging or addressing adverse effects to the battlefield. 3.11.7

In a letter dated March 21, 2013 and addressed to Mark Wolfe, THC's Executive Director and the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer, the FAA notes the importance of the "setting" of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield — "an open, gently rolling plain of dunes and tidal flats with lomas" — calling it "one of the primary attributes that contributes to the significance of the NHL." In addition, the FAA correctly points out that "[l]ittle development has occurred in this area" to date. Construction of the proposed SpaceX Launch Site within three miles of the battlefield's eastern boundary would represent a significant shift in this respect. It is vital, therefore, that SpaceX and all parties involved with this project heed the NPS recommendation in the U.S. Department of the Interior's June 3 letter to FAA that they "ensure all feasible and prudent alternatives have been analyzed and all possible measures to minimize harm to the NHL are considered" at this and every stage of the review process. 3.8.1

As the NPS and FWS in particular have emphasized in previous correspondence, the potential noise and visual effects to the Palmito Ranch Battlefield from the SpaceX Launch Site are great, as are the effects stemming from activities and visitation related to the site's numerous planned launches. While the FAA has noted some of these effects, it has not yet sufficiently emphasized the full extent or significance of them. 3.8.1

N-07

When the FAA wrote in March, for instance, that the site's "250-foot tall water tower and the up to 200-foot tall lightning protection towers would be visible from much of the NHL," it also claimed that "construction of the launch facilities is unlikely to cause a substantial diminishment of setting," citing the towers' "small profile on the horizon" and SpaceX's offer to "paint the water tower, lightning towers, and other launch facilities as necessary a non-reflective, light tan color." In NPS's June 3 comments, however, the Park Service appropriately underscored that a host of facilities and features of the SpaceX Launch Site beyond the towers highlighted — including additional buildings, overhead lighting and security fences, among other items — "will all have a significant visual impact and thus a direct impact on the historic integrity of the NHL." 3.11.1

It is of the utmost importance that FAA and the DEIS provide a full and complete picture of the potential adverse effects of this project now to help make certain that SpaceX will, in turn, comprehensively address each during the Section 106 process and in the course of drafting the Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement with NPS, THC and others. In addition to the visual impacts noted above, this includes impacts from noise; unfortunately, NPS has observed that "it appears mitigation measures related to noise have been removed from this version of the DEIS." Further, NPS has made the crucial point that — even apart from launch-specific noise — the "volume of daily traffic in support of [SpaceX] facilities will introduce substantially more unnatural ambient background noise to the most visited/used areas of the NHL … and will impact the visitor's ability to experience the setting, location and feeling of the site." 3.11.2 3.8.1

Finally, just as important to address are the effects — short-term and long-term alike — of the new and increased use of, and visitation to, the land in the vicinity of the proposed SpaceX Launch Site. Earlier this month, FWS "reiterate[d] [its] concern that closures and activities associated with the launch[es] will have significant impacts to the management of surrounding NWR, NPS, and State Park lands … and viewshed to the Palmito Ranch Battlefield NHL." NPS has seconded FWS's concern, specifically citing the impacts from the possible constructive use of the NHL stemming from temporary occupancy during launch hours, as well as a number of related "secondary impacts" which include "the potential for off-road driving, campfires/campsites, and looting." The area's environment — described by the FWS as "semi-arid" — means that these secondary impacts could ultimately leave lasting scars, as "damage to the land from a single all-terrain vehicle track … can persist for many years and set up a chain reaction of changes to the landscape." 3.8.1

We are grateful for the FAA's work on the DEIS to date and appreciate both the amount of effort invested thus far and the amount of potential this project holds for the State of Texas. We were, however, disappointed to read in the course of our review the FWS report that "SpaceX has been buying up land in anticipation of building the project at the Boca Chica location without adequately analyzing other viable alternatives, and … committing resources to that site." In FWS's opinion, "this action clearly limits the availability of alternatives and appears to violate the spirit and intent of NEPA [the National Environmental Policy Act]." If this project proceeds, it is the 3.4.6

N-07

Civil War Trust's hope that it move forward in a manner that will maintain the integrity of the Palmito Ranch Battlefield, one of the few remaining battle-worn landscapes in a state whose history was so greatly shaped by that national conflict. In pursuit of the future, the Lone Star State need not compromise its past, and we urge SpaceX and all involved to consider and strive to advance the interests of both as this proposal continues to take shape. 3.8.1

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments on behalf of our organization. Please do not hesitate to contact Mark Coombs of our staff via telephone at (202) 367-1861, ext. 7224 or via e-mail at mcoombs@civilwar.org if you have any questions or wish to discuss our comments further.

Sincerely,



O. James Lighthizer, President

N-08







May 6, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

Re: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee:

It is with great pleasure that the Rio Grande Valley Wing of the Commemorative Air Force and AIR FIESTA offer their unqualified support for the SpaceX Launch Facility Project in Brownsville, Texas. 3.1.1

We operate the only WWII flying museum and produce the only world class airshow south of San Antonio. So, it follows that we are deeply, even passionately, interested in all things aviation related..... be it rudimentary flying machines from the 30's and 40's or advanced rocket and communication technology.

We assume that SpaceX will, along with launching satellite bearing rockets, develop a museum/visitors center for the purpose of demonstrating to young and old alike the wonders of modern space travel and the opportunities inherent in those fields of science associated with it.

The RGV Wing is dedicated to exposing succeeding generations to the advancements made in aviation over the past 70-80 years, particularly in defense of our freedom. So, we anticipate participating with SpaceX in broadening the focus our mutual education efforts to include not only yesterday and today, but tomorrow as well.

One hallmark of AIR FIESTA is that we demonstrate, up close and personal, the possibilities existent in aviation and SpaceX is doing the same thing every day.

For these, and many other reasons as well, we implore the FAA to look favorably on the SpaceX launch facility application.

Sincerely,

David Hughston
Chairman/Finance Officer
AIR FIESTA 2014
RGV Wing-CAF

P.O.Box 8190 Brownsville, Texas 78526 • (956) 541-8585

N-09

May 30, 2013

Ms. Stacy M. Zee,
Environmental Protection Specialist
FAA/Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street – Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement SpaceX Texas Launch site

These comments are on behalf of Frontera Audubon Society, a non-profit conservation organization whose mission since 1975 has been to promote the value and preservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project.

Frontera Audubon has had an active interest in preserving the Boca Chica/South Bay ecosystem since the mid-1980's when a massive development project [Playa Del Rio] proposed the complete transformation of this wild, undeveloped but biologically important ecosystem into marinas, golf courses and condominiums. A subsequent Endangered Species Consultation resulted in a jeopardy opinion on 3 endangered species, and the project collapsed, taking down 2 savings & loan institutions with it. The land, over 12,000 acres, ended up in the Resolution Trust Corporation, and ultimately (after at least 1 lawsuit which Audubon was a party to) with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Service gave the beachfront portion to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. During this same time period South Bay became the first sanctuary in the Texas Coastal Sanctuary Program. Its oyster beds, sea grasses and mangrove edges were recognized as an extremely productive nursery for fish, shellfish and mollusks. All this is to say that we know the Boca Chica/South Bay area very well. We also know that 95% of the native habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley is gone and that Boca Chica/South Bay is a significant portion of the sliver that remains.

Regarding the Draft EIS, we acknowledge and appreciate the effort that has been made to identify and analyze the many impacts the SpaceX construction and launches are likely to have on the fragile ecosystems and the many animal species in the area. Nevertheless there are some shortcomings in the analysis and in the proposed mitigation measures, which we hope will be remedied in the final document.

Regarding the Kemps Ridley sea turtle (the most endangered of all the species of sea turtles and the only one which nests on Boca Chica), lighting is a particular concern and we concur with SpaceX's proposal to have no lights facing the Gulf of Mexico, and to have lights turned off whenever possible. Impacts associated with the tremendous amount of noise and vibrations associated with launches are more problematic as there is no easy remedy. "Noise and vibrations from the rocket launches could frighten nesting turtles, causing them to abandon their nesting attempt." [DEIS p.4-66] Allowing Sea Turtles Inc. to patrol the beach following rocket launches strikes us as a rather pitifully meager remedy. Patrolling for nesting turtles both prior to and following launches would be an improvement. Having a launch "black-out period" during the height of nesting season would be a real remedy. 3.14.6

N-09

The endangered ocelot and jaguarundi are known to occur in the Boca Chica area. The Rio Grande serves as an east-west corridor for these secretive nocturnal cats, and Boca Chica is an important part of a north-south corridor from the river north to Laguna Atascosa NWR and the ranch country. While the proposed launch and control center sites are not good cat habitat, there are likely to be impacts due to significantly increased vehicular traffic on Highway 4, much of which is lined by good brush habitat. Vehicle strikes are the leading cause of documented ocelot mortality in South Texas. Posting speed limits and warning signs will accomplish little. Clearing brush along the roadside diminishes habitat and may not prevent collisions as the cats are nocturnal and drivers can only see what is illuminated by their headlights [e.g. straight ahead]. USF&WS should have the major say in determining the suitability of this proposed remedy. One remedy would be essentially eliminating nighttime traffic. A better remedy would be "cat crossings" beneath the highway at strategic locations. 3.14.8

The proposed project's impact to critical habitat of the endangered piping plover is acknowledged, and the proposed 5:1 wetland remediation seems appropriate. The effects of launch nose, light and vibration on piping plovers, red knots, aplomado and peregrine falcons, reddish egrets and other nesting and resting species in the greater area is much harder to assess, though some degree of negative impact is likely. "Bird behavioral responses to noise include nest abandonment, egg mortality, premature fledging, predation, depressed feeding rates, and habitat avoidance." [DEIS p. 4-56] In our opinion this unavoidable wide impact warrants mitigation on a larger scale.

The Texas coast is an extremely important corridor for migratory birds. The Mississippi and Central Flyways converge here for the millions of songbirds migrating to & from Central/ South America and the central United States and Canada. The Draft EIS does not adequately analyze these impacts. This becomes especially important when during spring migration there is a "norther" which causes millions of birds crossing the western Gulf of Mexico to seek immediate landfall (a "fallout") for survival. A launch event during a fallout could be disastrous. A good resource to better analyze these possible impacts is the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in Lake Jackson. Peak spring migration is early April to mid-May. We recommend there be a "black-out" period for rocket launches, something that could benefit nesting sea turtles as well. An alternative would be a "no launch" policy in April and May whenever the wind is blowing from the north. Another issue that the DEIS failed to examine is the effects of migrating birds colliding with structures and guide wires. Literature exists on this important issue. Design remedies can lessen though not eliminate this potential impact. 3.14.3

The potential for surface water and ground water contamination is analyzed in the DEIS, but not adequately so, particularly with respect to contingency planning for possible hurricane events. 3 major hurricanes (1932, 1967 & 1980) made landfall at Boca Chica in the past 80 years. The proposed launch site is essentially at sea level, and the 1932 event had a storm surge of 16 feet, literally erasing all of the substantial development which existed along Boca Chica at that time. How will SpaceX remove all the stored rocket fuels, solvents and other hazardous materials from the site when a major storm approaches? 200,000 gal of RP-1 rocket fuel is a lot of hazardous material to move to safety on very short notice. A spill into South Bay (very shallow, relatively small volume of water) would be catastrophic. Ground water contamination could be another huge impact, as the underlying Gulf Coast Aquifer already is supplying a substantial part of Brownsville's municipal water needs [SpaceX is using out-of-date data]. Further analysis and contingency planning specifics need to be part of the final EIS. 3.15.4

Potential impacts from public viewing of rocket launches are not adequately examined in the draft EIS. The proposed "soft" closure area is nearly all national wildlife refuge land. Where will cars park and how will large crowds be managed? What will prevent off-road vehicles from damaging refuge land? An 3.14.1

N-09

obvious remedy would have SpaceX purchase or lease sufficient private land and establish the appropriate infrastructure for launch viewing. The Boca Chica area is semi-arid, with sandy soils and extensive wind-tidal flats. Damage from off road vehicles, including ATVs can be severe and long-lasting. SpaceX needs to partner with the Fish & Wildlife Service to ensure that such damage doesn't occur, either from the viewing public or from its own staff and contractors. 3.14.1 (Cont.)

The draft EIS has various shortcomings and needs further work. The natural value of the land that SpaceX seeks to impact is under-recognized, being described simply as "vacant, undeveloped, open space." Wildlife and ecosystem values are barely acknowledged. The mitigation measures it contains, while well intentioned, are narrow and limited in scope, not commensurate with the wide-ranging impacts the project is likely to have. Mitigating a few acres of filled wetlands, beach clean-ups, vague BMPs, and sign posting isn't enough. SpaceX needs to think big. Protecting the entire Boca Chica/South Bay area from the deleterious impacts of future development on private lands would benefit immeasurably the ecosystem and wildlife that it supports, and would benefit SpaceX's need to launch in undeveloped areas. Below are listed mitigation measures that we highly recommend. 3.22.1

1. Five to one mitigation for not just impacted wetlands but for the entire project acreage. Private land north of the control center site (western edge of South Bay) could be purchased and either transferred to federal, state or private land resource agencies, or put into conservation easements. 3.22.1
2. SpaceX should work with the Brownsville Navigation District to extend for 20 more years its lease to the US Fish & Wildlife Service of the 4000 acres of land between Highway 4 and the Brownsville Ship Channel. This land consists of wind-tidal flats and unique vegetated clay hills called lomas. Brownsville is very eager to land the SpaceX project, so conditioning the lease extention appears viable and would cost SpaceX nothing. 3.22.1
3. Portable light and lightning towers, raised only during launch events, would be much more bird-friendly. No guide wires for structures. 3.22.4
4. Work with USF&WS, USNMFS, Texas P&WD and Sea Turtles Inc. to establish a 30 day launch moratorium during peak bird migration. Or a no-launch policy during north wind ["norther"] events during April and May. Prevailing winds are from the southeast. 3.14.3
5. Lease or acquire a parcel of land adjacent to Highway 4 to manage as a controlled launch viewing area for the public. The proposed "soft" closure site at Massey Drive is not suitable as it is surrounded by National Wildlife Refuge land. 3.14.1
6. Setting forth in the deed for the launch and control center areas that at such time that SpaceX has no further use for the site, that all structures will be removed and the land pass to the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service or Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. 3.21.1

Frontera Audubon appreciates the opportunity to participate in this NEPA permitting process. Until such time that SpaceX examines likely impacts more thoroughly, and mitigates more broadly and commensurate with those likely impacts, we stand in opposition to this project. SpaceX has a unique opportunity to make this wid, expansive and productive ecosystem as good as or better than they found it. We hope this is their guiding principle throughout. The land is simply too important for us to expect less. 3.2.1

Jim Chapman, President
Frontera Audubon Society
1101 S. Texas Blvd
Weslaco, TX 78596
jchapmanrgv@gmail.com

N-10

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Jim Chapman <jchapmanrgv@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2013 1:50 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Comments received?

Please aknowledge receiving comments on the SpaceX DEIS from Frontera Audubon Society. They were emailed to you on June 1, & since today is the deadline I want to make sure they were received. Thank you. 3.2.1

N-11

GREATER BROWNSVILLE INCENTIVES CORPORATION
On the Border, By the Sea

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2013

A RESOLUTION OF THE GREATER BROWNSVILLE INCENTIVES CORPORATION (GBIC) OF THE BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LAUNCH SITE, BY SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES, INC. (SPACEX), IN THE AREA OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS.

Whereas, the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation (GBIC) of Brownsville, Texas, shares in SpaceX, Inc.'s vision of the importance of space exploration to expand and preserve the consciousness of human life; and

Whereas, the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation (GBIC) of Brownsville, Texas; recognizes that the development of the first ever, commercial launch site in the world, in the Brownsville, Texas area, would be a community changer that would change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County and have a tremendous positive economic impact on both job creation and economic growth; and

Whereas, SpaceX is seeking approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to conduct up to 12-comercial launches per year, with ten being launches of their Falcon-9 rockets and two of their Falcon Heavy rockets; and

Whereas, the development of this project should create 600 direct and 400 indirect jobs well exceeding the average courty wage with an annual economic impact in excess of $70 million once fully operational, with the majority of employment being from the region, and 3.16.1

Whereas, the launch project falls within the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program of Brownsville Independent School District (BISD), and should support the development of an aerospace magnet program, foster partnerships between schools and industry, create internship opportunities, and enhance UTB's Astrophysics Program; and

Whereas, environmentally, SpaceX will design their private launch site to minimize construction on wetland, will develop an adopt-a-beach program for Boca Chica Beach, create environmental awareness programs for staff, contractors and public, and mitigate risks to wildlife much like which is done at Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center in Florida,

Whereas, the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation (GBIC) of Brownsville, Texas, wishes to express its support and pledge of future cooperation to SpaceX, Inc., for establishing a commercial launch site in Cameron County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

The Greater Brownsvile Incentives Corporation (GBIC) of Brownsville, Texas, unanimously expresses its strong unwavering support to SpaceX, Inc., for the establishment of a commercial launch site in Cameron County. 3.1.1

DONE this 23RD day of May, 2013.

Sandra L. Langley, Board Chairman

N-12

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: jmsteinhaus@austin.rr.com
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 3:26 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: carole@seaturtles.org
Subject: Re: SpaceX EIS IN TEXAS

May 31, 2013

I am writing concerning the EIS regarding the proposed SpaceX launches at Boca Chica Beach in Texas on the Gulf Coast. The Kemp's Ridley sea turtle nests on the Boca Chica Beach from April to July, with hatchlings potentially emerging from June through September.

These turtles are endangered and protected under the Endangered Species Act. This protection includes safeguard of dunes from development and or destruction, and limiting artificial lighting they may interfere with the nesting and hatching of the species.

SpaceX has stated they would have 12 launches per year occurring between 7 AM and 7 PM. The Kemp's Ridley is a species that is known to nest during the day, and this launch time may impact their ability to nest.
I would request that SpaceX, USFW and the FAA follow all requirements of the Endangered Species Act to ensure protection of this critically endangered sea turtle. 3.14.6

Sincerely,
Joanie Steinhaus
Associate Campaign Director, Gulf of Mexico Turtle Island Restoration Project
512-417-7741

N-13

"Protect the Ocean and You Protect Yourself"

JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU'S OCEAN FUTURES SOCIETY

April 17, 2013

Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist, SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401.

Dear Ms. Zee,

To our dismay, we have been informed by our friend, Professor James Mills, UT-Brownsville, of the proposed SpaceX project in Cameron County, TX. We firmly support the efforts by the people of Cameron and other areas of Texas to stop this controversial project. 3.2.1

This fragile ecosystem is the habitat of several endangered species, such as the piping plover, aplomado falcon, jaguarondi, the ocelot and sea turtles. Sadly, the ocelot population in the US is less than 200. 3.7.1

Many reports have mentioned the negative impact not just for the environment and wildlife, but also the restrictions and banning of access to the public beaches for an uncountable number of families that traditionally have enjoyed this beautiful zone. If we do not act immediately, taking into consideration the present and future generations, the contamination and destruction will be inevitable. 3.22.1

We call upon the authorities in charge of the protection of our national wetlands, to carefully judge this case. The gain for some does not justify another ecocide to our embattled Planet.

Respectfully

Ruben D. Arvizu

Director for Latin America
Film/Producer-Writer
Ambassador- Global Cities Covenant on Climate

Ocean Futures Society
325 Chapala Street
Santa Barbara,
California 93101 USA

TEL 805.899.8899
FAX 805.899.8898

With additional offices in :
Océan Futur Europe

Ocean Futures Society Italy

Instituto Jean-Michel Cousteau Brazil

www.OceanFutures.org

N-14

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Scheleen Walker <scheleen.walker@sierraclub.org>
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2013 1:03 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Draft EIS for SpaceX

Can someone please confirm that the comment period for this Draft EIS has been extended to June 24, 2013?

Also, I attended the May 7 public hearing on this Draft EIS and signed in. I did not receive notice of this extension, however, but just happened to notice it. Can you please ensure I am added to any email list for future updates on this project? 3.21.1

Thank you,
--
Ms. Scheleen Walker
Director
Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club
1202 San Antonio Street, Austin, TX 78701
PO Box 1931
Austin, TX 78767-1931
cel: (512) 481-1448
tel: (512) 477-1729 x115
scheleen.walker@sierraclub.org
Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

1

N-15

SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Aviation Administration
Space X EIS
c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street – Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401
faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com

June 24, 2013

Submitted via email to: faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com

Dear Ms. Zee

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Sierra Club regarding the draft Environmental Impact Statement issued for the proposed SpaceX launch site near Boca Chica Beach in South Texas' Cameron County. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act process.

The Sierra Club is not at this time taking a position for or against the project, and will instead withhold final judgment pending the release of more detailed information on the proposed project and mitigation. We appreciate the willingness of representatives of Space X to engage with the Sierra Club and other stakeholders and to consider various options to minimize the project's likely impacts, and we hope to continue this dialogue. These comments are intended to identify some of the potential impacts that we believe must be fully explored and addressed in the final Environmental Impact Statement.

The Sierra Club is concerned about a range of environmental impacts that construction of infrastructure and launches could have on fragile, local ecosystems and sensitive species. The proposed launch site is surrounded by the 10,680 acre Boca Chica tract of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The LRGVNWR was envisioned as a wildlife corridor, linking tracts of land for use by terrestrial animals, especially the ocelot and jaguarundi, which are listed as *endangered* under the federal Endangered Species Act. Boca Chica beach, adjacent to the launch site, is one of the few places where Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles, one of the world's most critically endangered sea turtles, come ashore to nest in the spring and summer. This area also provides habitat for birds, including the piping plover and red knot, and is visited by millions of migrating birds and bats each fall and spring. In addition, construction and operation of the proposed launch site would cause destruction of critical wetlands.

Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles:

While a number of sea turtle species have rested at Boca Chica beach historically and continue to nest along this part of the Gulf Coast, the endangered Kemp's Ridley is the only one that has been documented at Boca Chica in recent years. According to the draft EIS, "Kemp's Ridley sea turtles nest primarily from April through July, predominantly during daylight hours. Nesting occurs in synchronized emergences which are thought to be triggered by high wind speeds and changes in barometric pressure. Over the last 5 years, there have been 38 Kemp's Ridley nests found on Boca Chica Beach (10 in 2012, three in 2011, four in 2010, nine in 2009, and 12 in 2008)."[1]

The launch site is approximately 500 feet from the beach. The draft EIS notes, "Noise and vibrations from rocket launches could frighten nesting turtles, causing them to abandon their nesting attempt."[2] There is no information regarding the likelihood that turtles who abandon their nesting attempt would return at a later time. The final EIS should explore this impact upon sea turtles in detail. One mitigation measure described, that Space X will "avoid nighttime launches during sea turtle nesting season (March 15 – October 1),"[3] would appear to be counterproductive, as Kemp's 3.14.6

[1] Pdf page 171: draft EIS page 3-79
[2] Pdf page 254: draft EIS page 4-66
[3] Pdf page 34: draft EIS page ES-26

N-15

Ridleys are daytime nesters. Its timeframe overlaps, but does not precisely correlate, with the discussion of nesting season quoted above. It is also unclear to what extent Space X will be free to adjust launch times to accommodate nesting sea turtles or, as will be discussed later, ocelots and jaguarundi.

Currently volunteers from Sea Turtle Inc. patrol the beach in an effort to relocate eggs so as to avoid predation. On launch days these volunteers, like the rest of the public, would be kept away from the beach. Sea Turtle Inc. would be given access for an hour before the general public is allowed back in to search for nests. If undiscovered nests are on the beach during a launch the draft EIS states that the noise and vibrations that eggs currently endure during transport from the beach to Sea Turtle Inc. are greater than that of a rocket launch 500 feet from the beach.[4] Elsewhere the draft EIS appears to contradict this, stating that, "The unweighted noise levels at the nearest house, which is 1.8 miles from the vertical launch area, suggest the probability of a noise induced structural vibration damage claim would be greater than 1 in 100."[5] The final EIS should provide more precise data regarding the likely impact of launches on undiscovered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle nests. We also suggest that Sea Turtle Inc. be given access to the beach prior to launches, as well as after, to reduce the chances that eggs will be present during a launch.

3.14.6 (Cont.)

Ocelot and jaguarundi:

The Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGVNWR) was established with the intention of creating a wildlife corridor that would link viable habitat for endangered species, in particular the ocelot and jaguarundi. Though the launch site and control pad will be on private land, the sites are previously undeveloped, surrounded by the LRGVNWR, and within the wildlife corridor.[6]

The greatest impact to wildlife, according to the draft EIS, would be associated with the visual effect and noise during launches.[7] Regarding noise, the draft EIS states, "The area exposed to levels of 119 dB or greater is included within 3.4 miles of the vertical launch area for the Falcon 9 and within 6.4 miles of the vertical launch area for the Falcon Heavy. The area exposed to unweighted noise levels of 111 dB or greater is included within 9.1 miles of the vertical launch area for the Falcon 9 and within 17.3 miles of the vertical launch area for the Falcon Heavy."[8] This of course means that the wildlife refuge, and the species it harbors, will be impacted. In order to lessen the chances of disturbance, "To the maximum extent possible, SpaceX would avoid launches at dusk and dawn during the most active time for jaguarundis and ocelots."[9] The final EIS should discuss the degree of control that Space X exercises over the time of day of a launch, so that a reader is given a better sense of how often launches would be timed to avoid disturbing ocelots and jaguarundi. Potential effects to wildlife (e.g flight response, disrupted mating, etc.) are described in general terms, without specificity to ocelots and jaguarundi.[10] More precise information on potential impacts to endangered species and the ecosystem surrounding the launch site should be included in the final EIS.

Mitigation measures to avoid vehicle collisions are described in detail: "SpaceX employees and construction personnel would be educated on the potential for vehicle collisions with wildlife, particularly ocelots and jaguarundis, and encouraged to reduce their speeds along State Highway 4 between the vertical launch and control center areas. 9) SpaceX would coordinate with the TxDOT regarding funding the installation of "Watch Out for Ocelots/Jaguarundis" or "Watch out for Wildlife" signs along State Highway 4."[11]

While vehicle collisions are one of the most well documented causes of ocelot mortality, in part because a carcass beside the road is more likely to be recovered than one in a more remote area, the Sierra Club is equally concerned about projects that fragment the wildlife corridor that the LRGVNWR was intended to create. Habitat fragmentation, resulting from a host of projects from border walls to commercial development, threatens the long-term viability of the species. The fencing around the launch site will not only remove that parcel of land from potential use, it will act as a barrier to wild cats that need to pass from one portion of the LRGVNWR to another. The Sierra Club recommends that Space X work with US Fish and Wildlife to ensure that other connections are available to ocelots, jaguarundi, and other terrestrial

3.14.8

[4] Pdf page 255: draft EIS page 4-67
[5] Pdf page 212: draft EIS page 4-24
[6] Pdf page 168: draft EIS page 3-76
[7] Pdf page 249: draft EIS page 4-61
[8] Pdf page 212: draft EIS page 4-24
[9] Pdf page 34: draft EIS page ES-26
[10] Pdf page 244: draft EIS page 4-56
[11] Pdf page 33: draft EIS page ES-25

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species in the area through the purchase of additional, suitable lands. Such parcels, selected to provide valuable links in the wildlife corridor, could then either be donated to US Fish and Wildlife and incorporated into the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge or maintained in a conservation easement, in a manner similar to that which is described in the draft EIS as mitigation for loss of wetlands.[12] In addition to helping to maintain the wildlife corridor this could have the added benefit of maintaining a buffer around the launch site, in which Space X would not need to worry about future adjacent development.

3.14.8 (Cont.)

Piping Plover:

The piping plover is a small shorebird that nests and feeds along coastal beaches, and which is federally listed as an endangered species. According to the draft EIS, "The proposed vertical launch and control center areas are located within piping plover designated critical habitat."[13] Densely vegetated areas are not considered to be critical habitat for the piping plover, and the draft EIS claims that most of the area that will be impacted by construction is densely vegetated. "Approximately 0.70 acre of unvegetated flats and depressional wetlands occur within the proposed project footprints for the vertical launch area and would be removed under the Proposed Action. In addition, 0.31 acre of unvegetated wetland salt flats would be indirectly impacted from the construction of buildings and roads at the vertical launch area effectively cutting off the tidal influence."[14] The draft EIS goes on to state that, "This small amount of critical habitat that would be impacted would not affect the recovery of the species; additionally, there is other habitat nearby that the piping plover could use."[15] The nearby habitat may not be attractive to piping plovers, however: "Noise from launch operations would extend outside the vertical launch and control center areas, and would displace piping plovers using adjacent suitable habitat. The SEL noise levels would be as high as 148 dBA at 0.2 miles and 131 dBA at 2.0 miles."[16] The final EIS should explore in greater detail the potential disturbance that launches and associated activities may have upon piping plover, in particular the likelihood that nesting may be disrupted or habitat abandoned. If habitat within a certain radius is abandoned due to launch activities the result is little different, from the perspective of maintaining the species, than if that habitat were paved over for a launch pad. Space X should take whatever steps are possible to minimize disturbance of piping plover and other species, and if the nature of launches means that such disturbance and abandonment of habitat is inevitable then replacement habitat, at a ratio similar to that which is described in the draft EIS for mitigating the loss of wetlands, should be identified in consultation with US Fish and Wildlife and either transferred to the LRGVNWR (or nearby Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, depending on the location) or placed into a conservation easement.

3.14.8

Other avian species:

The area is also in the middle of important migratory flyways, through which many millions of birds pass each autumn and spring. Many follow the coast, while others cross the Gulf of Mexico and "fall out" en masse once they reach shore. Many birds that are seen rarely or not at all in the rest of the nation, some of which are listed under the Endangered Species Act, are found in the vicinity. These include brown pelicans, peregrine falcons, reddish egrets, northern gannet, American oystercatchers, and mangrove warblers. The red knot (a federal candidate species) has been observed in the immediate area.[17] Likewise, the white-tailed hawk and white faced ibis, both state-listed threatened species, have been spotted in the ROI.[18]

3.14.8

A number of migratory and resident species nest in the area. To avoid disturbance to nests during construction, "If proposed construction activities occur during the recognized avian breeding season (15 February through 31 August), construction would occur in accordance with the MBTA to avoid impacts to nesting migratory birds within the project area. Specifically, a biologist would check the proposed areas of construction activities, including laydown areas, for nests (in shrubs and on the ground) once before the construction phase has begun. If the biologist finds an active nest, construction workers would not directly or indirectly disturb the nest or adjacent areas until the biologist determines the nest is no longer in use."[19] In addition to the potential for disturbance during construction, launches will occur every

3.14.3

[12] Pdf page 30: draft EIS page ES-22
[13] Pdf page 166: draft EIS page 3-74
[14] Pdf page 246: draft EIS page 4-58
[15] Pdf page 246: draft EIS page 4-58
[16] Pdf page 251: draft EIS page 4-63
[17] Pdf page 172: draft EIS page 3-80
[18] Pdf pages 172 - 173: draft EIS pages 3-80 – 3-81
[19] Pdf page 33: draft EIS page ES-25

N-15

month, including during the avian breeding season.[20] In regards to launches, the draft EIS states that, "Bird behavioral responses to noise include nest abandonment, egg mortality, premature fledging, predation, depressed feeding rates, and habitat avoidance."[21] Details of mitigation measures to avoid impacts upon avian species during launches are not included in the draft EIS. 3.14.3 (Cont.)

If towers are built using an open latticed construction birds could perch or nest on the structures, only to be blown off and killed when a launch occurs. Additionally, there is a great deal of literature regarding the impacts of vertical structures such as radio and cell towers upon birds and bats, which collide with the structures or their supporting wires. The number of impacts, and resulting mortality, could be dramatic in an area such as this through which so many migratory birds pass each year, making the specific design of the towers of critical importance. Space X should develop strategies and designs to minimize the risk to avian species posed by structures, and should describe these in detail in the final EIS. 3.14.3

Finally, many airport terminals use radar data to track birds as they cross flight paths to avoid collisions. The Sierra Club recommends that SpaceX consult a Doppler Radar system to track migratory birds and coordinate launches around them. 3.14.3

Wetlands:

According to the draft EIS, "The proposed vertical launch area is composed of approximately 56.5 acres, of which 25.4 acres are jurisdictional wetlands and 31.1 acres are uplands."[22] In order to offset these impacts, "SpaceX's compensatory mitigation plan proposes to preserve in-kind, high-quality wetlands at a ratio of five times the amount of wetlands impacted by the Proposed Action. The mitigation site would either be conveyed to a State or Federal natural resource agency or held by a third-party in a perpetual conservation easement."[23] While the Sierra Club would prefer to see as little impact to naturally occurring wetlands as possible, we do agree that the purchase and preservation of equivalent wetlands is the best mitigation for unavoidable impacts. 3.13.4

"Approximately 4.22 acres of floodplain Zone V10 would be filled in the proposed vertical launch area and approximately 4.37 acres of Zone A8 would be filled in the western portion of the vertical launch area," resulting in "significant floodplain encroachment."[24] The draft EIS contains some general descriptions of precautions that would be taken, such as the storage of hazardous materials "above flood level" and "moving hazardous waste outside of the floodplain when substantial storms are imminent."[25] These seemingly commonsense measures may be difficult to carry out. Would storing hazardous materials above flood level put them at greater exposure to high winds during a hurricane? Typically there is only a few days of advance warning before a hurricane makes landfall. How much time would be required to remove hazardous wastes from the site, and what nearby, hurricane-proof location would they be evacuated to? The final EIS should contain more detailed information regarding actions that would be taken in the event of flooding, whether due to a hurricane or tropical storm coming ashore, or to a swollen Rio Grande, or some combination of the two. There should also be analysis of the changes to the floodplain and the movement of water through it that would result from the project's "encroachment" and changes to land contours and drainage. 3.13.12 3.15.4

Launch Activities:

The draft EIS states that Boca Chica beach and adjacent areas will be closed to the public, for public safety reasons, during launch activities.[26] There is not much specific information as to how the perimeter would be patrolled, both onshore and offshore, during such a closure. The Sierra Club requests more detailed information be included in the final EIS on how beach closures will be implemented and maintained, including which entities/agencies will be responsible for any associated costs. Not knowing the degree of policing (number of officers, etc.) that will be undertaking these activities it is difficult to evaluate their impact on the area and its habitat. One concern is that when the road leading to Boca Chica beach is closed members of the public might attempt to go around the cordon to get closer to the launch site. This could involve foot, ATV, and off-road vehicle traffic through the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife 3.7.1 3.14.5

[20] Pdf page 65: draft EIS page 2-1
[21] Pdf page 244: draft EIS page 4-56; also see pdf page 250: draft EIS page 4-62
[22] Pdf page 161: draft EIS page 3-69; for more details see pdf page 192: draft EIS page 4-4
[23] Pdf page 30: draft EIS page ES-22
[24] Pdf page 36: draft EIS page ES-28
[25] Pdf page 260: draft EIS page 4-72
[26] Pdf page 12: draft EIS page ES-4

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Refuge and adjacent sensitive habitat. To limit this, we recommend the installation of vehicle barriers alongside the road, where the footprint is already disturbed, at the outer perimeter of the exclusion area. These might take the form of short, spaced posts, sufficiently close together to prevent a truck or ATV from passing between them, but wide enough apart to allow for terrestrial animals to pass through 3.14.5 (Cont.)

There is some discussion of the impacts that would occur in the event of a catastrophic launch failure.[27] The final EIS should contain discussion and documentation of any prior experience that Space X and NASA has in handling environmental mishaps, including (but not limited to) launch failure. Greater detail regarding emergency procedures and long term cleanup measures should be included in this. For example, the draft EIS states that debris and spilled fuel would be removed from the site and disposed of.[28] More information on this process, and the location that fuel and other hazardous material would be taken to, would be useful. The Final EIS should include a list of all of the hazardous materials contained in the batteries, solvents, etc., that will be used on-site, as these might be released in the event of an accident. The Sierra Club requests that a mitigation plan for such accidents include mandatory replacement for any parcels outside the launch site that are impacted to a great degree. 3.15.1

On-going Communications, Natural Resource Staffing and Advisory Committee:

According to a recent phone conversation with the USFWS Manager at Wallop NWR, there is an Advisory Committee made up of all stakeholders with operations at the nearby Wallop aviation site, as well as the state and federal natural resource agencies with jurisdiction/interests in the region that could be impacted by those operations. The Advisory Committee meets quarterly to discuss on-going military and space operations, the impacts of the operations to the surrounding natural resources, and mitigation efforts to address those impacts. The Sierra Club believes such communications and coordination will be extremely important at this proposed *privately owned and operated* rocket launch site. The Sierra Club recommends that SpaceX host similar quarterly stakeholder coordination meetings in the launch site community and at their expense. These meetings should include, at a minimum, SpaceX launch staff; staff from the following public agencies: USFWS, NPS, TPWD, BLM, TxDOT, TxCPA ESA staff, TxGLO; and other interested stakeholders such Surfriders, Inc. Sea Turtle, Inc., Sierra Club LRGV Group, and other local groups with an interest in being included. 3.6.2

Finally, federal and state budget cuts have limited the ability of state and federal natural resource agencies to hire additional staff. The closest USFWS office to the proposed launch site, for example, is in Corpus Christi, approximately 165 miles away. USFWS staff are currently discouraged from any overnight travel for budgetary reasons. In order to ensure third-party oversight and coordination on the multiple endangered species and other natural resource issues mentioned above, it may be necessary for SpaceX to supplement the USFWS and/or other public agency budgets in order to ensure dedicated and properly trained staff are available to oversee and implement the numerous mitigation measures discussed in the Draft EIS and the additional details we hope will be included in the Final EIS. 3.22.1

Again, the Sierra Club appreciates the opportunity to participate in the NEPA process, and looks forward to continuing to provide input and insight as the final Environmental Impact Statement is prepared. The Sierra Club should be considered a stakeholder in this process, and we hope that Space X will respond fully to these comments in the final Environmental Impact Statement. We would also welcome the opportunity to continue our direct dialogue with representatives of Space X.

Sincerely,

Scheleen Walker

Scheleen Walker, Director
Lone Star Chapter

Jim Chapman and Scott Nicol, Co-Conservation Chairs
Lower Rio Grande Valley Group

[27] Pdf page 265: draft EIS page 4-77
[28] Pdf page 264: draft EIS page 4-76

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Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: RanchoRake@aol.com
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 2:22 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: Sharon@rkwlaw.com; mwferguson@sbcglobal.net; rlmrgv@hotmail.com; realty@granderiver.net; jchapmanrgv@gmail.com; waltscharters@gmail.com; RanchoRake@aol.com
Subject: Public Comment
Attachments: LLMF Public Comment SpaceX 6-24-13.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Ms. Stacy Zee,
Attached please find Public Comment on the SpaceX Draft EIS, the project to be located Brownsville, Texas, by the Lower Laguna Madre Foundation (LLMF). The LLMF is a 501(3)(3) organization dedicated to preserve and protect the resources of the Lower Laguna Madre and surrounding areas.
Thank you for the opportunity to submit these Comments. note: they are also being sent this date via Fax to you at 410-990-0455.
Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or if additional information is needed.
I would appreciate a Receipt Notification by return e-mail (RanchoRake@aol.com).
Regards,
Christine Rakestraw, Chair
Board of Directors
Lower Laguna Madre Foundation
June 24, 2013

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LOWER LAGUNA MADRE FOUNDATION
709 N 77 Sunshine Strip PM Box 136
Harlingen, Texas 78550

Ms. Stacy M. Zee
Environmental Protection Specialist
FAA/SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street – Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

24 June 2013
Via e-mail: faaspacexeis@caidnotec.com
Via Fax: fax# is 410 990-0455 (4 pages text)

Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement SpaceX Texas Launch site

The Lower Laguna Madre Foundation (LLMF), a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded over two decades ago to preserve and protect the national resources of the South Texas intercoastal bay system which includes the Lower Laguna Madre, South Bay and their surrounding environments, including barrier islands, beaches, tidal flats and other unique environmental features to South Texas.

The LLMF respectfully submits the following comments with regard to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the SpaceX Texas Launch Site:

The barrier islands and adjacent dunes, wetlands, bays and tidal flats make up a unique ecosystem that is largely protected and undeveloped. These natural features are extremely important in many ways. While the proposed site is excluded as part of the Coastal Barrier Resource System it is immediately surrounded by units on both sides. This law, originally passed in 1982, is intended to discourage development in these undeveloped beaches. The applicant should follow the spirit and intent of the Coastal Barrier Resource Act and reject the idea of using any Federal monies to make infrastructure improvements for water and utility lines and subsidized Federal flood insurance. This site is highly subject to the destructive forces of nature, including tropical storms and hurricanes, along with the storm surge accompanying these storms. The impact of hurricanes and tropical storms, including the history, frequency is not analyzed in the draft study. The proposed location is located at sea level, in the 100 year floodplain and extremely prone to flooding. Alternatives to this site location are not analyzed. One only has to look at the cost of storm damage over the past ten years in Texas to question why anyone would want to sink millions of dollars into a project that will be subjected to the forces of nature. We would like to see a commitment from Space X to reject the benefits of federal financial assistance such as federal flood insurance, loans, grants, subsidies or other forms direct or indirect federal assistance. This would include flood insurance policies, loan guarantees, new infrastructure construction.

3.4.5
3.4.6
3.13.12
3.15.4

In addition, the Draft seems all too quick to dismiss alternative sites; the criterion established for locating a launch site rules out all alternative potential sites and discusses wind as being a **significant factor in launch operations. The wind concerns and criteria then would seem to rule out the South Texas site as well due to South Texas being identified as one of the windiest places in the state. Yet, this is not adequately analyzed in the Draft.**

3.4.6

It should be necessary to more fully address the feasibility of shutdowns, temporary and seasonal due to migratory birds, nesting birds, nesting endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, and other endangered and threatened species such as Peregrine Falcons, Aplomado Falcons, Piping Plovers and Snowy Plovers, to name a few. The immediate area of the proposed site is extensively used by migratory and resident birds. The tidal flats in the greater Lower Laguna Madre/South Bay, Boca Chica area are host to the largest concentration of breeding Reddish Egrets in the world. This area also host millions of migrating birds including American Avocets, Red Knots, Red Head Ducks and

3.22.1

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a multitude of other species. Three major migratory flyways converge at the southern most tip of Texas making it one of the most important bird areas in the United States. The applicant should be required to collect information on the resident and migratory bird use of this area over a reasonable period of time (3 years) to fully understand the potential impacts of siting a rocket launch facility at Boca Chica. We would like to see an informed discussion regarding likely collision and mortality impacts of the proposed facility. The applicant and agency have not conducted field studies to obtain information necessary for informed analysis of the facilities adverse affects on all birds. 3.22.1 (Cont.)

While the applicant boasts of a significant boost to tourism because of the launches, the LLMF is opposed to siting a viewing stage anywhere along Highway 4. A suggested alternative viewing stage could be located at the Port of Brownsville, or on South Padre Island. 3.14.1

An in depth discussion of hazardous waste, fuel spills and accidents should lay out the procedures, resources that would be needed to respond to a fuel accident and if these resources exist locally or would have to be brought in, response times and damage scenarios. 3.15.1

This draft has not included other agency comments into the draft and the public would like to see these comments attached to this draft to benefit from the expertise of the resource agencies. We would also like to see how closure of the shipping channel and offshore water resources would impact recreational and commercial fishery industries as well as tourism based industries that depend on the waters of the Lower Laguna Madre and Gulf of Mexico. A financial analysis would be helpful. 3.6.1 3.8.2

Pages could be spent on the importance and uniqueness of areas flora and fauna and on the potential impact of this project thereon. Please find below Public Comment of the Frontera Audubon Society, submitted 5-30, 2013, on the SpaceX Draft proposal with which the LLMF agrees and which we would like entered into the record on the behalf of LLMF as well:

"Regarding the Draft EIS, we acknowledge and appreciate the effort that has been made to identify and analyze the many impacts the SpaceX construction and launches are likely to have on the fragile ecosystems and the many animal species in the area. Nevertheless there are some shortcomings in the analysis and in the proposed mitigation measures, which we hope will be remedied in the final document.

Regarding the Kemps Ridley sea turtle (the most endangered of all the species of sea turtles and the only one which nests on Boca Chica), lighting is a particular concern and we concur with SpaceX's proposal to have no lights facing the Gulf of Mexico, and to have lights turned off whenever possible. Impacts associated with the tremendous amount of noise and vibrations associated with launches are more problematic as there is no easy remedy. "Noise and vibrations from the rocket launches could frighten nesting turtles, causing them to abandon their nesting attempt." [DEIS p.4-66] Allowing Sea Turtles Inc. to patrol the beach following rocket launches strikes us as a rather pitifully meager remedy. Patrolling for nesting turtles both prior to and following launches would be an improvement. Having a launch "black-out period" during the height of nesting season would be a real remedy. 3.14.6

The endangered ocelot and jaguarundi are known to occur in the Boca Chica area. The Rio Grande serves as an east-west corridor for these secretive nocturnal cats, and Boca Chica is an important part of a north-south corridor from the river north to Laguna Atascosa NWR and the ranch country. While the proposed launch and control center sites are not good cat habitat, there are likely to be impacts due to significantly increased vehicular traffic on Highway 4, much of which is lined by good brush habitat. Vehicle strikes are the leading cause of documented ocelot mortality in South Texas. Posting speed limits and warning signs will accomplish little. Clearing brush along the roadside diminishes habitat and may not prevent collisions as the cats are nocturnal and drivers can only see what is illuminated by their headlights [e.g. straight ahead]. USF&WS should have the major say in determining the 3.14.7

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suitability of this proposed remedy. One remedy would be essentially eliminating nighttime traffic. A better remedy would be "cat crossings" beneath the highway at strategic locations. 3.14.7 (Cont.)

The proposed project's impact to critical habitat of the endangered piping plover is acknowledged, and the proposed 5:1 wetland remediation seems appropriate. The effects of launch noise, light and vibration on piping plovers, red knots, aplomado and peregrine falcons, reddish egrets and other nesting and resting species in the greater area is much harder to assess, though some degree of negative impact is likely. "Bird behavioral responses to noise include nest abandonment, egg mortality, premature fledging, predation, depressed feeding rates, and habitat avoidance." [DEIS p. 4-56] In our opinion this unavoidable wide impact warrants mitigation on a larger scale. 3.14.3

The Texas coast is an extremely important corridor for migratory birds. The Mississippi and Central Flyways converge here for the millions of songbirds migrating to & from Central/ South America and the central United States and Canada. The Draft EIS does not adequately analyze these impacts. This becomes especially important when during spring migration there is a "norther" which causes millions of birds crossing the western Gulf of Mexico to seek immediate landfall (a "fallout") for survival. A launch event during a fallout could be disastrous. A good resource to better analyze these possible impacts is the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in Lake Jackson. Peak spring migration is early April to mid-May. We recommend there be a "black-out" period for rocket launches, something that could benefit nesting sea turtles as well. An alternative would be a "no launch" policy in April and May whenever the wind is blowing from the north. Another issue that the DEIS failed to examine is the effects of migrating birds colliding with structures and guide wires. Literature exists on this important issue. Design remedies can lessen though not eliminate this potential impact. 3.14.3

The potential for surface water and ground water contamination is analyzed in the DEIS, but not adequately so, particularly with respect to contingency planning for possible hurricane events. 3 major hurricanes (1932, 1967 & 1980) made landfall at Boca Chica in the past 80 years. The proposed launch site is essentially at sea level, and the 1932 event had a storm surge of 16 feet, literally erasing all of the substantial development which existed along Boca Chica at that time. How will SpaceX remove all the stored rocket fuels, solvents and other hazardous materials from the site when a major storm approaches? 200,000 gal of RP-1 rocket fuel is a lot of hazardous material to move to safety on very short notice. A spill into South Bay (very shallow, relatively small volume of water) would be catastrophic. Ground water contamination could be another huge impact, as the underlying Gulf Coast Aquifer already is supplying a substantial part of Brownsville's municipal water needs [SpaceX is using out-of-date data]. Further analysis and contingency planning specifics need to be part of the final EIS. 3.15.4 3.18.2

Potential impacts from public viewing of rocket launches are not adequately examined in the draft EIS. The proposed "soft" closure area is nearly all national wildlife refuge land. Where will cars park and how will large crowds be managed? What will prevent off-road vehicles from damaging refuge land? An obvious remedy would have SpaceX purchase or lease sufficient private land and establish the appropriate infrastructure for launch viewing. The Boca Chica area is semi-arid, with sandy soils and extensive wind-tidal flats. Damage from off road vehicles, including ATVs can be severe and long-lasting. SpaceX needs to partner with the Fish & Wildlife Service to ensure that such damage doesn't occur, either from the viewing public or from its own staff and contractors. 3.14.1

The draft EIS has various shortcomings and needs further work. The natural value of the land that SpaceX seeks to impact is under-recognized, being described simply as "vacant, undeveloped, open space." Wildlife and ecosystem values are barely acknowledged. The mitigation measures it contains, while well intentioned, are narrow and limited in scope, not commensurate with the wide-ranging impacts the project is likely to have. Mitigating a few acres of filled wetlands, beach clean-ups, vague BMPs, and sign posting isn't enough. SpaceX needs to think big. Protecting the entire Boca Chica/South Bay area from the deleterious impacts of future development on private lands would benefit immeasurably the ecosystem and wildlife that it supports, and would benefit SpaceX's need to launch in undeveloped areas. Below are listed mitigation measures that we highly recommend. 3.22.1

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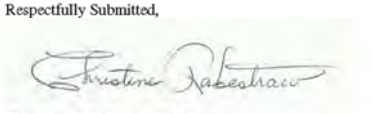
1. Five to one mitigation for not just impacted wetlands but for the entire project acreage. Private land north of the control center site (western edge of South Bay) could be purchased and either transferred to federal, state or private land resource agencies, or put into conservation easements. 3.22.1
2. SpaceX should work with the Brownsville Navigation District to extend for 20 more years its lease to the US Fish & Wildlife Service of the 4000 acres of land between Highway 4 and the Brownsville Ship Channel. This land consists of wind-tidal flats and unique vegetated clay hills called lomas. Brownsville is very eager to land the SpaceX project, so conditioning the lease extention appears viable and would cost SpaceX nothing. 3.22.1
3. Portable light and lightning towers, raised only during launch events, would be much more bird-friendly. No guide wires for structures. 3.22.4
4. Work with USF&WS, USNMFS, Texas P&WD and Sea Turtles Inc. to establish a 30 day launch moratorium during peak bird migration. Or a no-launch policy during north wind ["norther"] events during April and May. Prevailing winds are from the southeast. 3.14.3
5. Lease or acquire a parcel of land adjacent to Highway 4 to manage as a controlled launch viewing area for the public. The proposed "soft" closure site at Massey Drive is not suitable as it is surrounded by National Wildlife Refuge land. 3.14.1
6. Setting forth in the deed for the launch and control center areas that at such time that SpaceX has no further use for the site, that all structures will be removed and the land pass to the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service or Texas Parks & Wildlife Department." 3.21.1

The Lower Laguna Madre Foundation appreciates the opportunity to participate in this NEPA permitting process. Until such time that SpaceX examines likely impacts more thoroughly, and mitigates more broadly and commensurate with those likely impacts, we stand in opposition to this project. 3.2.1

Thank You.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christine Rakestraw, Chair
Board of Directors
Lower Laguna Madre Foundation

RanchoRake@aol.com
956-245-7880 cell phone

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Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceXs proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private aunch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject o environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

Please Note: Written comments become part of the administrative record associated with this Proposed Action. Individual citizens may request that their name and/or home address be withheld from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or home address withheld, you must check the box(es) below. Please note that contact information for individuals or officials representing organizations and businesses may be disclosed.

- ☑ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: WALTER PLITT Date: 5/10/13

Organization/Affiliation: PALO ALTO NATIONAL PARK COMMITTEE

Address: 2601 RL OSTOS RD

City, State, Zip Code: BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form 1 of 3

14 2013 4:09PM HP Fax page 1

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SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

MS ZEE, WE APPRECIATE YOU AND YOUR TEAMS WORK ON OUR SPACE X PROJECT

PANPC — LETTER "ATTACHED" PAGE 3 OF THIS FAX - SUPPORTS THE BOCA CHICA - HWY 4 - BROWNSVILLE, TX SITE — PLEASE REVIEW OUR COMMENTS IN OUR LETTER.

Thank you. Sincerely, Walter Plitt
Chairman

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

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Palo Alto National Park Committee
2601 R.L. Ostos Rd.
Brownsville, TX 78521
Off: 956-831-4278 • Fax: 956-831-9626
Walter.Plitt@plittrigging.com

P.O. Box 3084
Brownsville, Texas 78523-3084

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
Environmental Specialist
Federal Aviation Administration
Fax (410)990-0455

May 14, 2013

RE: Space X- EIS –C/O Cardno Tec Inc.

Dear Ms. Zee,

We have reviewed the draft EIS and do not have any major concerns relating to the proposed Space X launch site facility.

Observations:

- The actual location, we hope to be as far south from State Hwy 4 as is practical. — 3.4.8
- The height of structures such as the water tower affecting the view shed from Historic sites must be accepted if alternates are cost prohibitive.
- We believe appropriate mitigation and protection of neighboring Historic sites will be done and provided for as part of the facility master plan. — 3.11.1

We support the Space X Launch Facility at Boca Chica beach. — 3.1.1

Sincerely,

Walter Plitt
Chairman
Walter.p.itt@plittrigging.com
956-831-4278

CC: Gilberto Salinas
Sylvia Rodriguez
John Chosy
Mark Spier

PAGE 3 OF 3

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Rio Grande Valley Partnership
Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce
"One Region, One Voice"

RESOLUTION No.: 2013:1

"CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TO ALLOW SPACE EXPLORATIONS TECHNOLOGIES, INC (SPACEX) TO LAUNCH THE FALCON 9 AND FALCON HEAVY ORBITAL VERTICAL LAUNCH VEHICLES AND A VARIETY OF SMALLER REUSABLE SUBORBITAL LAUNCH VEHICLES FROM A LAUNCH SITE ON PRIVATELY-OWNED PROPERTY IN CAMERON, COUNTY, TEXAS"

WHEREAS, Space X, Inc. was founded in 2002 by Elon Musk for the purpose of solving the problem of providing a simple, low cost and reliable way to access and explore outer space; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Valley Partnership recognizes the importance of space exploration; and

WHEREAS, Space X Inc. has established its credibility in the area of private manned and unmanned space flight, having been awarded a significant contract with NASA for 12 flights for their Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon spacecraft to the International Space Station after the retirement of the Space Shuttle in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Space X, Inc. has expressed a strong interest in considering an area within Cameron County, Texas as a possible launch site for its Falcon 1 and Falcon 9 rockets and Dragon spacecraft; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Valley Partnership recognizes that the development of such a commercial launch site would have a tremendous positive economic impact on both job creation and economic growth to the region; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Valley Partnership wishes to express its strong support and pledges to work in cooperation with Space X, Inc. on this important project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rio Grande Valley Partnership unanimously expresses its strong support to Space X, Inc. for the establishment of a commercial launch site and command center within Cameron County, Texas. 3.1.1

IN EVIDENCE THEREOF, WITNESS THE SIGNATURES OF THE CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT/CEO AND SECRETARY OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP THIS 25TH DAY OF APRIL, 2013.

Spencer Bell, Chairman

Julian Alvarez, President/CEO

Atanacio Hinojosa, Secretary

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Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Carole Allen <carole@seaturtles.org>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 11:58 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: Kemps Ridley Nesting Group; Todd Steiner
Subject: SpaceX EIS IN TEXAS

Importance: High

May 31, 2013

Good morning:

I am writing concerning the EIS regarding the proposed SpaceX launches at Boca Chica Beach in Texas on the Gulf Coast. Among several endangered species in that area, the Kemp's ridley sea turtle (Lepidochelys kempi) nests there. Since this is a critically endangered species, it is extremely important that the beach as well as the coastal area of the Gulf be left alone from early spring until September 1. Male Kemp's ridleys may be gathering in the coastal waters in February and March prior to the arrival of the nesting females. Then later in the spring although eggs may be moved to a corral by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), there may be nests that are not found. In that case, hatchlings would emerge and go to the water in July or even August. Traffic on the beaches must not be allowed during from February 1 until September 1. 3.14.6

If there is complete cooperation between SpaceX and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to assure that all protections for the Kemp's ridley sea turtles or other species of sea turtles in that area are complete, perhaps the SpaceX project can go forward. The Sea Turtle Restoration Project and thousands of sea turtle advocates are carefully watching the development of this project and request that the FAA and USFWS implement all the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

Sincerely,

Carole H. Allen, Gulf Office Director
Sea Turtle Restoration Project (www.seaturtles.org)
And HEART (Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles) www. ridleyturtles.org
P. O. Box 581231
Houston, Texas 77268-1231
Phone and FAX 281-444-6204

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RESOLUTION 2013R#1

"CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TO ALLOW SPACE EXPLORATIONS TECHNOLOGIES, INC (SPACEX) TO LAUNCH THE FALCON 9 AND FALCON HEAVY ORBITAL VERTICAL LAUNCH VEHICLES AND A VARIETY OF SMALLER REUSABLE SUBORBITAL LAUNCH VEHICLES FROM A LAUNCH SITE ON PRIVATELY-OWNED PROPERTY IN CAMERON, COUNTY, TEXAS"

WHEREAS, Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) was founded in 2002 by Elon Musk for the purpose of solving the problem of providing a simple, low cost and reliable way to access and explore outer space; and

WHEREAS, the Cameron County Spaceport Development Corporation recognizes the importance of space exploration; and

WHEREAS, SpaceX has established its credibility in the area of private manned and unmanned space flight, having been awarded a significant contract with NASA for 12 flights for their Falcon launch vehicles to the International Space Station after the retirement of the Space Shuttle in 2011; and

WHEREAS, SpaceX has expressed a strong interest in considering an area within Cameron County, Texas as a possible launch site for its Falcon launch vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Cameron County Spaceport Development Corporation recognizes that the development of such a commercial launch site would have a tremendous positive economic impact on both job creation and economic growth to the region; and

WHEREAS, the Cameron County Spaceport Development Corporation wishes to express its strong support and pledges to work in cooperation with SpaceX on this important project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cameron County Spaceport Development Corporation unanimously expresses its strong support to SpaceX for the establishment of a commercial launch site and command center within Cameron County, Texas. 3.1.1

Passed, Approved and Adopted on this 7th day of May, 2013.

SPACEPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

NICK SERAFY, JR.
CHAIRMAN

YOLANDA DE LEON
VICE-CHAIRMAN

CHARLIE CABLER
DIRECTOR

N-20

ROBERT GRACIA
DIRECTOR

JOHN GUEVARA
DIRECTOR

EWING "EDDIE" SIKES III
DIRECTOR

CRISTIAN VILLARREAL
DIRECTOR

ATTEST:
JOE G. RIVERA, COUNTY CLERK

COMMISSIONERS COURT
CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

N-21

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

Please Note: Written comments become part of the administrative record associated with this Proposed Action. Individual citizens may request that their name and/or home address be withheld from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or home address withheld, you must check the box(es) below. Please note that contact information for individuals or officials representing organizations and businesses may be disclosed.

- ☑ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Rob Nixon Date: 5-7-13

Organization/Affiliation: Surfrider Foundation South Texas

Address: 22 Augusta Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Laguna Vista, TX 78578

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

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SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

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Surfrider Foundation South Texas Chapter Public Comments regarding Proposed Space X Vertical Launch Site and the Draft of the FAA EIS made 5-7-13.

Delivered by Rob Nixon, Chairman.

The Surfrider Foundation South Texas Chapter is a non-profit environmental and public beach access advocacy organization that is based locally on South Padre Island but our area of concern here locally covers the beaches from the Rio Grande River to the Port Mansfield Cut. We have not come out in favor of or against the proposed Space X Vertical Launch Facility at Boca Chica Beach located in the Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area and we will continue to stay neutral until the final draft of the EIS is published for review. However, we are here today to express our concerns regarding the project so that they may be addressed by the Federal Aviation Administration and by Space X.

First off I would like to thank Steve Davis, Director of Advanced Projects at Space X for taking the time to speak with the Surfrider Foundation about our concerns in advance of today's Public Hearing and address them point by point. I do not know if any other organizations have taken the time to do this but it is time well spent and will help you separate the facts of the project and operations from the promotion of the project by the local media, the Brownsville Economic Development Council and Local Leadership who have not done a very good job of actually addressing the concerns of those that treasure the resources and beauty of the Boca Chica area. The individuals and organizations that have expressed concern or publicly opposed the project should be treated with equal weight along with the proponents of the facility and Space X has been actively fulfilling their promise of working with these organizations if Space X is engaged by them.

Now to our concerns.

One of our primary concerns is the storage of fuels and the possible contamination of the surrounding wetlands and tidal flats in the proposed launch area. I personally have years of experience in corrosion abatement and control and have found that common products and steel treating processes that typically have long life spans in other coastal communities around the US have only a minimal fraction of effectiveness here in the Lower Laguna Madre Area due to the exceptionally high salinity of Laguna Madre. It is our understanding that the fuel storage tanks will be constructed out of Stainless Steel which through my experience is the best material to be used to resist corrosion in the area along with concrete basins surrounding the tanks to catch any leakage. However, if this is indeed the case, this should be addressed and mentioned in the final EIS draft. 3.15.3

Our second concern is public beach access. We understand and accept the fact that there are needs for beach closures throughout the year due to safety concerns from extremely high tidal events and subsequent rip currents which pose a hazard to swimmers and beach users. In fact, during the House of Representatives hearing on the HB 2623, we were the only organization to testify with our concerns. There is no doubt that a launch, which includes highly volatile fuels and the possibility of launch failure is a public safety concern. Our initial concern was the expansion of Space X Launch operations to go beyond the 12 launches a year as their contracts and launch manifests grew. It is now our understanding after talking with Space X that the 12 launches a year is their ultimate goal and the initial number of 3.7.1

N-22

launches are more likely in the realm of 2 or 3 launches annually. That being said, we would still like to have the Texas General Land Office be the ultimate decision maker in both primary and secondary launch dates. 3.7.1 (Cont.)

Our final concern is damage and possible chemical and fuel contamination to the surrounding area of the Launch Site due to damage by Tropical Cyclone events. As mentioned earlier, we understand the containment precautions that Space X plans on taking with regard to fuels and other toxic material to wildlife and humans. However, the Launch Site will be located in a tidal flat that is between two natural washover areas on the beach that would see water breaching the beach during a significant tidal event caused by a Tropical Cyclone through either a direct impact to the area or, if large enough, other events that directly hit hundreds of miles away but cause a significant tidal surge to breach the beach and flood the tidal flats and wetlands adjacent to the Launch Site potentially compromising the site and the secondary concrete collection basins. This issue must be addressed in the final draft of the EIS satisfactorily. That being said, the Surfrider Foundation will not support and will actively oppose any attempt by Cameron County or Space X to armor the beaches of Boca Chica as this will most definitely have a severe effect on those beaches which could potentially exacerbate erosion and hinder the public's use of and access to those beaches. 3.15.4 3.7.4

Thank you to Space X and the FAA for taking the time to consider our comments.

Rob Nixon

Chairman

Surfrider Foundation South Texas Chapter

956-433-1472

Chair@southtexas.surfrider.org

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United Way
of Southern Cameron County

634 East Levee Street
Brownsville, TX 78520
tel 956.548.6880
fax 956.548-6906
traci.wickett@unitedwayrgv.org

Traci Wickett
President & CEO

May 3, 2013

Ms. Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee:

United Way of Southern Cameron County is pleased to support Space Exploration Technologies Corporation building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas.

Our region desperately needs the lifeline to the future that Space X would provide by locating here. The high-paying jobs, the additional tourism, the incredible change in how Brownsville would be perceived by the rest of the world are among the benefits that Space X would bring to the poorest MSA in the country.

We were pleased to learn that the environmental impact of Space X would be minimal and look forward to the many positive changes in our community that will result from Space X locating a launch site here. 3.1.1

Sincerely,

Traci Wickett
President & CEO

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WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS CAMERON

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

Board Officers:

Federico Garza
Board Chair

Sonia Walsh
Vice-Chair

Clarissa Roewe
Secretary

Ron Rogers
Parliamentarian

Mission:

To promote and support a workforce system that provides employers and individuals of Cameron County the opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity.

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee

Please consider this letter to voice my agency's tremendous support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas. Besides the enormous economic impact such a project would bring to our economically depressed area, this project will have a major, long-term positive impact on our educational system by providing a visible, tangible example of a STEM-related industry that area students can aspire to as they plan their educational goals in middle school.

The Brownsville-Harlingen SMA suffers from the highest unemployment rate in the State, hovering from 10% to 12% each month. A major employer like SpaceX, the related support businesses that will follow, and the tourism that will develop around this attraction will all contribute to more jobs for our citizens, and over time will contribute to the development of an aerospace/aviation complex that will positively impact our economy and the aspirations of our youth.

I strongly encourage the development of SpaceX in our area, and pledge the support of this agency in providing any assistance necessary to make it a reality for Brownsville and all of the Rio Grande Valley region. 3.1.1

Sincerely,

Pat Hobbs,
Executive Director

851 Old Alice Road * Brownsville, TX 78520 * Ph.(956) 548-6700 * Fax: (956) 548-6717
Equal Employment Opportunity Employer/Program
Auxiliary Services available upon request for individuals with disabilities
Relay Texas 1800-735-2989(TTY) or 1800-735-2988 (Voice)
www.wfscameron.org

PUBLIC INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

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PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)
FOR THE SPACEX TEXAS LAUNCH SITE
HELD MAY 7, 2013
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

****

STATEMENTS ON THE RECORD

****

The following is the Reporter's Record of the public hearing held in the above-styled matter on the 7th day of May 2013, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., before Sindy Sanders, Certified Shorthand Reporter, No. 5974, in and for the State of Texas, reported by stenographic method, at 301 Mexico Boulevard, Suite G-1, Brownsville, Texas.

PRESENTERS:

Schedir Illiodi and Stacey Zee, FAA
Office of Commercial Space Transportation

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(The following statements were made to the court reporter prior to beginning the public hearing.)

SPEAKER 1: My name is Hector Galvan. I'm a teacher at Egly Elementary. I teach science and I also teach aviation after school for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. So this SpaceX, this whole thing does pertain to my classes. And I just wanted to say that I think it's a great thing for Brownsville. When I was getting my master's here at U.T.B., I had a teacher by the name of Dr. Richard Benavidez. And he told us, you know, one time speaking about Brownsville, that Brownsville was growth without prosperity. And of course, we didn't -- somebody asked, "Well, what does that mean?" Well, Brownsville is growing, but it's not producing the type of jobs that our youth is going to prosper from, you know. Mainly, like retail, fast food, those other types of jobs that are being created in Brownsville. But SpaceX, when I heard about SpaceX coming down here, I just thought, man, SpaceX will change things, you know, notion of growth without prosperity, because it will bring in a lot of jobs, a lot of interest. Not necessarily with the space industry, but just the fact that SpaceX is here. It's going to bring a lot of interest to Brownsville. And I thought it was a great thing. I did have a chance to kind of look through

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some of the environmental studies that they did. In my opinion, they really did their homework. They went all out to try to minimize the impact, which I think is very good and shows that SpaceX cares about the environment. And I like the fact that at least there's going to be more eyes out there. Because just to the south of that -- I mean, the mouth of the river is very close, you know. And I know for a fact that there's been a lot of illegal trafficking through that area. And with the presence of SpaceX, this will also deter people who are trying to smuggle either drugs or people across in that area. So I think in that way -- in that respect, it's a good thing. So that's something that is coming here in that area. That is -- I mean, there's nothing out there. So what else can I say? I think that was the main thing. We're all very supportive of the program. I work with these young kids and it gives them something to look up to, you know, or something to look forward to. If SpaceX does establish themselves here, I mean, we're going to be the only city in the nation sending astronauts -- eventually, they're going to send astronauts. So I think that's going to be great for the program. I'm an aerospace education officer in Brownsville. I also work with cadets at the airport. So it's going to be great for them too. You know, what I do at school, it's an outreach program. And

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I mean, it's just wonderful that SpaceX has us as the number one choice. Thank you.

SPEAKER 2: My name is Larry Brown. On behalf of the Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport, we are pleased to welcome the FAA and SpaceX to Brownsville, both now and permanently. The Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport has experienced many firsts in its aviation history. Charles Lindbergh flew the first international airmail from Mexico City to New York through Brownsville. Amelia Earhart borrowed the airport manager's plane and got her first pilot's license here, and we propose to see the first launch by Spacex in the future with a trip to Mars. We also note that in Chapter 11, in Appendix 2, the Environmental Impact Statement draft, there is no mention of any negative impact on the approaches to Brownsville. And furthermore, we welcome the people that will come to the airport in our city to assist Spacex. We believe that the air traffic control tower in Brownsville will be an important, integral part of the safety management system here in Brownsville. The air traffic control tower at Brownsville will be looking over TFRs as appropriate to launches and we welcome the opportunity to do so. In conclusion, fly Brownsville.

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SPEAKER 3: My name is Mark Moore. I

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represent the pipefitters and welders here in Harlingen, Texas. I live out there by the project in Brownsville, and so I'm here to represent them, and hopefully, we get this so that people can get work in this area trained as a welder. So I'm definitely for this project. So what else would I say? I just think it's good for the community. I think it would be good for the economy here in Brownsville and the surrounding areas, and also it will bring in money for people wanting to see this thing shoot off. That's all I know to say.

SPEAKER 4: My name is Estella Chavez Vasquez. I'm a city commissioner at large for the city of Brownsville and I just want to say that we're welcoming the SpaceX project. The community is excited and looking forward to having SpaceX becoming a member of our community. We'll do anything that we can do to bring this project into our community. We welcome the company to our community. Our students and our parents and our educators are all looking forward and excited to having this company in our community so that we can work together to foster the imagination of our kids. They've already shown the excitement when you talk to them in the schools. They -- they're excited and eager and looking forward to this project coming to our community. They -- a lot of them don't have the money to go out into Houston to get that

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experience, and so having this company here in our own backyard is going to be very important to helping our young students reach to become -- to higher heights and to become more than what they can even dream of right now. They see it. I see it in my own kids. I have three kids and my five and seven year old, they're excited about this project and their imagination is just going crazy and it's sparking new ideas. The possibilities are just coming out from them, and so I see it, not just in my own kids, but in our community. Our community, our children, are also experiencing that, and it's so exciting to see their excitement, and we're actually looking forward to all the possibilities this brings to our community, not just economicwise, but also as far as educationwise. We see the different entities coming together. That's another crucial thing that we've seen and it's exciting for me. This is first time, me being in politics and in an elected position, that I see the community entities coming together and it's an exciting time for our community to see how the different entities are bringing together their resources and their energy so that we can make this project a reality here within our community, because we see the benefit that it will have economicwise, as well as educationwise for our youth and all levels -- on all levels. Not just the youth, but all levels,

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educationwise, all levels in our community will benefit from this and we look forward to it and we're excited and eager to have SpaceX coming to our town.

SPEAKER 5: My name is Scarlet Colley. I've spent 18 years giving tours and monitoring the wildlife of South Bay. My concerns are the impact on the wildlife, especially the bottle nose dolphins and nesting birds in the South Bay area, and also the impact on the bottle nose dolphins on the near shore from the impact site to the jetties. They're often -- the dolphins are in the sand bars very close to shore. Will these shores be addressed? Will the dolphins be safe? Will there be no harm to any of them in any of the lift-offs? I have photos of dolphins in less than five feet of water in the back of South Bay. I have photos of many, many shorebirds, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of wintering birds, in South Bay, and I want to be assured that none -- no harm will come to any birds or bottle nose dolphins during the project SpaceX. Also I have a concern that our house is one of the homes that's within five miles of the launch site and wonder will it affect our home in any way.

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(The following statements were made during the public hearing portion.)

SPEAKER 6: All right. Hello. My name is

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Jose Guadalupe Martinez and I'm here again to support SpaceX to come to Brownsville. I'm a physics major here at the University of Texas at Brownsville working as a research student at the Arecibo Remote Command Center where we remotely control the world's largest telescope and discover stars. Since last year, I've personally discovered nine stars, a running total of twelve, and going to work this summer for a second time at the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Germany. I graduate this weekend with my bachelor's in physics, and next year, I will graduate with my master's in physics. And as I prepare myself to walk through graduation, I'm planning for the future. And the future I see right now is right in front of me. SpaceX in Brownsville. I thank SpaceX for considering Brownsville and I thank Brownsville, my home city, South Padre Island, and Boca Chica Beach, for supporting SpaceX. Thank you to everyone for giving the opportunity for students like me, and for students that drew up those drawings of Spacex as you walked in, and for students here of all ages to have a chance to get a job and work to make a big difference in the world here at home. Thank you.

SPEAKER 7: My name is Anthony Ford and I'm here in support of SpaceX having a launch facility in Brownsville. As a student from Brownsville, I believe

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SpaceX will have a tremendously positive impact on education and industry in the area. And as a father, I can only imagine the opportunities SpaceX will provide for our children in the future. Thank you.

SPEAKER 8: Hello, everyone. My name is Gene Jim Santiago Loa. I know that's a weird name. I'm an international student and I come from 10,000 miles away on the other side of the earth to U.T.B Brownsville for an awesome program, our Arecibo Remote Control Center program. During the three years here, I witnessed Brownsville develop so much in different areas. As a physics student, I was so excited about the news that, here, Brownsville, it's going to be one of the most possible places for the SpaceX launch site. A leading company like SpaceX would definitely bring more great people from all around the world to here, Brownsville. The diversity makes this country successful, and so does it make, too, Brownsville. I can't imagine the picture that people from different countries, from different cultures, with different ideas, come to Brownsville to see the steps of human beings walking to a new world. I believe SpaceX will help Brownsville to be a great city, and, of course, lead human beings to a better place. Thank you.

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SPEAKER 9: Hello, everybody. My name is

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Alberto Mata and I am a physics undergraduate at the University of Texas at Brownsville. I am part of the Arecibo Remote Command Center under the Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy, and we are a group of about 20 undergraduates and a few graduates that conduct cutting-edge astrophysics research. We personally are trained in controlling several radio instruments throughout the world. And currently, if I would like to pursue a career in astrophysics, I'm to forced to leave my community. And with the coming of SpaceX, this would allow our community to keep some of the talents that we have and -- that are forced to leave currently. I'd like to remind you guys that we have top-notch students and rising scientists here in our very own community that not only would benefit from the coming of SpaceX, but are actually students that are sought by entities such as SpaceX. And I am one of those students. Thank you.

SPEAKER 10: Good evening, everyone. My name is Professor Frederick, F-R-E-D-E-R-I-C-K, Jenet, J-E-N-E-T. I am the Director for the Center of Advanced Radio Astronomy and the Arecibo Remote Command Center. As you saw, several of my students have already told you how this is going to impact them. My career has been dedicated for the last eight years to offer students amazing opportunities to become more than who they are and

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to significantly impact the human condition. So I cannot underscore the importance of having a company like SpaceX come to Brownsville and what it's going to do and the opportunities that it's going to offer our students. It's going to give them -- it's going to give them opportunities to play a major role in the next chapter of the history of the human race and the history of space travel. It doesn't get better than this. So I welcome SpaceX with open arms because of the opportunities that it's going to give to our students, to our researchers, and all members of our community, and I really hope that you guys join me in this. Thank you.

SPEAKER 11: My name is Tony Martinez and I'm the mayor of Brownsville, Texas, and very proudly so. I want to first of all welcome all the FAA representatives, facilitators, and all the people from out of town to Brownsville. It's a great community. I also wanted to thank each and every one of you for coming out here and voicing your support, regardless of the opinions that you might express. What this does express to me and to all of us that are commissioners in this town is that you really greatly care about Brownsville. And so I'm here on behalf of the City of Brownsville, along with our commissioners, to say fervently that I would love to have SpaceX in our community. I think it affords the kind of

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opportunity from an educational standpoint, with no environmental impacts, as was indicated by the draft report that came out on April the 15th of this year by the FAA. So I fully and totally endorse this SpaceX project to Brownsville and I hope you will join me in welcoming them to our community and make them part of our family. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER 12: My name is Keith Graf, G-R-A-F. I'm the Director of the Governor's Office of Aerospace, Aviation, and Defense. I have a letter from Governor Perry that I would like to read. "SpaceX Exploration Technologies Corporation has made great progress in its evaluation of the South Texas site for a new rocket launch facility. Last year, I wrote to you to express my support for SpaceX, for your effort in this process, and for the Brownsville officials who are working to make this project happen. I want to make certain you know that this project continues to have my utmost support. As our nation moves towards a more commercial model for space exploration, companies like SpaceX are needed to step up and blaze new trails in space. As we know from our 50 years of space exploration, SpaceX will also be required to expend a certain amount of money and expend a certain amount of risk as it moves from the relative safety of outer space, both near and far. The

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State of Texas and local communities are working with SpaceX to mitigate these risks. We will continue to support SpaceX as it moves through the site evaluation process. In return, we expect to benefit from economic development in the form of new, high-paying jobs and capital investment in the Brownsville area. Perhaps more importantly, the presence of a rocket launch facility in South Texas will inspire generations of young Texans to pursue education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Those educated workers will lead our State and the nation into the next great frontier. We know from our experience from the Kennedy Space Center that rocket launch facilities can offer a success within an environmentally-sensitive area. Please give a strong support to the agency SpaceX in the Brownsville community to bring its business to Texas. Your approval of their application for a launch facility will open the door for the next 50 years of space exploration and commercialization for the United States. My office of Aerospace and Aviation stands ready to assist as best we can, Sincerely, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas."

SPEAKER 13: My name is Patrick Burchfield and I have spent the last 53 years of my life working in wildlife conservation arenas for various different species and different situations, and I've spent the last 43 years

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working specifically with the Kemps Ridley sea turtle, primarily, in Mexico. And I am in favor of SpaceX for a little bit different reason than some that you may hear. I view it as the least environmentally intrusive thing that can happen. I've lived here 43 years in Brownsville and I've seen several schemes from arenas with jet skis and jet boats an high-rise structures on Boca Chica Beach. And I want you to stop and take the example of Merit Island near Cape Canaveral that is just rich with wildlife, rich with birds, nesting sea turtles. We don't have to reinvent the wheel with this EIS statement. Just look at what already exists around the existing wildsites in the way of wildlife. So I am in favor of SpaceX and I sincerely hope they come here because I look at that as a long-term way we're going to protect that natural place. Thank you.

SPEAKER 14: My name is Ellen Tyla, T-Y-L-A. My husband, Daniel Griffin, and I are residents in the secondary impact of the Palmetto Hill Ranch -- Battlefield Ranch. We are in favor of SpaceX coming, but our concerns are that the respect of our property and the roads that we travel, that our state and local governments will step up and make sure that Highway 4 is maintained in a driveable condition, that our trash is picked up, and basically, just respect where we live too. We'd like to

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have it, but keep it clean. Thank you.

SPEAKER 15: Good evening. My name is Gonzalo Salazar. I am blessed to serve as Superintendent of Schools in the Los Fresnos School District. And we have a little something in common with SpaceX. You see, our mascot is the falcon, and we've been launching falcons for quite some time. As Superintendent of Schools, I'm here representing the children of Region 1, from Pre-K to 12th grade. I'm also representing all of the Superintendents of Region 1 who see a promise in SpaceX coming to Brownsville. What a wonderful thing to have SpaceX come to the gateway to this great nation of ours, the City of Brownsville. We have a regional mentality, a regional approach to how we're doing things in our efforts to transform education. I am a product of public schools. I am a product of U.T.B. Both of my degrees were acquired here at U.T.B. And the field of education afforded me an opportunity to stay right here at home and give back to my community, to give back to the children, and be a part of transforming education right here in the Rio Grande Valley. The two fastest growing demographics in the America are economically-disadvantaged Hispanics. The promise that SpaceX will bring here is the opportunity for students with an interest in science, technology, engineering, and math to work right here at home. In our

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culture, we are deeply-rooted in family, and so many of our kids would stay home and become pillars of the community themselves if they had the opportunities. Thank you, SpaceX, for dreaming big. Thank you, Brownsville, for your efforts. The Brownsville Economic Council, you're doing a tremendous job. Thank you for supporting all of the wonderful things that are happening in our public schools. And if we come together and make this happen, we truly be will able to transform education for the children in the Region 1 area. Thank you. God bless you.

SPEAKER 16: I have split personalties. I get six minutes. Good afternoon. My name is Dutch Fisher. My wife, Ludy, and I are real estate brokers here in the Rio Grande Valley. I'm a native Floridian who was born less than two-and-a-half hours from Cape Canaveral and have attended over a dozen launches at both the Gemini and the Apollo missions. Because this forum is about the environmental impact of the space launches, I would like the share the following. From the early 1960s to the mid-1980s, I spent many days on the Florida beaches between Jacksonville and Cape Canaveral, surfing, fishing, and boating. In 1982, I decided to take a year off from my job at the world's largest builder of commercial fishing boats and spend a year shrimping offshore from the

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Carolinas around to Corpus Christi. Every day we fished, we saw sea turtles. Soon after my return to the shipyard, numerous media outlets began running stories about sea turtles washing up along the very beaches we fished offshore. Baseless claims were made about shrimpers being the cause. As a result, the Natural Fishery Service, a Federal agency of NOAH, conducted a study to determine populations of sea turtles. This indepth study revealed two very interesting facts. First, the one area where the most abundant population of sea turtles along the coasts of the United States just happened to be right offshore and in the inlet of Cape Canaveral. Second, the behavioral scientist discovered that the major cause of the declining population along the U.S. coasts had nothing to go with shrimpers. You see, when baby turtles hatch, they must go directly to the sea. Since they are naturally programmed to head towards their guiding light, which before beachfront developments came, from -- they're natural lights came from the reflection of the moon and stars above the water's surfaces along with the phosphorus and the sea water that glows when the water breaks near shore. Because of those new artificial lights, these hatchlings headed inland and became stranded in the dunes, on the grasses bordering the beaches underneath these lights, and in the stomachs of those higher up in our food

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chain. Fortunately, it's now against numerous public ordinances to have lighted areas along the shorelines which turtles are prone to nest. SpaceX is aware of this light-emitting problem or phenomenon and will not be a source of these killer lights. Also, you can rest assured that the rapid poaching of turtle nests here will decline, as well. During the past three decades, I've spent the vast majority of my life here in the lower Valley, having arrived in the mid-1980s to manage a shipyard and a fuel and ice facility. Having been provided this opportunity back then, I soon discovered that our Valley's workforce is hard working, honest, and has a sincere desire to succeed if provided the opportunity. Should Mr. Musk and SpaceX provide our community the same opportunity to succeed, he and all of us will not be disappointed. U.T. Brownsville, U.T. Pan American, T.S.C., and our other educational facilities are at the starting blocks, anxiously awaiting for him to fire his starter's pistols. Our community leaders are poised and ready, from Carlos, our county judge, to Tony, our mayor, SpaceX also has the full support of Rene, Eddie, and Eddie, III, our State Legislator, Rene Filemon, our new U.S. representative, both our Senators, and we just hear, or Governor. With the hard work and efforts of both Gil Salinas of BEDC, and Angela Burton, our leader of best Chamber of Commerce in

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our entire State, SpaceX surely will benefit us all, including the industries and businesses, like hospitality and tourism, our world-class Port, services, restaurants and the like, retail, logistics, manufacturing, banking, construction, infrastructure, and yes, real estate. Brownsville will finally be on the world map no longer just a small dot on the tip of the Texas map. We're not only asking for Mr. Musk's SpaceX to choose our place in the sun for its current values, but also for our children, our grandchildren, and our future generations, who just may, some day, be able to explore our galaxy and the entire universe, personally and up close.

SPEAKER 17: Hello. My name is George Rocha, R-O-C-H-A. I'm a junior from the Brownsville Early College High School. And I know that I'm speaking for all my peers and my students -- and all the students who attend, that we all are in full support of SpaceX. We are all aware of the big opportunities that this company would have once it would arrive here. For us, not having -- for this company to come here, it would allow us to have some form of vision that we would have when we -- that we wouldn't have otherwise. All right. I'm sorry. Thank you. P-17

SPEAKER 18: Good afternoon. My name is Angela Burton and I am the proud president of the P-18

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Brownsville Chamber of Commerce. That's A-N-G-E-L-A B-U-R-T-O-N. First and foremost, I would like to welcome back the FAA to Brownsville. It's been approximately one year since the last public meeting and I thank you for the opportunity to address the agency once again. The Brownsville Chamber of Commerce representing more than 850 businesses once again supports the commercial launch site project by Space Exploration Technology Corps, SpaceX, as this project supports stewardship between business, education, culture, history, and the environment. Since the 1960s, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, has identified Brownsville as a potential site for launch operations. The region's vast natural resources, proximity to the ocean, and undeveloped land, make the area perfect for such a project. More importantly, the successful achievement of this project would bring about significant change and impact to not only Brownsville, but the region, and the State of Texas. The SpaceX project would ignite an economic boom and would create the emergence of an aerospace industry cluster not previous identified in the region. It would also create a trickle-down effect with current industry clusters, such as transportation and logistics. Moreover, one can only imagine how tourism would increase and attract thousands of visitors to the area, not to mention the aerospace

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professionals and suppliers. Academically, the project falls in line with the area's science, technology, engineering, and math programs, as well as U.T.B.'s gravitational wave program. We can only imagine the internship opportunities that would be afforded to our deserving students. Again, the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce supports SpaceX and we are confident the launch site will have minimal impact on the environment and/or -- any impact identified will be appropriately mitigated. We support the issuance of launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Thank you very much. I have letters of support.

SPEAKER 19: Good evening. My name is Sophia Benavides. Do I need to spell that out for you?

THE COURT REPORTER: No.

SPEAKER 19: And I have a letter here for Ms. Stacey Zee. This letter is submitted in response to the May 7th, 2013 public hearing on the draft environmental impact statement to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the FAA/AST proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, SpaceX. I am pleased to submit this letter in support of SpaceX's proposal to launch from a site in Cameron County, Texas. Locating the proposed launch facility on the Boca

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Chica Beach site off of Highway 4 would be an ideal location because of its close proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and because the land that SpaceX will need remains undeveloped today. I am confident that SpaceX will conduct its operations in a mutually beneficial and cooperative manner with respect to the environment, local residents, beach-goers, and the community as a whole, just as they have in other areas. SpaceX is experienced in operating complex launches in and around wildlife refuges and other environmentally-protected areas that can lead to an ecofriendly facility for wildlife and natural habitats. The proposed project will be an asset to the entire South Texas region. It will inspire our local school children to reach for the stars and focus, more than ever, on critical science, technology, engineering, and math studies. It could also create opportunities for programs and degrees, as well as research facilities at our local institutions of higher learning here in the Rio Grande Valley. The SpaceX -- excuse me -- the SpaceX project will create high-paying job opportunities for local residents and stimulate other indirect jobs. In addition, the tourism potential a project of this magnitude can bring to the region is immeasurable. I am in full support of the project and am delighted that this commercial company is strongly considering Cameron County. Two weeks

ago, our Commissioners Court passed a resolution in full support of SpaceX coming to Cameron County. Thank you so much.

SPEAKER 20: My name is Bob Pinkerton. I live on South Padre Island and I am their mayor. I am here in support of SpaceX. We recently passed a resolution supporting it. Without question, and needless to say, from an educational standpoint, there can be no better project to come to this area than SpaceX. Economically, and from the standpoint of tourism, again, you need to go no further than to look at Boca Chica Beach as being an ideal spot only about four miles from South Padre Island, which we would love to have. We think Brownsville deserves it and we think Cameron County deserves it, and I want to thank you very much for allowing us to speak. As a matter of introduction, I invited a very good friend. We both grew up in Brownsville. His name is Alfredo Cisneros. He is a graduate of St. Joseph's. He came down from Houston just to speak at this public hearing. He's -- as I said, he graduated from St. Joseph's, he went on to join the Navy, he was a fighter pilot, he flew off the Saratoga during the Vietnam war, he flew for the Navy Blue Angels, and he was asked to enter the shuttle program, and ended his career with 22,000 flight hours on Southwest Airlines. Al

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Cisneros.

SPEAKER 21: Thank you, Mayor. My name is Al Cisneros, C-I-S-N-E-R-O-S. Folks, thank you for giving me the opportunity to come back to my hometown to speak. It is an honor for me to share this time with you. All of that which I've accomplished started with a dream, and it appears that the great city of Brownsville has yet its own dream, which I certainly do want to promote. Speaking of dreams and being from Brownsville, and all that I've managed in my life, it's only from God's blessings, and good family, friends, and the education, certainly, that I got from St. Joseph's. I'm very, very, very honored. SpaceX has to be considered in the context of the NASA shuttle program that I have observed very carefully for 35 years. NASA's mission from Gemini/Apollo skylab and through the shuttle program is quantifiable. We know what it's done. What we also must acknowledge are the significant economic benefits that have impacted countless communities in the United States and the world. And I've seen all of the communities that NASA has provided its employees and its mission and they are significant. There's an apparent lack of leadership in commitment to the U.S. space program in Washington. We all know that. I know that specifically from living across from the NASA admin building in Houston. I know the impact of when

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there's a lack of support. So it is then, apparently, important for this city, this region, to totally support the SpaceX program. Brownsville and the EDC should apply private sector thinking to the public sector. It should protect and preserve your local young businesses. It should anticipate the changing needs of your business owners and all of their residents and their issues, all the while, attracting new businesses. I believe that the full support -- that full support should be given to the SpaceX initiative, and by doing so, the city and this great region will continue to benefit and prosper. It is my fervent hope as a hometown boy that this environmental review process and all of its attendant impacts will be ameliorated, mitigated, and resolved so that the FAA will, in fact, issue the launch licenses and/or the experimental permits to SpaceX and this community. Thank you.

SPEAKER 22: Good evening. My name is Jim Chapman. I am the president of Frontera Audubon Society, a local conservation organization. Environmentally, there is a lot at stake in this process. The lower Rio Grande Valley is one of the most biologically diverse areas in all of North America. And Boca Chica, the Boca Chica area, is quite possibly the largest, relatively undeveloped, pristine natural areas left in the entire Valley. With regards to SpaceX, there will be impacts.

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There's no question about that. The question is, what will those impacts be and how great will they be? It appears that SpaceX is making a sincere effort to identify and address impacts and I commend them for doing that. But there are some shortcomings in this EIS. Over the years, I've looked at a lot of environmental impact statements. And I'd like to mention just a couple of those shortcomings now so that they can be remedied for the final -- for the final EIS. There's very little data or studies cited in the EIS regarding the possible impacts of lights on wildlife. There is data and there are studies out there, but you don't find them in the EIS. Lights can have -- can impact sea turtles, they can impact migratory birds, which this area is known for throughout the world. And the effect of lighting on other endangered species, such as the Piping Plover, ocelots, jaguarundis, Aplomada falcons, which nest in the area. So all these need to be looked at in more detail. And similarly, the effects over noise. Now, there won't be many launches, apparently, but when there are, the effects of that noise on wildlife needs to be looked at in greater detail. They say there won't be impacts. We need more than good words. We need data. There isn't much discussion of the possible impacts on groundwater. Brownsville already gets part of its municipal water supply from the aquifer that's beneath

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our feet and the SpaceX cite will have a lot of solvents and a lot of rocket fuel. We want to make sure that our groundwater stays clean and free of those contaminants. There's very little mention about hurricanes. Their site is about three feet above sea level. The 1933 hurricane had a 16 foot tidal surge. When you have fuels and solvents stored basically within a quarter of a mile of the beach, that's -- that's a concern. We need to know what their plans are, their contingencies, how safe will we be. In summary, if SpaceX comes to the Valley, we want them to come not as a despoiler of our environment, but as an advocate of our precious natural resources. There's not a lot of habitat left in the Valley. Every acre matters. Thank you.

SPEAKER 23: Hello. My name is Scheleen Walker, S-C-H-E-L-E-E-N. I'm here representing the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. I am representing the approximately 30,000 members we have throughout the State. For those of you who are not familiar with the Sierra Club, we're the oldest volunteer-driven environmental protection organization in the country and our motto is explore, enjoy, protect the planet. And that is why I'm here today. We have been contacted by numerous members throughout the State who have asked us how we feel about this project, and do we support it, do we oppose you. I

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hope I don't shock you today by telling you that we do not oppose this project. We are welcome -- we are thankful that SpaceX has reached out to our organization, as well as numerous others throughout the State, and are working closely with the resource agencies that we also work very closely with. We are just here tonight. I came here to visit the site and to meet with folks locally, our members, as well as others, and we look forward to working with you-all, and with SpaceX, and with our State and Federal resource agencies. And we would just like to, I guess, speak on behalf of earth science, as well as space science, and I don't think they're mutually exclusive. And again, I look forward to working with everybody to, hopefully, create a really great, exciting project that everybody can be proud of. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER 24: Well, hello, everyone. My name is Rosendo Lopez. And when I first heard about this, I saw a pause between the Space and X, so it sounds really weird. And so it sounds really weird. The thing is, that Brownsville, this is our great chance to show what we've got. So let's just give our best on this, and I hope that we get a really good thing in the end. So thanks very much.

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SPEAKER 25: I don't know what I could say that hasn't been said already. All the previous speakers

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speak from my heart, as well. These lovely young girls, they're part of a rocket program that they -- I think would just benefit from this project. And this is our future and I applaud you girls. Way to go. All right. And they built this, by the way. Okay, girls. Thank you for your time.

SPEAKER 26: My name is Jesus "Chuy" Abete, A-B-E-T-E. Wow! Going against all the top guns here in the City of Brownsville and Cameron County. There's only been two persons here that have spoken, not against, but how it might impact us here in the Valley. Dr. Burchfield made a comment that he's been here 53 years or 43 years. I have been here 78 years. I was born and raised just a stone's throw from here. Here where we're at right now, back when I was a kid, I would just -- I would -- used to see flocks and flocks and flocks like you wouldn't believe of wildlife, flying birds coming in through here. I don't see them anymore. On the ground, snakes, horned toads, all kinds of wild animals. And I am here to talk on behalf of the wildlife. We talk about the upper milos, we talk about all the endangered species that we have, and they say that it's not going to go ahead and affect this wildlife that we have in the area of the Boca Chica. My wife and I bought a piece of land out there to go ahead and conserve it as wild as we could, and it looks like

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it's going to be ruined by this company that's coming over here to go ahead and destroy our wildlife. This is -- to me, it seems the former speakers ahead of me, it's like a toy when I was small at Christmas. I would get it, I would play for it -- with it for about one week, and then throw it away and forget about it. And this, eventually, if it does ever come to pass, that this outfit comes to locate here in Brownsville, that's what it's going to be. Jobs? Think about it. Jobs? We've got a lot of jobs here. If they don't pay right, it's because we live so close to Mexico. But all of these graduates, I applaud them, because they are putting in their twelve years in high school or their universities, and they want to go ahead and progress and make good money. And they will, but not all of these graduates are going -- if this comes about are going to be hired by this company that is locating here. So I am here to tell everybody in attendance that I am the voice of 911 for all the wildlife that is going to be affected if it does ever happen at Boca Chica.

SPEAKER 27: Hi. My name is Andrea Tellez, T-E-L-L-E-Z. I'm a physics major at the University of Texas at Brownsville and I support SpaceX. Having a project like this will help in the economy of the Rio Grande Valley by providing opportunities to future

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research students and students like me who are of lower class will never have the opportunity to study if it wasn't for the research grants. Also, it will help all students by giving the opportunity to apply science here instead of looking somewhere else. It also will help our institution to attract bright minds and research opportunities. Thank you.

SPEAKER 28: Hello, everyone. My name is Louis Dartez, L-O-U-I-S, last name, D-A-R-T-E-Z. Just a quick introduction. I grew up in the Los Fresnos, Port Isabel, and Brownsville areas. I've gone to schools at all three districts and I eventually graduated from the Mathematics and Science Academy at U.T. Brownsville. I'm now part of the Arecibo Remote Command Center, which is a research group under the Center for Advanced Astronomy at U.T. Brownsville. Through this program and through-and because of Dr. Jenet's efforts, at the back there, I've traveled to Puerto Rico and worked with scientists at Arecibo, a group of scientists at Cornell, Cal Tech, and all over the world. And so -- and so that's my background. And I would also like to thank SpaceX for considering Brownsville. I would like to thank all of you for being here today and the FAA for doing this study and for listening to me. We've had a lot of speakers and I have no doubt that we'll have many more people talking

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about how SpaceX will impact Brownsville, so I'm going to take a break from that and just talk about how it will impact me. To begin with, I can't wait for the day that SpaceX joins Brownsville. SpaceX -- a lot of the things that I get -- a lot of the questions that I've been getting over the past few days is what does SpaceX mean to you, so I'm hear to answer that. SpaceX means to me bringing the world's greatest private aerospace entity to my doorstop. SpaceX means that, as a lover of physics and astronomy, and math and engineering, I don't have to leave my family, I don't have to leave my home, I can do this and work at home, here, with my friends. Loving what I do, I don't work a day in my life and I would like to keep it that way. SpaceX means new opportunities for students like myself to work side by side with great engineers and scientists, like Steve Davis, standing over on the side over there. And this means that many students who are -- that are at my level, we get to do this for many years to come. SpaceX means also a bunch of jobs to Brownsville. And best of all, it means rockets in Brownsville. Who doesn't want that? That's awesome. And I can't wait for the day that we get to launch Brownsville and we get to become a part of this. So thank you.

SPEAKER 29: Hello. My name is Andres Cuellar, C-U-E-L-L-A-R. And I'm a physics student and a

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research assistant for the Arecibo Remote Command Center at the University of Texas at Brownsville. Today I came to talk about SpaceX, which I strongly support. Every day, I sit among engineers, scientists, and mathematics students who have the dream to make a real contribution to science and technology. Bringing SpaceX to Brownsville will not only help those students accomplish their dreams, but it will also benefit SpaceX with the quality, with the high quality of students, being produced here in Brownsville. Thank you.

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SPEAKER 30: Hello. My name is Jesus Hinojosa and I'm an ARCC student also. And so I graduated from Porter High School, but to us -- well, my fellow graduate students, it was like, why would -- why would you want to be a major in a STEM career? Like you had to go off from the Valley, go off -- maybe -- maybe NASA was just a dream, you know, for us. So like most of my friends, they just went to business -- business school or other careers. And now that SpaceX will come here, it will be like, you know, SpaceX is right there. You can work for SpaceX if you are a physics major, if you go into the field of physics and STEM. So we have a lab over here in F6 where we have all the research. I know you've been hearing that we're working and we've been doing all this research, and so we're actually presenting some of the

research that we're doing in F6 down the hall, if you want to come. Thank you.

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SPEAKER 31: Hello. My name is Janine, J-A-N-I-N-E. And I think SpaceX would be a great addition to Brownsville since it would help our science community move forward by bringing this neat space technology, astrophysicists, and engineers to our own community. And I also think that it would help give our own physics and engineering students a chance to work closer to home. So I support SpaceX. Thank you.

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SPEAKER 32: Good evening. My name is Rosie Gowen, G-O-W-E-N. I was born and raised here in Brownsville and I am a practicing physician and also very proud, as well as humbled, to serve as a City Commissioner here in Brownsville for the last four years. I do support SpaceX coming. When I was a child, my father was a science teacher, and one of the most exciting times of the year for me was when he hosted a science fair at one of our local gyms. And as I was a child walking through those science projects, I couldn't help but imagine that perhaps the world's foremost scientists were the ones that were putting these projects together, because it seemed like such an exciting and scientific time. A year ago when I found out that SpaceX was seriously interested in the area, I once again was transported back to those days

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as a child, except that this time, it wasn't my imagination. It really was the world's most foremost scientists looking at our home and perhaps making it a reality so that other children like myself and those who just believed that it was not in their reach can now begin to see that it is in their reach and that all they have to do is work hard, believe in themselves, and the community will be here in every way with companies like SpaceX to promote their future. So in every way, I support SpaceX coming to Brownsville, and if there's anything that I can do as a Commissioner to promote that, I will do so.

SPEAKER 33: Good evening. My name is Debra Portillo. That's P-O-R-T-I-L-L-O. And I am proud to say that I was born and raised in the City of Brownsville, Texas and I am also proud to say that I am a graduate of the University of Texas at Brownsville. I'm truly excited about the thought of what a SpaceX building launch site means to Brownsville. First and foremost, SpaceX coming to Brownsville is exactly the type of company the City of Brownsville and its EDC should be trying to recruit and the type of company that we should be able to attract to Brownsville. The arrival of SpaceX will create a direct conduit between the U.T.B. physics department, a world-class group of researchers, and our students of all levels from our region. This connection

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between academia, whether it be basic or applied research in the private sector, will not O provide on-the-job training to all our students, but real world jobs working in their field of choice here at home. This also becomes the nexus where research and development and entrepreneurship can foster, creating the jobs of the future, here and now. For ages, the people of this region, from its first inhabitants that looked up into the skies and dreamed to reach out and touch a world beyond theirs, to the current inhabitants that now actually have the ability to do just that, and also name their stars like some of our ARCC students. What I wonder is, with SpaceX in our backyard, what will our children now dream of achieving now that they can look up into the night sky and actually touch the stars. What will they dream? I don't know, but I so look forward to helping them achieve those dreams. As we all know, Brownsville has long been known as a logistics intermodal hub. We have a deepwater port, we have an airport, and hopefully, soon, we will be hearing about Brownsville's new space port. Thank you.

SPEAKER 34: Good evening. I'm Marisela Cortez, M-A-R-I-S-E-L-A. And I'm here representing Congressman Filemon Vela. And he writes a letter tonight. "I write a response to tonight's May 7th, 2013 public hearing on the draft environmental impact statement to

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evaluate the potential impacts that may result from the Federal Aviation Administration Office of Commercial Space Transportation proposal to issue a launch license and experimental permit to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation. I strongly support the preferred alternative details in the draft EIS and I urge timely approval of the document to allow the plan development to move forward. The draft EIS is a product of careful and thorough analysis of the impact of the proposed launch site. SpaceX worked with Federal, State, and local officials, along with the effected citizens, to developing a balanced proposal that provides significant benefit to the region, while mitigating the impact of construction and operations of the facility. The draft EIS reflects SpaceX's comprehensive approach in sitting the facility at a location which will provide optimal launch conditions without unduly impacting the environment or the surrounding communities. The forethought that went into the initiative will have a long-term positive impact positioning the launch site for future success. The preferred alternative, which would allow construction of a new launch site in South Texas to commence, is in our national interest. The establishment of a new location to support a commercial space launch and reusable launch vehicles increases our economic competitiveness and

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national security. The proposed facility would also provide substantial benefits to the entire South Texas region, in addition to employment opportunities in the construction, maintenance, and operation of the facility. The launch site will have a significant positive economic impact. The State of Texas as a home of Space Center Houston has a long history as a tourist destination for those interested in space and the opportunity to experience a launch would bring observers from across the State and nation. The SpaceX facility would also benefit students throughout the region by inspiring young people to study and pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM fields), and providing cooperative research and employment opportunities for students and educators by nearby institutions. Hispanics historically have been underrepresented in the STEM fields, and this proposed facility in close proximity to several Hispanic institutions, will help address a shortfall by developing partnerships to enhance research opportunities. The SpaceX South Texas launch site has my support and I appreciate the hard work that went into the creation of the draft EIS. SpaceX has a deep understanding of the community and the draft EIS support for the preferred alternative reflects the efforts that went into drafting a proposal for the construction and

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operation of the facility, which will serve both the nation and the community. Sincerely, Filemon Vela, member of Congress."

SPEAKER 35: Good evening. My name is David Ruiz and I'm also a native of Brownsville, Texas. I've lived here 60 years and I've seen Brownsville expand and go from a little town to a thriving city as the one we have now. But I can remember a good 30 years ago when we were inviting the maquiladora industry to our city. We heard that they would be hiring numerous amounts of people and there would be jobs for everybody. And obviously, I was -- I was in college getting my degree in business administration and I was real excited about what was happening here in Brownsville. Unfortunately, when I went out to the job market, there were no jobs for me. I had to leave Brownsville because all the jobs that were created were created on the other side of the Border. So I found myself having to go to Laredo, to Houston, to work -- for work, and then I found myself unemployed in Houston and had to come back to Brownsville. So I want the public -- the citizens of Brownsville to be aware that all these nice invitations that we hear and all the -- the support that we get from the people that we put in office sometimes are not always there. And don't get me wrong. I went to college. I got a master's in business

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administration. And I'm glad for all the students that are here anxiously awaiting jobs as engineers and physics majors, and I hope that they don't get upset and disappointed when they've got their little degree and say, "Hey, I'm going to get a job over here at SpaceX because they're saying they're going to employ a thousand people." Well, I hope those thousand people aren't employed across the river building those space capsules. Another thing that I want to bring up is the treaty, the water treaty that is pending right now in Texas that the Governor wants the President to address. That's a water treaty with Mexico that was done in 1944. Well, the Governor wants Mexico to respect that treaty. And I'm asking that the treaty of the Adams Onis also be respected, because I am also an explorer and I come from pioneer families that have been here since the early 1700s. There's a land purchase out there that -- that took -- that took place in the mid-17 -- or the late 1700s where we bought Catapulta, the Cisneros family. And I wanted to ask everyone here if there's anybody that had title to that land, would you please raise your hand. Thank you. Well, I just found out that we had title to those lands and SpaceX hasn't approached us. None of the politicians have asked if we're interested in selling. And I just want you to take that into consideration. If it was your piece of land,

your property, how would you feel? Thank you.

SPEAKER 36: Good evening, everyone. My name is Dan. I'm a Porter High School engineering magnet student. And I see the proposed space facility as a great opportunity for me as a graduate from college. It will allow me to pursue an esteemed career while staying close to my home and to family. SpaceX might be the best thing that has happened to Brownsville and the Valley. As a Porter High School student, I gladly accept SpaceX into our community. Thank you. P-36

SPEAKER 37: Hello. How is everybody doing tonight? My name is Ovidio Garza. First name, O-V-I-D-I-O, last name, G-A-R-Z-A. I am a senior at the Gladys Porter High School engineering magnet. And I just like -- I was born here in Brownsville. I've seen Brownsville grow through my 18 years of life. And it's been a great experience. You know, seeing dirt roads turn into paved roads and empty land into different buildings and businesses. So it's great. And I would like to say on behalf of my fellow -- well, most of my fellow member -- students at the -- at Gladys Porter that we support SpaceX. We welcome it with arms wide open, not only because we want extra points in our engineering aerospace class, but also because it's a great opportunity. It's -- I believe it's innovation at its finest. And the P-37

dedication that is being put into -- this program is putting for this community to protect its environment and its economy and the well being of its citizens, it's amazing. So thank you and have a good night.

SPEAKER 38: Good evening. My name is Luis Ortega. O-R -- you've got it? Cool. That's great. I'm here representing Porter High School and I'm a member of the magnet program. I'm a senior and I'm going to graduate and leave for Texas Tech to study mechanical engineering. SpaceX is coming to Brownsville and everyone is talking about jobs. That's great, but nothing's perfect. We won't all get them, but at least SpaceX levels the playing field and gives us a chance to compete for jobs at home instead of having to leave and lose out far from home. I would rather lose out and still have my family than win and be stuck miles away. Thank you. P-38

SPEAKER 39: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Matthew Cohen, C-O-H-E-N, and I am a junior at Gladys Porter High School. I'm currently in the engineering program and I really endorse the coming of SpaceX. It is an opportunity that small cities like us don't always get. Now, I know I've heard about the engineering -- the engineers that would come and we won't all get the jobs. And I've heard about the problems that we'll have with the wildlife. It will cause disruptions. P-39

But I read over there that the fuel -- the propellants that they will use in their rockets are the most economic -- they're pretty economic and they are also wildlife friendly. They are liquid oxygen and refined kerosine. They are better off and healthier for our environment than jets. And we have our airport here. And we can see that that will be more in the wetlands, more with the -- with the animals, our endangered species ocelots, or migratory birds, and our sea turtles. The lights may cause a problem, but we have to give stuff up, a tiny little bit, in order to help the economy of our city boost and take the city -- take our City of Brownsville to the next level. Thank you.

SPEAKER 40: Good evening. Good evening. My name is John Lynch, J-O-H-N L-Y-N-C-H. I am a proud teacher in the engineering program at Gladys Porter High School, most especially, aerospace engineering, and I've got to tell you that I love my kids and I'm proud of them and they are nothing less than brilliant. I have worked almost my entire adult life in engineering and manufacturing with the exception of the past five years as a high school teacher. And we've always been concerned about a consistent quality product. What is your output? And I'm thinking about that now as a high school teacher. What is my product? I want to produce smart people. My

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product is intelligent college-ready students. So what I would like to do is become a supplier to SpaceX. SpaceX is going to be needing some quality, intelligent people and I want to produce that and be their supplier. I think that we can form a mutually-beneficial relationship and that I can give SpaceX what they need and what they want. At the same time, I can give these students, and SpaceX can give these students, the opportunity to find awesome job opportunities right here in their hometown. I welcome SpaceX and I'm excited as I can be to see those possibilities and looking forward to a relationship with SpaceX. Thank you.

SPEAKER 41: Good evening. First of all, Mr. Abete, I was raised a stone's throw closer than you were right here in the Mariah, and I got to see tomato fields, cotton fields, and sugar cane fields. I also graduated from St. Joseph's, but I was not a Blue Angel like Mr. Cisneros. But I am Mariano Bean Ayala, A-Y-A-L-A, president and CEO of the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau, Director of Tourism for your city. And I see several great problems that SpaceX will bring to Brownsville and Cameron County. I see children wanting to learn more math and science. I see hotels filled and needing more rooms to rent out. I see restaurants filled with patrons and needing more food, more employees to

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serve. I see our stores, our malls filled with people, with bruised shoulders running into our shoppers to get that deal here in Brownsville and the region. I see all our gas stations filled with lines of people trying to fill up to get back home to go back where they came from to see a space shuttle take off from Brownsville. Yes, I see all these problems associated with SpaceX and I sincerely tell you that Mariano Bean Ayala and his Brownsville Convention and Vistors Board of Directors truly want these problems here in Brownsville and in our region. SpaceX, mi casa, tu casa.

SPEAKER 42: Hi. My name is Alicia De La Garza. And I'm a Brownsville native, born and raised, and I have never been prouder of my community, because for the first time in my lifetime, I've seen people from different sectors, different ages, different walks of life, coming together for a common purpose to bring SpaceX. And I don't know about you guys, but I see students, and it gives me chills to see students taking away from their own precious time to come and support such a cause. I don't know if everybody realizes it, but we are -- we are very fortunate to be in this place at this very time, because we are on the verge of making history. We have the potential, we have the opportunity, of being the first ever commercial aerospace launch site in the world.

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Brownsville, Texas is on that verge. And you've heard it mentioned. I graduated from high school, went away for college, graduated from Duke University, and I thought twice about coming back to Brownsville because I was afraid that I wouldn't find a job. Fortunately, I have a great job that I enjoy very, very much, but a lot of my friends have not been fortunate, and they've stayed, whether it was in San Antonio, Houston, or Austin, because they couldn't find good, well-paying jobs. Well, right now, we have a great opportunity. SpaceX has the opportunity to give these students that could potentially leave our area amazing jobs. We a lot of times experience what we call brain drain, because we lose some of our brightest students, many of which are in the room, and we lose them to other cities for this very same reason. And you've heard it from them. I don't have to repeat it. But it's not only aerospace jobs. If SpaceX comes, it's going to create a ripple effect. It's going to create positive outcomes for retail, for restaurants, for tourism, all these dollars that will be infused into our economy, into our committee. And it's going to create 600 direct jobs, 400 indirect jobs. And just to point out something. SpaceX, their minimum wage is $55,000. I don't know if you-all know it, but our Cameron County wage is $28,000, but just to give you an idea of the wonderful

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jobs that SpaceX could potentially create. I am in full support and I hope that our community does not take this opportunity for granted and I hope that we all come together and support and welcome SpaceX with open arms. Thank you.

SPEAKER 43: Hi. My name is Joanne Evans, E-V-A-N-S. I serve on the City Council for South Padre Island and also as the mayor pro-tem. As our mayor, Bob Pinkerton, said, our Council passed a resolution in support of the SpaceX project. Those of us who live on South Padre Island, as all of you, care deeply about our environment, and we have looked carefully at this company. We believe they have a demonstrated record of being good environmental stewards. We also believe that they have a demonstrated record of being good neighbors in the communities where they reside. Certainly, SpaceX will have a powerful economic impact on our region. Certainly, it will provide inspiration and be a catalyst for excellence in education. We believe it will not only inspire the students, but it will inspire all of us to create a more wonderful future. So we say welcome, SpaceX. We would love to have you as neighbors.

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(Short break in the proceedings.)

SPEAKER 44: My name is Gilberto Salinas, executive vice president for the Brownsville Economic

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Development Council. Having grown up going out to Boca Chica Beach, and now, being a life-long avid angler of that area, I can say with confidence that the temporary closure is a small sacrifice to pay for the opportunity of changing the image of our city. This is an opportunity, but most importantly, this is a great Economic Development project. It's a great Economic Development tool, not just for Brownsville. It's for Cameron County and it's for the State of Texas. I love you too. We're in a position to write a new chapter in the history of commercial space flight for the United States of America. Thank you.

SPEAKER 45: I'm Ricardo Barrera. I'm an attorney from Harlingen, Texas. And I had the very humbling opportunity to start a social media page that has over 1,100 supporters for SpaceX coming to Cameron County and I'm here to talk a little bit about their views. Because we have a fantastic cross-section of individuals that have put forth views and they should be known. First of all, this space complex will be coming forward, or possibly could come forward, and is a fantastic opportunity. That does not to be repeated or said, as far as I'm concerned. Let me just tell you about my analysis of the EIS and the information I saw. I believe that it will pass. I believe that the license will be issued and I believe that it will be inevitable. Because SpaceX is

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actually putting out less pollution in this launch facility -- or this launch facility than many commercial airports. And when people don't come forward to voice opposition to, for example, the airports that exist in the Valley, one comes to believe that there may be a problem with progress, there may be a problem with understanding technology, coming forward. The fact is, SpaceX is going to improve the environment in more than one way, because in the future, this company is on the cutting edge of coming up with solutions that are going to actually handle major environmental problems across this planet. This is my opinion. You want it right. You want to study it. You should know that when individuals come out of the woodwork and all that, their viewpoints should be respected and known. I happen to have 1,100 people that I know of that support this project, that are educated and are bringing forth information about this, and they should be heard. And I am nothing more than a humble voice to give you that information. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER 46: Good evening, everyone. My name is Jessica Tetro and I am honored to be a Brownsville City Commissioner for District 2. And I came here tonight. I was very -- you know, what could I say? All of you have already come up here to voice your support. There's not much that I can say, you know, to add to that,

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other than to let you know that I was fortunate enough to -- to go see the last launch on March the 1st in Cape Canaveral, Florida. And so it was -- you know, I was full of anxiety. I didn't know what I was going to see when I got there. You know, all this stress once you got there. So sure enough, I got there, and our hotel was completely booked, all the hotels all around were completely booked. And so the morning of the launch, I woke up, and sure enough, it was about 4:00 in the morning, so I go to Kennedy Space Center. And I already see all of the families with their ice chests, and their blankets, and, you know, already in line at 5:00, 6:00 in the morning. So I thought, well, maybe they just want a good seat. No. So other than the launch being one of the most beautiful, compelling things I've ever, ever seen in my life, what struck me the most, I guess what I was there for, was just to see not only the economic stimulation of all of the families that were staying there, but the busloads and busloads of children that were able to experience that, and just the thousands and thousands and thousands of people that were on the beach, and just all over waiting to get a glimpse of this one Falcon rocket. And so with all of my heart, I left that Florida State thinking I really, really want this for Texas. And so I just -- more than anything, I want to thank you all for your support.

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I want to thank the SpaceX family for all of the work that you-all have done, and your faith in us, and for just even giving us the opportunity, because it means so much to not only us leaders, but our citizens, and for our children, and for every, every ounce of effort that you've put into this project with us. We're just so grateful. Yes. And so the SpaceX family, and the brilliant Mr. Eli Musk, thank you all, and thank you all for coming. And -- oh, hold on. Hold on. Very important. This is my son Andrew. "I support SpaceX in Brownsville."

SPEAKER 47: Good evening. My name is Isabel Rosales. I'm the District Director for State Representative, Rene Oliveira. Representative Oliveira is in Austin for the current legislative session, and regrettably, isn't able to attend this public hearing. Representative Oliveira authored House Bill 2623, which is being considered in the Senate Administrative Committee. The bill unanimously passed the House Land and Resource Committee and the full Texas House. House Bill 2623 authorizes the County to close Boca Chica Beach for space launches with approval of the General Land Office. It also ensures that people will have access to the beach on weekends and holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Representative Oliveira has been a strong proponent of the SpaceX project and has been working with State leaders to

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ensure that Texas is doing everything in its power to bring new jobs and industry to Brownsville. The project has the approval of the Governor's office, State budget leaders, and our local representatives in the legislature. We believe it will be a great step forward for the people of the Rio Grande Valley, as well as the space industry in Texas. Thank you.

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SPEAKER 48: Good evening, everyone. We're from Civil Air Patrol. This is my fellow cadets. Anthony Clark is a cadet airman, and my fellow sergeant right here, he's a technical sergeant, and I am technical sergeant, as well as him. And we come here, because in a way, we serve the community. And SpaceX is not only important for us, but can be beneficial for us for a job later on in the future. And not only that, but we're part of aerospace. We fly airplanes. And who knows? Maybe one day we'll be Air Force pilots and some day be great leaders for America. Thank you.

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SPEAKER 49: I just want to add a little bit to that. Not only am I part of the Civil Air Patrol, but also the local Boy Scouts of America troop here in Los Fresnos, Texas. And every once in a while, we have campouts near this site. Not -- not relatively close, but -- but kind of near, about a mile-and-a-half away. And it would be great to see one of these rocket launches while

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we're camping -- while we're camping and just lying down there, looking up, and we could see one launch just go up. And that would be pretty amazing, not just for me, not just for my friends, but for the youth here that we so proudly serve. Thank you.

SPEAKER 50: Good evening, everyone. My name is Julian Alvarez, A-L-V-A-R-E-Z. I represent the Rio Grande Valley Partnership. I am the president of the Rio Grande Valley Partnership, which is a regional Chamber of Commerce. When we heard today that you-all were going to have this public hearing, I was encouraged by not only our board, but many of the folks that we represent. The Rio Grande Valley Partnership is a group of folks that represent the business community from the four-county region. We're very heavily involved with our economic development of South Texas and we're very engaged in a lot of the things that are taking place. First of all, I would like to thank the mayor and all the leadership of Brownsville, the Brownsville alliances, and all the other members that have been heavily involved in attracting SpaceX to South Texas. Again, I have presented as a recommendation and with the help of Commissioner Benavidez's office and those who represent the county to write up a resolution. And just so that everywhere here knows and so that we can be on the record, the Rio Grande

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Valley Partnership, which is an establishment that's been around since 1944, fully supports SpaceX in all of its endeavors. So thank you for giving us an opportunity to speak and we wish you well. Thank you.

SPEAKER 51: (Through the Interpreter) My name is Rosa Castaneda. I'm representing here my home, my children, myself. I advise the public to support it and not be afraid to grow. Because that's what's going to happen in Brownsville. It's going to be a great growth. Everything in life has risks. So why not, you know, encourage this project. And this is not an experiment. They're not experimenting with Brownsville, because this type of project exists in other places. If you think the environment is going be adversely affected, just think about that the environment is affected when you build homes and roads. And nobody says anything about it. Sometimes animals are smarter than that and know where to run so they don't die. The beach is not attended frequently and it doesn't have a future, a real future. Maybe with this project, it will grow. The future of Brownsville is in our hands. We can't let it go. Let's remember, SpaceX, it doesn't need Brownsville. Brownsville needs SpaceX. Thank you.

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SPEAKER 52: Good evening. My name is Frank Estrada and I'm a senior at the Brownsville Early

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College High School. I came here to voice my opinion on the SpaceX intended launching pad site. The truth is, the SpaceX project will only help this city grow and prosper. The City of Brownsville has a growing number of high school and college graduates that have specialized in science, technology, engineering, and mathematical fields, or STEM. But the problem is, there are no jobs that can provide the adequate salary for the amount of education these students have invested in their future, and so we basically force some of our brightest minds to leave our city in search of a better job for their future. As a student pursuing the field of aerospace engineering, it would be a dream to have the opportunity to come back after I earn my degree and work in my hometown with SpaceX. Why not allow one of the nations premier space and aeronautical exploration facilities around the nation -- they are, if not -- the best at what they do -- come to our city and allow us to grow with them. I strongly believe that the completion of this project will provide the spark that will ignite an era of unprecedented success and prosperity to the city's economy and lifestyle. Thank you.

SPEAKER 53: Hello. My name is Laura Vallesteros. That is V-A-L-L-E-S-T-E-R-O-S. I am a student at Brownsville Early College High School, and God

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willing, next year, I will graduate high school with more than 30 credits and attend college, most likely out of the city. My hopes for the future is to one day be able to come back and be able to gain a secure job, not out in the big city, but be able to come back to my city and my roots to where all my heritage is at. 80 percent of the students that leave to attend college usually graduate and attend at another city to look for a job because they know there's no promise here back at home. They are offering -- SpaceX is offering and promising opportunities and it's something we can't let go. Wouldn't it be great that even if one had to attend college in another city, one could come back to their hometown and know there is someone waiting back for them with an opportunity to grow. If we welcome revolutionary programs such as SpaceX into our hometown, we can experience a variety of benefits from them. Among this is the benefit of a flow of incredible new jobs. This means our college graduate can come back home knowing Brownsville is ready to receive them. Not only would STEM careers be able to be pursued here, but a variety of other jobs would be available. SpaceX would cause great impact on our city. This impact is the kind of opportunity Brownsville has been in need of and waiting for. We can see the way our city is heading and revitalization of our city is needed. It's evidenced in

our downtown area and other suburban areas of our city. We need such things as SpaceX to come and provide economic growth and development to our city. It's proven in the reputation, because our city should be known for more than what it is already, because many of the people in Brownsville strive to become better and improve their way of life, improving it for our young ones. If a company of such caliber as SpaceX was established in our city, we could see a generation of engineers, technicians, scientists, businessmen and women, and even astronauts rising among the younger generations of Brownsville. Little children would have the greatest inspiration right in their backyards, because engineering is not only about being out in a big city or in another place where -- when we can bring it back home and be able to make this city grow and reach its full potential as a city. That's why me and my fellow classmates welcome SpaceX.

SPEAKER 54: Hello. My name is Edgar Tijerina, T-I-J-E-R-I-N-A. I'm a biology and environmental student. If I cite the program here, it says that the FAA prepared a biological assessment and has determined that the proposed action may affect, and is likely to adversely affect, at least several species. But my main concern is the ocelot. There's a lot of nonprofits that strive to protect the ocelot. And as a

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biology major in environmental science and studies, I am for the project, but SpaceX, I know they can do a lot more for mitigation. Let's not do the minimum. Let's do a lot more for the protection of our wildlife. Also, nature tourism in the Rio Grande Valley or delta brings a lot of dollars, fills up hotels, gas stations, and everything else that they mentioned that a launch would do. Again, since I'm a science major, space exploration and development is also science, so we have to balance things out. But my main concern, again, is to further enhance and increase the mitigation that is listed in the environmental impact statement. We can further increase environmental awareness of our species. And it's listed that its employees will be trained to identify ocelots and other endangered species and other species. I hope SpaceX and the FAA consider that and make a stronger mitigation section on this environmental impact statement. And why not? Maybe we can just change the name to an ocelot and the ocelot heavy. Thank you.

SPEAKER 55: Hello. My name is Patrick Dubourdieu, D-U-B-O-U-R-D-I-E-U. First of all, I support SpaceX. I think it would be very cool to look outside and see a rocket going into space. Well, I've been to football games and Nascar races, but I've never seen a rocket ship, and I would really like to, and I think it

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would be very cool and very awesome for me and my family to be outside looking. Well, thank you.

SPEAKER 56: Good evening. My name is Philitte Dubourdieu and I attend Brownsville Early College High School. My name is P-H-I-L-I-T-T-E D-U-B-O-U-R-D-I-E-U. And I am a true lover of Texas. I love my home with all my heart. And I truly believe don't mess with Texas. If my -- if one of my younger brothers dares throw a gum wrapper on the floor, I will chase him down and tackle him down until he picks it up and throws it in the proper place. I have heard of the environmental dangers of SpaceX coming to Brownsville, but I can see the greater good in that in bringing jobs, not just in the engineering field, but also in the construction beforehand. Basics -- okay. Excuse me. I have seen a lot of Mexican -- Mexican/Hispanics come up for safety reasons up to the Valley, most of them small business owners. However, all of them go up to -- most of them go up to upper Valley cities like McAllen and open small businesses there and create jobs there. It would be -- SpaceX being here would attract those small business owners and that would also create jobs here in Brownsville. Thank you very much. Have a good night.

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SPEAKER 57: 51. Good evening, everyone. My name is Mauricio Osecona. That is M-A-U-R-I-C-I-O

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O-S-E-C-O-N-A. As a high school student who is about to go to college, I find programs like SpaceX inspiring. Programs like this encourage students to continue studying science and engineering by promoting job opportunities. Thank you.

SPEAKER 58: Hello. My name is Gerardo Martinez, G-E-R-A-R-D-O. I was born and raised in Brownsville, Texas. I grew up in the southmost area. I still live in the southmost area. I went to public schools in that area. I attended Porter High School. I participated in the STEM program, which is a program sponsored by NASA. I was inspired by that experience to apply and get accepted to MIT. I attended MIT and graduated with an electrical engineering and computer science degree. I came back because I wanted to help my community. I have been lucky enough to work on both sides of the border at Matamoros. I was there for twelve years. I currently now am with a great company here in Brownsville. And I support SpaceX coming here for -- for all those reasons. As a student who was inspired, I think it will have a great impact. As a professional who has worked on both sides of the Border, I know the quality of engineering folks that are in this area. As a recruiter, current recruiter for MIT, every year, I get to interview the best students in the Valley, and I see the quality has

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been increasing every year. And as a member of the community, and a person wo cares for the community, I strongly support SpaceX coming here. I think they would be pleasantly surprised, not only by our natural resources which caught their eye, but also by our human resources. Thank you.

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SPEAKER 59: Good evening. I'm William Wade, W-I-L-L-I-A-M W-A-D-E. And I'm here to say that I sincerely support SpaceX. I think they're going to bring tremendous opportunity to this area. And I've been involved many years ago in manufacturing. If our schools and everybody works together, I know that if we have the facilities here, just for economic reasons alone, SpaceX will purchase things that they need right here in Brownsville because it's cheaper just economically for them. And we -- for the environment, I've heard some things about loss of habitat for wildlife. I think that's an opportunity. I want everybody to think positively about the opportunities that we have here. We have opportunities for additional training in schools, for protection of the environment. Technical -- if we have enough technology here, in fact, if we support it, SpaceX is going to take it all right here. So this opportunity is in our hands. We can make it happen. I support SpaceX and I want them to come here with all my heart, not only

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for my own personal interests, but for the benefit of Brownsville and all the people that live here. Thank you.

P-60

SPEAKER 60: Hello. My name is Esequiel "Zeke" Silva, E-S-E-Q-U-I-E-L S-I-L-V-A. I'm here on behalf of myself, obviously, and my two children, my boys that are here, as well. And I want to welcome SpaceX. I humbly thank them for choosing Brownsville, Texas as their site. Also, I want to thank Jason Hill and Gilbert Salinas from the BEDC and their staff for working hard to bringing this project, and hopefully, God willing, it becomes a reality real soon. I also want to say the fact that I'm also an owner of a trucking company here, born and raised here in Brownsville. Growing up -- my dad is also born and raised here in Brownsville and he worked all his adult life in the shrimp basin. And at the time, the shrimp basin -- the shrimping industry was a big force in our economy. And Union Carbide, as well. I remember growing up hearing all these controversial conversations of Union Carbide coming, and then I heard when it left, a lot of people complaining that it left. So you're always going to have people that don't know the future. And because we don't know, we're scared, and because we're scared, we doubt, and when we doubt, it's because we don't educate ourselves as to what it is that we're bringing into this community. In my heart, I know that SpaceX is

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not only going to bring a future for our children and my children and many children to come, but also as adults, existing adults right now, the ones that are providing for our children, the ones that are creating jobs, the ones that are trying to better our community. As an owner of a trucking company, every time an engine is built, a new engine, and we add new technology, new sensors, new fuel, everything is new, so you kind of freak out when you don't know the outcome of what's going to happen. But I'm more than sure that SpaceX wouldn't come down here if it was unsafe. And I know that they wouldn't build an engine to be on the road if it wasn't unsafe. The thing is, I need to adapt to new technology. But I also know that when we adapt, we learn, we educate. SpaceX is not only going to educate our children, but it's also going to bring a dream, a dream that most people in their lifetimes aren't going to be able to see. I want to be able to live that dream. I become a child when I see and I hear that these people want to come. Why? Because it's a dream of a child. Every child wants to dream about space. Everybody likes to lay down at night and tee the stars when the stars are out. What we don't see is actually people going up. Now, what they're going to bring is the future. And I want to welcome SpaceX. I want to thank everybody here that's supporting SpaceX. Why? Because you guys are

really bringing in something that is going to bring generations to come, not only wealth, but dreams. And dreams bring other dreams. So thank you, SpaceX. I welcome you.

SPEAKER 61: I think I was the first one here and I think I'm the last one to speak just about. My name is Rob Nixon. I'm with the Surfrider Foundation, South Texas Chapter. We're a nonprofit environmental and beach access group based in South Padre Island. Our major concern is the safety and health of our beaches and public access. We're naturally very skeptical about development on the beaches and what's actually going on. We try to promote sustainable development as much as possible. And we have been under pressure by some members to oppose the project. We have stayed neutral and we wanted to stay neutral to get all the facts. So at this point, you kind of consider everything. So we did have some concerns. And the first thing I did want to bring up was I'd like to thank Steve Davis for taking the time to meet with me and to talk to me on Saturday -- I assume it to be his day off. Maybe he works seven days a week -- and address our concerns point by point, something that we really cherish and we really applaud them for doing. Some of the stuff that we thought was missing from the EIS and we would like to see addressed in the final draft was fuel storage and

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exactly how it was going to be stored, what it was going to be stored in, what the processes were. I personally have a lot of experience with corrosion abatement and prevention on South Padre Island. And come to find out that a lot of processes and steel treatment and products they use for protection against corrosion may be effective in other Coastal areas, including Florida, but here, because of the high salinity in the Laguna Madre and South Bay, a lot of these products have a small fraction of the advertised life. I found out that the tanks that they're planning to use are stainless still, which is great. It's the best thing we've found around here for resisting corrosion. And we're happy to hear that. We would like to see that actually mentioned in the EIS just so it's out there. The second concern, of course, is public beach access. I think we're really one of the only organizations to testify at the HB 2623 hearing that Mr -- Representative Oliveira sponsored. We understand and we accept the fact that beaches have been to be closed for safety issues. It's common to have them closed down for high tides here, for rip currents, for swimmer safety, and no doubt, any other facility that has volatile fuels, it is also a safety concern, and we accept the beach closures. Our final concern was tropical cyclones and the location that SpaceX is actually going to be located in.

Tidal, flat, and wetland area, and surrounded by two natural washovers, and in the event of a tidal surge, we're concerned with the storage facilities and the fuel and possible contamination and breach of the concrete bowls that contain any leakage. It turns out that there are procedures that they have for this as far as fuel removal goes, and we'd like that also included in the EIS. Thank you very much. And thank you SpaceX for coming out and giving us this information.

P-62

SPEAKER 62: Good evening. I'm Nick Serafy, S-E-R-A-F-Y, Chairman of the Cameron County Space Port Development Corporation and also a member of the Board of the Brownsville Economic Development Corporation. And likewise, I'm a life-long resident of Brownsville and I'm excited about the potential that SpaceX brings to Brownsville and the region. I'm here today to express my strong support for this project. Cameron County Space Port Development Corporation unanimously passed a resolution today of support which will be entered into the record. Additionally, prior to these positions, I served several years as Chairman of Governor Perry's Texas Economic Development Corporation and was involved in projects like bringing Toyota to San Antonio, Caterpillar to Waco and to Seguin, expansion of Rack Space, expansion of Samsung. All of those were great projects for Texas.

I have not -- through all of those experiences, I've never seen anything like SpaceX. It's a great project for Texas and it's a great project for Brownsville and I strongly support it. Thank you.

P-63

SPEAKER 63: Good evening. My name is Fernando Ruiz. I am an advocate of good government. I have seen in the past years the arrogance and the disrespect politicians in all levels of government, from state representatives to senators to governors to mayors to county judges and commissioners. It is a shame that you're here after the fact. Nancy Gardner wrote a book by the name of Bossism in South Texas. It continues to be so. The politicians after you get them elected, they don't even want to know anything about you. They don't give you the time of day. They'll give you three minutes at a public forum and they're waiting for you just to shut up and get the hell out of there. But they listen to all these people that are coming from California. Have you ever questioned why SpaceX is leaving California? Find out. There has to be a reason. I'm not for or against it, because as a political advocate, I place this in your hands. I want to inform you that this is political malfeasance and political corruption at its best. We have county employees and county commissioners that have already been -- and I promise it's true -- they've already

been to Cape Canaveral. It costs money to go to Cape Canaveral. Our these politicians being bought by SpaceX? We have Mr. Salinas giving money from 4B, I guess, or from 4A to SpaceX. I went on to the Internet and they have given them millions of dollars. But what gets me the most is they have not taken you into consideration at first. You have to ask the constituency, what do they want to do, not what the politicians and the SpaceX personnel and all these young people that they bring with these tee shirts. They're supposed to inform the public and let them know what they want to do and then place the item on referendum, so that we, the government, we are the government, we the people, can vote on it. They have already made arrangements. They have already passed it in the House. And you're here at the tail of a dog. This is when they tend to you, if they want to, because they have to now. But you need to sharpen your pencils and your minds and get on the ball, because there's a lot of things going on that you need to know. And I'm very -- it gives me great pleasure that this place was full. I wish I would see this all the time. But do you know what? People don't care anymore, because they lie to them. This is what I allege of the politicians. They're completely out of line. Good luck.

SPEAKER 64: My name is Denise Saenz

P-64

Blanchard, D-E-N-I-S-E S-A-E-N-Z B-L-A-N-C-H-A-R-D. I'm coming to speak -- I was not intending to speak, but I couldn't hold back any further. I'm coming to you as a citizen and I'm imploring upon our Federal agencies to do everything possible to overcome and mitigate, through mitigation, some of the effects that could prohibit having a space port in South Texas. Why is this important? I had the distinct opportunity back in 1994 to work on the X 33 project. It was a project that was funded by NASA at around $200,000, almost $300,000, and Lockheed Martin. And it was at that time that I realized how important trying to build the next reusable launch vehicle was. Because basically, this is a national issue. Tonight, we've heard a lot about how it's going to affect Brownsville and our students and that's wonderful. But I want -- and I want our agencies to realize that this is not only a local and a State issue, but it really is a national issue. Because the United States of America used to be the leaders in space exploration and we lost that edge. Why? Because it became too costly to launch. And it was our Federal Government that was doing all the launches for satellites, along with Federal missions, the national missions. And they knew that the space -- that the Challengers and our shuttles only had a life span. As you know, we just retired the Challenger. And during that

time, during Nixon, they were supposed to have been building the next reusable launch vehicle, so that we could eventually reduce the amount of pay -- the price per payload. Because it costs about $10,000 per pound per payload for the U.S. Government to take Motorola satellites up and so forth. So anyway, what I'm saying is that this has been a national issue. And at that time, when they were looking for the next space port site, I was reminded of the Orville Wright brothers when they first were flying off in airplanes and they had this tin can and people thought they were crazy, look how we fly today, Larry. Look how we fly with airports. The future is going to be space ports. And when we perfect these reusable launch vehicles. We will then need the space ports. And why is it important for our area? We already now California has launch sites, Florida has launch sites, but when you have incremental bad weather, you need to have alternative sites. And Texas, Brownsville, Texas, is closer to the equator, which reduces the cost of the payload. There's no better site for any launch vehicle company to come other than Brownsville, Texas. And I ask and implore all of our Federal agencies to work hard together to mitigate those elements that may prohibit a launch site in Brownsville, Texas. We have the best place and the best site. Thank you.

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P-65

SPEAKER 65: Hello, everybody. I'm Alejandro Castro, A-L-E-J-A-N-D-R-O C-A-S-T-R-O. I'm the Senior Patrol Leader for Boy Scouts of America Troop 6 located here in Brownsville, Texas. And recently, our troop has received a lot of the younger scouts, basically, our younger generation, right? And they all range from the ages of 11 to 13. And right now, I'm for the project, because with this, our younger generation can experience something of a lifetime. It's local. It's practically in our backyard. And basically, they can go see a launch. And of course, every kid dreams about seeing something go up in space. Over this past summer, me and a group of boys, the older Scouts, we took a trip to Puerto Rico to go see the Arecibo telescope. And I'm telling you guys, they enjoyed the experience. It was an experience of a lifetime. And now with the launch site being local, we won't have to spend money or travel anywhere past our city limits. Again, it's going to be right there on Boca Chica Beach. It's local. It's close. It would be better for us. Plus, of course, this will educate our new generation of Scouts, not just coming into my troop, but Scouts all over the Valley. Because I noticed there's a big difference in the last few years. Scouts have been taking a bigger interest in aeronautics, technology, and space itself. And our course, in the Scouts we do have merit

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badges that have to do with aeronautics, technology, and space. And I believe it is good for SpaceX to be coming to Brownsville, not just for the youth, but also for Brownsville itself, because I was born and raised here for 16 years and I love this city, and with this, it will bring a bright future for Brownsville, Texas.

P-66

SPEAKER 66: Good evening. My name is Larry Brown. I serve the citizens of this community as the Director of Aviation at the Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport. On a clear day with the Texas clear sky, you can stand in the control tower at the Brownsville airport and you can see the condominiums on South Padre Island. We trust that in the future, you will be able to look a little bit south of that from the air traffic control tower and see the tip of a rocket posed on the launch to launch a payload from Brownsville to Mars. The community here in the Brownsville area are a community of firsts. Charles Lindbergh flew the first international airmail all the way from Mexico City through Brownsville to New York City. Amelia Earhart borrowed the airport manager's plane and got her prive pilot's license here. We also trust that we will be one of the first places that you will be able to see that first payload going to Mars, potentially, with people in it. We also noted that in Chapter 11, Appendix 2, of the EIS draft, there is no

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mention of any negative impact on the approaches to Brownsville -- that's the Brownsville airport -- and we are pleased about that. We also welcome the people that will come to our airport and our community to assist SpaceX in their efforts. We believe that the air traffic control tower at Brownsville will be an important, integral part of the safety management system for SpaceX, particularly with regard to Class D and E air space. We will be looking over the TFRs as appropriate to SpaceX launches and we welcome the opportunity to do so, especially since you will be able to see the rocket on the launch pad from the air traffic control tower. What we simply ask is that you consider flying Brownsville, as well as launching Brownsville. Thank you.

SPEAKER 67: My name is Brad Burkes, B-U-R-K-E-S. I'm the pastor at Embassy of the Spirit Bilingual Church, and also Faith Church, and also the chaplain for the city government here in Brownsville. Many of us have been praying for the economy of our -- not only our nation, but especially, Brownsville. We see an opportunity here. Some people, if you hand them a bucket full of gold, they'll complain that the bucket isn't shiny enough. You can find problems with anything you're looking for a problem in. But let's thank God for the opportunities and pray that any problems will be

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mitigated. SpaceX, we welcome you, we pray for you. FAA, we welcome and pray for you, as well. May God's will be done in Brownsville, Texas. Thank you.

(This concludes the public statement portion of the public hearing.)

THE STATE OF TEXAS)
COUNTY OF CAMERON)

I, SINDY SANDERS, court-approved transcriber, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcription of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter, transcribed to the best of my ability;

I further certify that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was taken, and further, that I am not financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action;

I further certify that the transcription fee of $_____ was paid/will be paid in full by _____.

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1001 Rio Grande, Suite 443
Austin, Texas 78701

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Linda Jauregui <lindaaj25@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 6:29 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.

To whom it may concern, I am Yessica Aguilar from Brownsville's Homer Hanna High school. i would like to give my opinion on the probability of having the new space centerhere in Brownville. i deeply agree in giving Brownsville the priviledge of obtaining this new project since it would become a new tourist benefit fot the city and allow more employement for the residents of Brownsville.
Thank youfor your time,
Yessica Aguilar

1

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas. Growing up in this city, and watching it grow over the past few years. I know that we are ready to support such a grand project such as SpaceX. This would be the beneficial both. We are in the best location, and Brownsville will benefit immensely by the SpaceX program. At the moment Brownsville is considered the number one city in poverty in the US. Having the SpaceX program here would allow Bronwsvillians to obtain employment that would total up to $1 Million in annual payroll. This will also allow us to accommodate visitors coming to watch the launches on monthly basis. Our city is small compared to others. We are filled with cultures and festivities that not many individuals know. Being that we are in a great location. We are seconds away from Mexico, minutes away from a beautiful island and beaches. We also have great shopping areas. Brownsville has been waiting for a opportunity like this. And we have never been so ready like we are now. I am sure that I am not alone in saying that we are honored to be a candidate in this major decision. I am sure that you will make the right decision in choosing Brownsville for the SpaceX project.

Sincerely,

Juan Alvarez
24/7 Customer Service Representative
1723 Carthage Ct. Brownsville, TX 78520
956-372-0616
Alvarez3573@gmail.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Tiffany Araujo <tiffy_10_@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 7:18 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Space X

Greetings,
My name is Tiffany Araujo. I am currently a student at Hanna High School in Brownsville, TX. My purpose of writing to you is in reference to building the Launch Pad here in our hometown. In my opinion, I would say it is a great idea because this will give more jobs to people. Due to Brownsville being known for nothing much but the Gladys Porter Zoo, it will at least have more tourists and visitors motivated to come to Brownsville. The future generations will have something to look forward to when they're older. They can expand their knowledge on Astronomy. Mostly, since I am currently taking an Astronomy class, it will serve as a chance for Astronomy club members to take field trips to this place. So, I would agree on the authorities to give you permission on constructing this Launch Pad here in Brownsville, TX. Thank You.
Sincerely,
Tiffany Araujo

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Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

Please Note: Written comments become part of the administrative record associated with this Proposed Action. Individual citizens may request that their name and/or home address be withheld from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or home address withheld, you must check the box(es) below. Please note that contact information for individuals or officials representing organizations and businesses may be disclosed.

- ☐ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: David Belleperche Date: 5/7/13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 701-3 Continental Dr.

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TX, 78520

Public Hearing Comment Form

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SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I was one of the members of the community that attended the first meeting of the FAA & SpaceX in Brownsville a year ago. I was for Space X coming to South Texas when I first learned about it last year. I recieved the Draft EIS a ~~ag~~ week ago. After I read and reviewed the Draft EIS, I will say that I am still for bringing Space X to Cameron County. As we know there will be very little impact to the enviroment. If anything it will allow Boca Chica Beach to remain untouched. The beach now is no where close to being in its "Natural State." People drive, campout, litter and so on at the beach. SpaceX will preserve the natural ability of the area, and it will allow this country to join the space race again. I fully support what Space X is trying to bring to Brownsville. We as a community need this, our economy, job ~~growth~~ growth, and overall well being need this. Please allow the FAA to award Space X with the permit for space exploration. I will do all I can to bring them Here

Thank You,

[signature]

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Aldo Benavides <Aldo.Benavides108@utb.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 11:07 AM
To: aeortiz@bisd.us; Johnson, Jaclyn M.

Hello, my name is Aldo Benavides. I attend Hanna High School. I'd like to let you guys know that I am fully behind you guys building Space X in Boca Chica Beach here in beautiful Brownsville, Texas.

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Gabi Benson <gabiclaretbenson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 12:30 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Space X

Hello, I am Gabrielle Benson from Homer Hanna High School. I support the building of the Space X launch pad on Boca Chica Beach. The launch pad would publicize Brownsville as well as attract people when something would be launched. Bringing economic wealth and job opportunities are also crucial reasons of why I support this proposal.

Thank you, Gabrielle Benson

1

P-75

PORTAGE PLASTICS CORPORATION

May 6, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS, c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, TX

Dear Ms. Zee,

I am writing to express my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation to build a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, TX.

There are many outstanding benefits for the Brownsville community and for the State of Texas.

I base these comments on the fact that the SpaceX project would add 600 direct jobs, with wages exceeding $55,000 per job. This sum would total $51 million in annual payroll. Additionally, there would be 400 indirect, induced jobs, totaling $71 million in annual payroll. The majority of this employment would be from the Brownsville region.

In addition, space launches would, in fact, attract thousands of visitors each year, adding supplemental job opportunities and needed income support for this important development region.

Sincerely,

David S. Bernard
President

3000 Boeck Road • P.O. Box 640 • Portage, WI 53901-0640
Phone 608-745-1400 • Fax 608-742-8809
1900 Billy Mitchell Blvd., Building C, Suite B, Brownsville, TX 78521
Phone 956-504-6102 • Fax 956-504-6104
Website: www.portageplastics.com • Email: thermoform@portageplastics.com

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☐ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Reginald & Sylvia Berry Date: 5/7/13
Organization/Affiliation: Frontier Anesthesia
Address: 65 Lake Shore Dr.
City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TX 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

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SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

May 7, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

This letter is submitted in response to the May 7, 2013, Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the FAA/AST proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (Space X). I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Space X's proposal to launch from a site in Cameron County, Texas.

Locating the proposed launch facility on the Boca Chica Beach site off of Highway 4 would be an ideal location because of its close proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and because the land that Space X will need remains undeveloped today. I am confident that Space X will conduct its operations in a mutually beneficial and cooperative manner with respect to the environment, local residents, beachgoers, and the community as a whole. Just as they have in other areas, Space X's experience operating complex launches in and around wildlife refuges and other environmentally protected areas can lead to an eco-friendly facility for wildlife and natural habitat.

The proposed project will be an asset to the entire South Texas region. It will inspire our local school children to reach for the stars and focus more than ever on critical science, technology, engineering and math studies. It could also create opportunities for programs and degrees as well as research facilities at our local institutions of higher learning here in the Rio Grande Valley. The Space X project will create high-paying job opportunities for local residents and stimulate other indirect jobs. In addition, the tourism potential a project of this magnitude can bring to the region is immeasurable.

I am in full support of the project and am delighted that this commercial company is strongly considering Cameron County.

Sincerest regards,

Blanca C. Betancourt

Blanca C. Betancourt

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Jorge Blanco <jorge_blanco_07@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 7:51 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us

Hello,

I am a senior t at Hanna High School and I am writing to tell you that I support the building of SpaceX in Brownsville because it'll boost up the economy and it'll open up jobs to those who need them the most.

Thank You,
Jorge Blanco

1

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☑ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Glafira G Braga Date: 5/20/13
Organization/Affiliation: LFCISD - Liberty Memorial MS
Address: P.O. Box 309
City, State, Zip Code: Los Fresnos, TX 78566

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I totally support this SpaceX's proposal to have a launch site at Boca Chica Beach. This would be a great opportunity for our students.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

For Brownsville to have the following added to our resume would be outstanding:

- Would be first private launch site in the world
- 600 direct jobs
- Wages exceeding $55,000 per job
- $51 million in annual payroll
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- TSC could cater programs for industry
- Project considered a community changer
- Change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County
- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Andrew Brown
TITLE Insurance Servicing Agent
ADDRESS 3776 Boca Chica Blvd
PHONE NUMBER 210-964-4188
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Brownsville Economic Development Council
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FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
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Sincerely,

NAME Kara Brown
TITLE CSR
ADDRESS 400 Santa Ana Ave, Rancho Viejo TX 78575
PHONE NUMBER 956-554-8421
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) Karascuba007@yahoo.com

CompetitiveReady

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Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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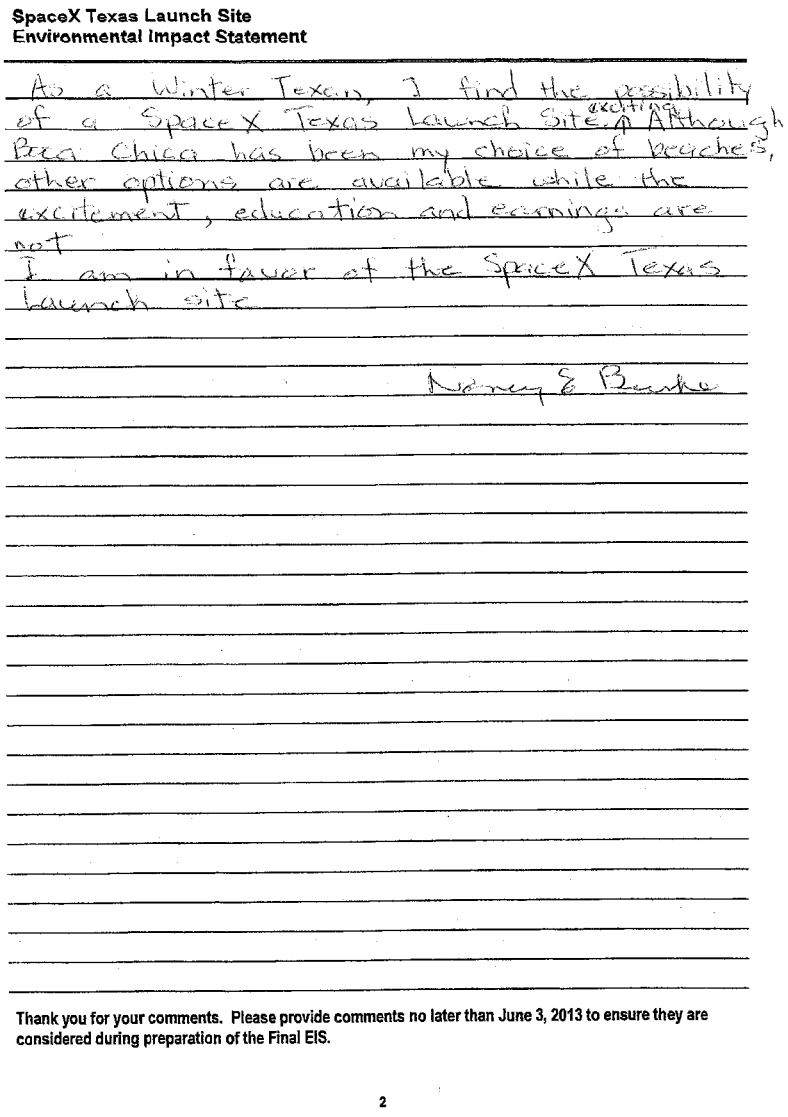
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Nancy E. Burke Date: 5-30-2013
Organization/Affiliation:
Address: 31205 Moceri Circle
City, State, Zip Code: Warren MI 48088

Public Hearing Comment Form

1



SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

As a Winter Texan, I find the possibility of a SpaceX Texas Launch Site exciting. Although Boca Chica has been my choice of beaches, other options are available while the excitement, education and earnings are not.
I am in favor of the SpaceX Texas launch site.

Nancy E Burke

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-82

Name: John Paul C.
Comment: This story is truly inspiring; it will not only give so many individuals jobs but also give individuals a chance to live their dreams here in the RGV. My name is John Paul Cantu and I am currently attending The University of Texas-Pan American for a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering. As a young boy I always dreamed of something truly amazing like this and now that the Rio Grande Valley is given the opportunity we should definitely consider it. We should not make this about Space X but more about the community. This will benefit the RGV in so many ways, it will give so many kids the encouragement they need to try and pursue a degree in Engineering and many other degrees.
When they see the rocket launch into space, they will know that "the only limit is the one you set yourself". It's not about Space X, it's about giving so many individuals the opportunity to pursue their dream here in RGV.
Date Received: 6/7/2013

P-83

Name: Carlotta
Comment: So, I can help this happen and tell people about what a wonderful project this is!
Date Received: 08/03/2013, 2:06:16 PM EDT

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Aileen Carrizales <aileen.carrizales@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 11:07 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Launch Pad

Hello, my name is Aileen Carrizales and I am currently a Senior from Homer Hanna High School. I wanted to share my opinion about your decision in placing a launch pad down here in Brownsville, Texas; I strongly agree for that to happen. I think it's an extraordinary idea because that will mean that there will be more people with job opportunities down here. It will also attract people from other cities or countries to tour around the launch pad. This will also most likely bring the attention to students about Science and space.

Sincerely,
Aileen Carrizales

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: David Castillo <davidcastillo957@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:16 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Support for space X

Hello my name is David Castillo i am currently a senior at hanna high school and i will soon be going to college to study mechanical engineering and i think space x coming to brownsville would be an excellent idea.

I believe that space x would help stimulate the economy of my town as well as advance technology as a whole. I also think space X moving to brownsville texas would help create an amazing amount of jobs as well as attract educated engineers to this town and help improve the town itself and not just the economy

1

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

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- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Karina Cepeda
TITLE Human Resources Manager
ADDRESS 2020 Windsor Place, Brownsville, TX 78520
PHONE NUMBER 956-459-4863
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) karinacepeda@hotmail.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Rosemary Cervantes Leal Date: 5/20/13

Organization/Affiliation: LFCISD

Address: 2933 Old Spanish Trail

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, Tx 78520

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I fully support this project.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

April 30, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

Use some of the following talking points in your letter:

- Would be first private launch site in the world
- 600 direct jobs
- Wages exceeding $55,000 per job
- $51 million in annual payroll
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- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

Miguel Chapa
Associate Vice President of Merchant Services
2216 S Oklahoma Ave
Brownsville TX, 78521
956-579-8293
Mikech81@gmail.com

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

CompetitiveReady

June 10, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to express my full support of Space Exploration Technologies Corporation in the construction of a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville Texas.

Below are some of my reasons supporting SpaceX Project for Brownsville Texas:

- Would be first private launch site in the world
- 600 direct jobs
- Wages exceeding $55,000 per job
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- 400 additional indirect, induced jobs
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- Each launch attracts 40-60 engineers, technicians and scientists, stay for 30 days
- Constant flow of suppliers traveling to Brownsville to do business with SpaceX
- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry
- No significant impact to wetlands
- No significant impact to wildlife in the area
- Cape Canaveral sits in middle of wetlands and have successfully launched for decades
- SpaceX already has experience in mitigating risks to sea turtles and piping plovers at Cape Canaveral
- SpaceX will help clean Boca Chica Beach
- Brownsville is a very environmental protection oriented city
- Brownsville and Space Exploration Technologies Corporation will work together to protect our environment
- Change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

Rodolfo Chapa
General Manager
3401 Nelta Parkway,
Brownsville, TX 78526
Phone Number (956) 532 0800
RChapa@nelatod.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Ana Chaparro <cecicp22@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 7:13 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Ana Chaparro

Hi, I believe its a great idea having the SpaceX here in Brownsville. This would attract many people and therefore Brownsville economy might increase. Also, Brownsville needs new attractions that will make the people from the community more educated on things like space exploration.

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: abigail chavez <abby_superstar_97@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 11:35 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Launch Pad

Good afternoon,
I am writing you this email to express my excitement and gratitude towards your organization! I support your plans to develop a space ex launch pad on our beach, because I believe it is going to increase tourism and put Brownsville on the map! I know you'll love our city, and I'm anxious to see your project come to life.
Sincerely,
Abigail Chavez

Sent from my iPhone

1

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

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Sincerely,
Rosie Chavez
NAME Rosie Chavez
TITLE CSR
ADDRESS 1712 Tanglewood - Brownsville, TX 78521
PHONE NUMBER 956-548-1397
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Cuteclarissa0209@aol.com
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 12:31 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Space X

To whom it may concern:
Hello, my name is Clarissa and I am a senior at Hanna High School.
In my opinion, I think Space X moving to the valley is a great idea. Not only would we have job opportunities, but working with science experiments will help us gain more knowledge as to why Earth, the solar system,and universe work the way we do. We will also understand a new depth of unanswered questions having to do with our planet we live in. Having NASA so close to us will have a great impact on Brownsville and we will be recognized with the new technology which will lead society to expand in the life of science.
Sincerely,
Clarissa

1

P-94

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Bertha Cowa Date: 5-7-13

Organization/Affiliation: IBC Bank

Address: 438 Woodhaven

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville TX 78521

P-94

I support SpaceX coming to Brownsville. Beneficial to our economy. Beneficial for our STEM Program & Economical growth.

Support it 100%

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

May 6, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

Living in a community to have the first private launch site in the world, with 600 direct jobs, and 400 additional indirect jobs is what this community needs to insure a better future our children.

The opportunity for our children and grandchildren to have educational programs that will cater to industry is huge.

I support the initiative of Space X and hope their home is here in Brownsville.

Sincerely,

Tobin

1217 Pals Blancos Drive
Laguna Vista TX 78578
956-433-9918

P-96

Name: German Cordova
Comment: To whom it may concern,
My name is German Cordova and I am a student of Hanna High School writing on behalf of the building of a Space X launch pad in Brownsville, Texas. The area of interest for Brownsville is a small patch of land out near a beach that is not very populated. One concern people may have is the effect that the launch pad may have on the environment. Other similar launch pads such as that in Florida has shown a more positive effect on the environment rather than a negative effect. The greatest aspect of building the launch pad in Brownsville is the close proximity to the Arecibo Remote Command Center (ARCC) at the University at Texas at Brownsville which can, in essence, create a joint partnership to aid in research in the fields of astronomy and physics.
Date Received: 5/24/2013

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Lauren Cross <rhlc26@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:09 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.

I support having a launch pad in Boca Chica because it will bring more job opportunities to the Rio Grande Valley and hopefully better our economy. It will bring more tourism to Brownsville and we will have more government attention. We are also on the water therefore it's near a water source for the launch pad. We are also located near a port for availability for any parts needed.

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Adela crum <scotyleon1219@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 12:43 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: The Support for the building of Space X

Dear SpaceX,
My name is Scot Louis Crum and I am a high school senior at Homer Hanna High School in Brownsville, Texas. I am writing this email to you to help the support for the building of SpaceX here near the Brownsville area. I believe that if SpaceX is built here it would help tremendously in many aspect for the community of Brownsville, such as the economic aspect and also the educational aspects. With the building of SpaceX here in Brownsville it would most likely help develop a new type of educational program at the college in the area, University of Texas at Brownsville. All in all I support the building SpaceX here near Brownsville, Texas, because it would help expand the name of Brownsville and also help in the economical and educational aspects in the city as well.

Sent from my iPhone

1

P-100

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

April 30, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

- Would be first private launch site in the world
- 600 direct jobs
- Wages exceeding $55,000 per job
- $51 million in annual payroll
- 400 additional indirect, induced jobs
- Total of $71 million in annual payroll
- Majority of employment from the region
- Create new skill set for aerospace, aviation
- 12 launches per year
  - 10 launches of the Falcon 9
  - 2 launches of the Falcon Heavy
- Launches could attract thousands of visitors, per monthly launch
- $1 million economic impact per launch for area
- Each launch attracts 40-60 engineers, technicians and scientists, stay for 30 days
- Constant flow of suppliers traveling to Brownsville to do business with SpaceX
- No wetlands in immediate area
- Cape Canaveral sits in middle of wetlands and have successfully launched for decades
- SpaceX already mitigating risks to sea turtles and piping plovers at Cape Canaveral
- Falls within the STEM program of Brownsville ISD
- Opportunities for aerospace magnet program
- Opportunities for partnerships with local private schools
- UTB's Gravitational Wave Astronomy supplement SpaceX's efforts
- Opportunity to create aerospace pipeline of interns, employees
- TSC could cater programs for industry
- Project considered a community changer
- Change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County
- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

Ashley F. Dartt
IT Admin II
301 Mexico Blvd Suite H4-A
956-982-7013
adartt@thesba.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☐ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: JUAN DE LA GARZA Date: 7 MAY 2013

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 402 E. 7TH STREET

City, State, Zip Code: LOS FRESNOS, TX 78566

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-100

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I WELCOME SPACE X TO CAMERON COUNTY.
PRIME LOCATION FOR NUMEROUS REASONS:
-1. ECONOMICAL BOOST TO REGION
-2. TOURISM BOOST TO AREA
-3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF LOCAL WILDLIFE AND LAND.
-4. HIKE IN LOCAL AREA JOBS
-5. MAINTAIN FAMILY INTEGRITY IN KEEPING OUR EDUCATED YOUTH HERE WITH FAMILY.
-MOST ADVANTAGED FOR MISSIONS BECAUSE OF TRAJECTORY WOULD ALLOW FASTER INSERTION TO LOW EARTH ORBIT, WITH LESS FUEL AND TRAJECTORY, BE ABLE TO SEND MORE PAYLOAD UP WITH EACH LAUNCH.
-NOISE WOULD BE MINIMAL; WOULD NOT HAVE PERMANENT EFFECTS OF LOCAL WILDLIFE.
-BEACH CLOSING WOULD BE MINIMAL NOT PERMANENT
-WE WOULD BE AMERICAS FIRST CIVILIAN SPACEPORT.
-WELCOME TO MY FAMILY AREA MR. ELON MUSK / SPACE X.
-THEY DO DESERVE TO HAVE THEIR LICENSE ISSUED.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: vicdls5 <vicdls5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2013 12:03 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: SpaceX

Hi, I am Victor De los Santos, a student from Hanna High School in Brownsville, Texas. I am writing to show my support towards the SpaceX launch site being built on Boca Chica Beach. I believe that the building of SpaceX will finally give the city of Brownsville and surrounding towns something to be proud of, and at the same time increase tourism and give us something new to look forward to every once in a while when launces occur.

Thank you,
Victor De los Santos

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Stacey.Zee@faa.gov
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2013 2:52 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Fw: I approved it: Public Comment Period - Draft EIS for the SpaceX Texas Launch Site has been extended until June 24, 2013

---- Forwarded by Stacey Zee/AWA/FAA on 06/03/2013 02:51 PM ----
From: G Deetan <[illegible]>
To: Stacey Zee/AWA/FAA@FAA
Date: 06/03/2013 02:43 PM
Subject: I approved it: Public Comment Period - Draft EIS for the SpaceX Texas Launch Site has been extended until June 24, 2013

Dear Stacey

I approved of it so we can catch up with the space Regulation [illegible]
if we keep on saying [illegible] -- we will be left behind by
China Russia and others
thats what I think and my opinion

[illegible]

[illegible]

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Stacey.Zee@faa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 8:42 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Fw: Communist China is Moving Fast & Furious Forward to SPACE

---- Forwarded by Stacey Zee/AWA/FAA on 06/04/2013 08:38 AM ----
From: G Deetan <[illegible]>
To: Stacey Zee/AWA/FAA@FAA
Date: 06/03/2013 08:33 PM
Subject: Communist China is Moving Fast & Furious Forward to SPACE

Shenzhou X spacecraft gets set to blast off on two-week trip
Three Chinese astronauts will blast off in the Shenzhou X spacecraft
this month for a two-week mission to make final preparations for the
construction of a space laboratory next year.

USA need to Catch Up in a Hurry
No more time wasted

Yes to Space Development

May 7, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

This letter is submitted in response to the May 7, 2013, Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the FAA/AST proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (Space X). I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Space X's proposal to launch from a site in Cameron County, Texas.

Locating the proposed launch facility on the Boca Chica Beach site off of Highway 4 would be an ideal location because of its close proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and because the land that Space X will need remains undeveloped today. I am confident that Space X will conduct its operations in a mutually beneficial and cooperative manner with respect to the environment, local residents, beachgoers, and the community as a whole. Just as they have in other areas, Space X's experience operating complex launches in and around wildlife refuges and other environmentally protected areas can lead to an eco-friendly facility for wildlife and natural habitat.

The proposed project will be an asset to the entire South Texas region. It will inspire our local school children to reach for the stars and focus more than ever on critical science, technology, engineering and math studies. It could also create opportunities for programs and degrees as well as research facilities at our local institutions of higher learning here in the Rio Grande Valley. The Space X project will create high-paying job opportunities for local residents and stimulate other indirect jobs. In addition, the tourism potential a project of this magnitude can bring to the region is immeasurable.

I am in full support of the project and am delighted that this commercial company is strongly considering Cameron County.

Sincerest regards,

Sylvia DeHoyos

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Catherine Diaz <cattdiazz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 9:34 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: SpaceX Project

To who it may concern,
My name is Catherine Diaz and I am a senior at Homer Hanna High School. I am contacting you to give my full support on the new SpaceX project in Brownsville, TX. This project will benefit tourism in Brownsville and produce new job opportunities, while making a minimal impact on the environment. I am very excited about this project and I look forward to its success!
Thank you for your time,
Catherine Diaz

P-106

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☐ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Patrick Dubourdieu Date: 5-7-13

Organization/Affiliation: Brownsville resident

Address: 173 west FM 802

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, Texas 78520

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-106

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

Hi, I am 12 years old. And I believe that it will be awsome to have Space-X here. I would imagine launching a rocket and me watching amazed. It would feel like my first nascar race. Or first Football game. All the noise & excitement. I also think it can increase Brownsville popularity. okay Thats all.

Patrick

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-107

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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   Federal Aviation Administration
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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Philippe Dubourdieu Date: 5/7/13
Organization/Affiliation: Brownsville Resident
Address: 173 W. FM 802
City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, Texas 78520

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-107

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

AS a 15 year old Brownsville Resident, I am very aware of the issues our country and communities are facing. If SpaceX where to come to our Small community, jobs will be in high demand. Not just to man the spacestation, but its construction too.
The problems with Security that Mexico is facing is causing ~~THAT~~ immigration from wealthy mexican families to the Valley. That is great for they bring along there businesses creating jobs, however most of them are moving to upper valley cities like McAllen. Brownsville, if home to SpaceX, will be a magnet to entrepreneurs to our lower valley. These are the reasons that make me overlook enviormental issues and I am one who lives by the phrase "Dont mess with Texas!" SpaceX would put Brownsville on the map and bring in Tourism.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-108

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Zachary Edelstein Date: May 7

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 103 E price

City, State, Zip Code: brownsville TX

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-108

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

my name is zachary Edelsi
and im 8 years old and
I want to be a space enjin
and help bild ~~wra~~ rocketsan
make sure to help pepel get
into space and lanch a rocket
one day.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

April 30, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

Use some of the following talking points in your letter:

- Would be first private launch site in the world
- 600 direct jobs
- Wages exceeding $55,000 per job
- $51 million in annual payroll
- 400 additional indirect, induced jobs
- Total of $71 million in annual payroll
- Majority of employment from the region
- Create new skill set for aerospace, aviation
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  - 10 launches of the Falcon 9
  - 2 launches of the Falcon Heavy
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- Cape Canaveral sits in middle of wetlands and have successfully launched for decades
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- Falls within the STEM program of Brownsville ISD
- Opportunities for aerospace magnet program
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- Opportunity to create aerospace pipeline of interns, employees
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- Project considered a community changer
- Change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County
- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Gilberto Elizondo
TITLE Sr VP- HR
ADDRESS 20,000 So. Hwy. 48 Brownsville, TX 78523
PHONE NUMBER 956. 831. 8220
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

CompetitiveReady

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
257 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville Texas…

My understanding is that SpaceX will create 600 jobs, with wages exceeding $55,000 per job plus an additional 400 indirect induced jobs. With the separation between Texas Southmost College and the University of Texas at Brownsville, this is a great opportunity for the college to cater programs for industry. For the university, it is an opportunity for the existing Gravitational Wave Astronomy program. SpaceX is within the scope of the STEM program of Brownsville ISD.

With monthly launches, I see SpaceX increasing Brownsville's tourism. This will change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County as we know it.

For these and many more reasons, I support SpaceX.

Sincerely,

Martha P. Espinoza – Gonzales
Mpespinoza68@yahoo.com

P-111

Name: Raymond Everitt
Comment: I like to say that I do support this project. This city really needs something big and challenging like this to make everyone who lives here have something to hope for when it comes down to what I feel is the hidden potential within this city and region. To be able to see that there is more opportunities here in Brownsville, Texas. That is a goal that we must always pursuit. However, I do love this city and it's environment and I will like to express myself about the projected impacts stated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
In this EIS for SpaceX there is no mention of any contingency provisions to conduct future studies on the projected impacts and the utilization of those studies to monitor and verify the materialization of the projected impacts already studied by Cardno TEC, Inc. Internal consultation between many government agencies are currently reviewing the impacts and will address them when the Final EIS is released. I do hope they do provide some insight into farther abatement and possible additional partnerships with the local University. My idea is that the Stargate project that SpaceX and the Physic Department of the University of Texas at Brownsville created at the first Public Hearing can inspire a similar project with other departments within the university system. These departments can aid in researching and studying the adverse affects that will happen over time and thus enhance mitigation efforts. All at the same time educating and exposing local students to future careers in multiple disciplines that deal with permitting, administering, documenting, regulating, testing, inspecting, and researching. Thank you for taking the time reading my comments. I do hope SpaceX does come down here. The city will grow because of it.
Date Received: 6/2/2013

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: David Eymard <deymard@valleylubricants.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:18 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M
Subject: SpaceX EIS Public Comment

Federal Aviation Administration

RE: SpaceX EIS Public Comment

After having attended the public hearing conducted on 7 May 2013 and subsequently studying details of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, I wish to express my support for the proposed SpaceX Texas Launch Site and conclude that the proposed mitigation and alternatives adequately address the environmental concerns outlined in the Draft EIS.

Being a lifelong resident of the Lower Laguna Madre area and having spent a great deal of time in the area in and around the proposed launch site, I firmly believe that the proposed activities at, and construction of the site will have no significant environmental impact to the area. As I have come to understand, from study of similar activities associated with the NASA launch site at Cape Canaveral, FL, the proposed activities and construction would likely have less long term impact than the ever increasing impact by an increasing local population and their increasing recreational use of the area. The wildlife species noted in the Draft EIS, would, in my opinion, suffer little or no detrimental impact from the proposed activities and likely be better protected from general population impacts which would likely be more severe in their effects.

Regarding wetlands impact, there appears to be little significant impact due to the relatively small amount of actual wetland acreage impacted. Once again, in my opinion, the proposed activity would be more desirable that the potential impact of more conventional commercial and/or residential activity. In effect, the launch site would become a protected area and a barrier to lessen other less desirable impacts on the area.

Finally, in regards to cultural and historical resources in the area, I believe that the minimal impacts exposed in the Draft EIS have all been adequately addressed.

In conclusion, I wish to express my support for granting SpaceX all licenses and permits required for activities and construction of their Texas Launch Site.

Sincerely,

David Eymard

204 W. Sunset
South Padre Island, TX 78597

Office: 956 831 4123
Cell: 956 459 8203
email: deymard@valleylubricants.com

P-113

Name: Fisher
Comment: This is for the purpose of expressing my total and complete opposition to the Brownsville Space X Project....I believe the environment must remain untouched forever.....We have very few areas that remain unpoluted or ruined...All good intentions expressed to avoid damage to our beaches and surrounding areas CANNOT be met....Once you disturb plants and other living things, no one can restore them to their original condition, no matter what...It has happened many many times somewhere else.....WE DONT WANT TO TAKE CHANCES!!!!
Date Received: 6/19/2013

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Lisette Flores <lizzieflowers321@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:58 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Support of Launch Pad

Dear SpaceX,

My name is Maria Lisette Flores. I am a student from Homer Hanna High School in Brownsville Texas. I am writing to state that I, personally, support the idea of your company building a launch pad here in the town of Brownsville. I believe that the establishing of this facility will provide more job opportunities for the community, and it will also encourage those who want to be involved in space exploration here in the lower valley of Texas. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Maria Lisette Flores

1

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

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- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
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- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

William Foster
Vice President of Merchant Services
Newtek "The Small Business Authority"
2502 Florencia Ave
Brownsville, TX 78526
(956) 621-3413
wfoster@thesba.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: carole frascella <citsajungle@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 01, 2013 6:29 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: SpaceX Rocket Launching - Boca Chica Beach, TX

Good Afternoon,

Re: SpaceX Rocket Launching - Boca Chica Beach, TX

It is important that the USA expand its efforts to compete in the race to space. However we must not forget that it is also extremely important that we consider what impact we make on the environment with each new endeavor. In the case of SpaceX's interest in regularly launching rockets on Boca Chica Beach near Brownsville, Texas, you must consider what impact these launches will make on the wildlife there and the very endangered Kemp ridley sea turtle that nest along the Gulf Coast beaches. According to Dr. David Suzuki (his book "Everything Under the Sun") we are in the midst of a wildlife crisis - some 17,000 plants and animals species are facing extinction today because of man. With each lose other species are lost. Everything on earth is connected and dependent on each other. All species on earth can exist without man but man can not exist without all the other species on earth.

Carole M. Frascella
citsajungle@sbcglobal.net
Houston, TX

P-117

Name: Jose Angel Frias III
Comment: Hello,
When i heard Space-x might come to my hometown brownsville, right away I knew it was going to be a great idea. If Space-x comes to Brownsville it will create a vas of new opportunities such as Jobs, Tourism and a great opportunity to the science department in UTB. I support Space-x comming to Brownsville becuase of how this program could transform a small city called Brownsville.
Thank you for this opportunity
Date Received: 5/24/2013

May 6, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas would be a great opportunity to bring jobs and careers to South Texas. I do believe that, with SpaceX Project it will bring not only the obvious of the never before seen space launch pad and command center by most of the residents of Brownsville, but the growth of our humble city for years to come. When I first heard of SpaceX and its possibility of a launch pad at Boca Chica Beach I was shocked. I didn't think we actually existed in anyone's eyes since we're the southern most city of the United States and hardly noticeable on the map. I love the idea of the very first private launch site in the world located in Brownsville, Texas.

Employment in our region is a major concern to the majority of the people here, but with SpaceX eyeing a launch pad in Brownsville, that concern is nearly erased. I mean when a $1 million economic impact per launch statement is announced it is easy to see why I made my previous statement. I like how SpaceX has thought everything thoroughly and has covered all concerns about our environment, economy, and education on aerospace magnet programs. I really don't see anything negative about SpaceX and what it will bring to Brownsville, Texas. It is almost as if SpaceX was sent from the heavens above. Ironically, SpaceX will be launching into the sky. I am all for SpaceX Project and everything it has to offer. I may be one in hundreds of thousands of people that you will receive letters from, but you have my vote.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read a Brownsvillian's letter. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Jaime Fuentes Jr.
Customer Service Representative
105 Terrace Dr. Lot 33 Brownsville, Tx 78521
(956) 204-3258
jfuentes1378@yahoo.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Letty G <letty12348@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 8:47 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.

Sent from my Cricket smart phone

1

P-120

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Jorge Garcia <geoagar@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 4:54 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Space X Brownsville

Yes, I am in favor of Space X in Brownsville, but after the discussion held at UTB-TSC-- ITTEC no mention was made about our neighbor , Mexico, and its immediate border city, H. Matamoros. Were they consulted? I am sure that if they were to construct such structures on their side, we, in Brownsville, would be in a panic and call for more, more border security. Thank you.

George A Garcia
45 Ebony Ave.
Brownsville, TX 78520
956.541.8800

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Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Gina Garcia <gina.nicole106@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:27 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Support

Hello I am Gina Garcia and I am a student at Hanna High School. Today I am writing to support the idea of building a launch pad here in Brownsville. By opening this building it will create jobs, attract tourism, and give students who are interested in that field of study to learn more about space. To whom it may concern, thank you for your time.

1

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

For Brownsville to have the following added to our resume would be outstanding:

- Would be first private launch site in the world
- 600 direct jobs
- Wages exceeding $55,000 per job
- $51 million in annual payroll
- 400 additional indirect, induced jobs
- Total of $71 million in annual payroll
- Majority of employment from the region
- Create new skill set for aerospace, aviation
- 12 launches per year
  - 10 launches of the Falcon 9
  - 2 launches of the Falcon Heavy
- Launches could attract thousands of visitors, per monthly launch
- $1 million economic impact per launch for area
- Each launch attracts 40-60 engineers, technicians and scientists, stay for 30 days
- Constant flow of suppliers traveling to Brownsville to do business with SpaceX
- No wetlands in immediate area
- Cape Canaveral sits in middle of wetlands and have successfully launched for decades
- SpaceX already mitigating risks to sea turtles and piping plovers at Cape Canaveral
- Falls within the STEM program of Brownsville ISD
- Opportunities for aerospace magnet program
- Opportunities for partnerships with local private schools
- UTB's Gravitational Wave Astronomy supplement SpaceX's efforts
- Opportunity to create aerospace pipeline of interns, employees
- TSC could cater programs for industry
- Project considered a community changer
- Change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County
- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

Jessica Garcia

NAME Jessica Garcia
TITLE Insurance CSR
ADDRESS 6552 Pino Blanco Dr, Brownsville TX 78526
PHONE NUMBER 956-909-2072
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) angeljessi0@hotmail.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: juanandresgarcia14 <juanandresgarcia14@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 11:55 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us

The space x program would be a god send to the city of Brownsville. It would not only provide jobs but an amazing family friendly tourist attraction. I hope the program finds its home in Brownsville and helps project the city into a better future.

Sent from my Cla[illegible]

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: juanandresgarcia14 <juanandresgarcia14@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 11:40 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Spacex

My name is Juan Andres Garcia I am a graduating senior at homer hamna high school and a lifetime resident of Brownsville. I believe the space x program would be a great contribution in bringing prosperity to the Brownsville region. A family friendly tourist destination would not only increase local economy but would elevate Brownsville from its small town status to a higher plane.

Sent from my Galaxy S®III

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May 7, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

This letter is submitted in response to the May 7, 2013, Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the FAA/AST proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (Space X). I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Space X's proposal to launch from a site in Cameron County, Texas.

Locating the proposed launch facility on the Boca Chica Beach site off of Highway 4 would be an ideal location because of its close proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and because the land that Space X will need remains undeveloped today. I am confident that Space X will conduct its operations in a mutually beneficial and cooperative manner with respect to the environment, local residents, beachgoers, and the community as a whole. Just as they have in other areas, Space X's experience operating complex launches in and around wildlife refuges and other environmentally protected areas can lead to an eco-friendly facility for wildlife and natural habitat.

The proposed project will be an asset to the entire South Texas region. It will inspire our local school children to reach for the stars and focus more than ever on critical science, technology, engineering and math studies. It could also create opportunities for programs and degrees as well as research facilities at our local institutions of higher learning here in the Rio Grande Valley. The Space X project will create high-paying job opportunities for local residents and stimulate other indirect jobs. In addition, the tourism potential a project of this magnitude can bring to the region is immeasurable.

I am in full support of the project and am delighted that this commercial company is strongly considering Cameron County.

Sincerest regards,

Melissa Garcia

Melissa Garcia

P-126

Name: Rene Garcia
Comment: My name is Rene Garcia and I am from Hanna High School. I am in support of the launch pad Space X is going to build in Brownsville, TX. I hope you guys build the launch pad here.
Date Received: 5/24/2013

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas.

I feel this is a wonderful opportunity for the city of Brownsville. It will further strengthen our economy and educational system and ultimately, our future.

The location will make it a key attraction to visitors, specifically, from our southern neighbor—which will contribute significantly to the city's and company's future revenues.

As a 28 year old citizen of Brownsville, TX you have my support and blessing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sylvia K Garcia
1948 Rosedal Dr
Brownsville, TX 78521
956-579-5600
sylviakgarcia@gmail.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

This letter is submitted in response to the May 7, 2013, Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the FAA/AST proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (Space X). I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Space X's proposal to launch from a site in Cameron County, Texas.

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The proposed project will be an asset to the entire South Texas region. It will inspire our local school children to reach for the stars and focus more than ever on critical science, technology, engineering and math studies. It could also create opportunities for programs and degrees as well as research facilities at our local institutions of higher learning here in the Rio Grande Valley. The Space X project will create high-paying job opportunities for local residents and stimulate other indirect jobs. In addition, the tourism potential a project of this magnitude can bring to the region is immeasurable.

I am in full support of the project and am delighted that this commercial company is strongly considering Cameron County.

Sincerest regards,

Teresa Garcia

May 7, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

This letter is submitted in response to the May 7, 2013, Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the FAA/AST proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (Space X). I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Space X's proposal to launch from a site in Cameron County, Texas.

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I am in full support of the project and am delighted that this commercial company is strongly considering Cameron County.

Sincerest regards,

Devian Garza

May 7, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

This letter is submitted in response to the May 7, 2013, Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the FAA/AST proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (Space X). I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Space X's proposal to launch from a site in Cameron County, Texas.

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I am in full support of the project and am delighted that this commercial company is strongly considering Cameron County.

Sincerest regards,

Ixhel Garza

Ixhel Garza

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

April 30, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Our area is a The lower Rio Grande Valley may be classified as an agricultural area. Our chief exports have been traditionally agricultural in nature. Our manufacturing sector has moved from the U.S. to "maquiladora" plants in northern Mexico for competitive labor. The trade with Mexico has slowed in recent years due to the devaluation of the peso. More recently the cartel violence across Mexico has led to a slowing of tourism moving through this area. It is evident that this area has been is economically dependent on federal income for its continued existence.

The SpaceX commercial space exploration project is marvel of technological advancements and private sector financial maneuvering. Masterfully engineered SpaceX rockets require a host of logistical services to facilitate the creation of a commercial space flight program. These logistics will require a city that can furnish transportation, labor, and cost-effective solutions to make the venture a reality.

It is my opinion that SpaceX coming to Boca Chica beach would facilitate the establishment of a space port in a region that is in the southern most part of the country. This area would benefit from the technology industry associated with the logistics of the creation of this program.

Sincerely,

Jose I. Garza
Customer Service Rep.
5481 Cedar Trail Dr.
956-832-9021
joegarza1978@gmail.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Heather Glover <hmg.d94@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 9:22 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Space X in Brownsville

Dear FAA,

I believe that bringing space X to Brownsville will be beneficial to our community in several aspects. First of all it will improve our touristism. If Space X is placed on Boca Chica Beach then some people will come to see the items being sent off to space. Another positive thing is it keeps Boca Chica Beach clean without having to build more hotels or creating another island such as South Padre Island, in addition that will keep Soud Padre's business the way it is. In Brownsville we already have a college that is progressing, but I positive UTB and TSC are trying to recurit more students. For those students are intrested in AeroSpace Engineering or AeroSpace Sciences maybe in the future the college of UTB and TSC can provide a program that will work with space X in order to attract students with that interest. On a personal level, I would love to have something different in Brownsville. I think it would be very interesting having something like a space program not only in Texas but in Brownsville, Texas.

Thank you,
Heather Glover

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Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: julieeannee <julieeannee@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 7:56 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: SpaceX

SpaceX,
In my opinion, I think having a launch pad in South Texas would be great. Adding another launch pad would expand research across the United States from Virginia, California, Alaska, Florida and now to Texas. And also there would be more job openings for incoming scientists with a good opportunity to work with SpaceX. This operation would add on to the great events of Brownsville, Texas.

-Julia Gonzalez

Sent from my Galaxy S®

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: julieeannee <julieeannee@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:11 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; julieeannee@gmail.com
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: SpaceX

SpaceX,
In my opinion, I think having a launch pad in South Texas would be great. Adding another launch pad would expand research across the United States from Virginia, California, Alaska, Florida and now to Texas. And also there would be more job openings for incoming scientists with a good opportunity to work with SpaceX. This operation would add on to the great events of Brownsville, Texas.

-Julia Gonzalez

Sent from my Galaxy S[illegible]

Sent from my Galaxy [illegible]

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

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- Opportunities for aerospace magnet program
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- Opportunity to create aerospace pipeline of interns, employees
- TSC could cater programs for industry
- Project considered a community changer
- Change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County
- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Rolando Gonzalez Jr.
TITLE VP of Insurance Services - Navker
ADDRESS 2425 Bernard Dr. Apt 304, Brownsville, TX 78520
PHONE NUMBER (956) 543-5253
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)
rolando.gonzalez05@gmail.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Saira Gonzalez <sairaseleneglz@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 9:07 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Launch pad in Brownsville

To whom it may concern,

My name is Saira Gonzalez. I am from Homer Hanna High School. I support the idea to place a launch pad here in Brownsville,Tx. I believe that it will create many jobs in the valley for young people. It will also increase tourism. I believe it will encourage many people to follow this field of studies. In conclusion, I believe this would be a great help not only to the people but also to the city.

Sincerely, Saira Gonzalez

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Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Vanessa Gonzalez <vanessaglz@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:05 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us

To whom it may concern,

My name is Vanessa Gonzalez, and I am currently enrolled at Homer Hanna High School. I have read some pamphlet's on the SpaceX bill's information and how they are asking for any comments on the possible project. In my opinion, I strongly support this activity as I believe it will not only increase our economy by influencing tourism, but also create history to this town more than it already has.

Thank you, Vanessa Gonzalez

1

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

Please Note: Written comments become part of the administrative record associated with this Proposed Action. Individual citizens may request that their name and/or home address be withheld from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or home address withheld, you must check the box(es) below. Please note that contact information for individuals or officials representing organizations and businesses may be disclosed.

- ☐ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Yliana Gonzalez Date: 05-20-13

Organization/Affiliation: Los Fresnos CISD

Address: P.O. Box 309

City, State, Zip Code: Los Fresnos, TX 78566

I support the project.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

P-139

Name: Fabian Granja
Comment: My name is Fabian Granja I am a senior at homer hanna high school. I have heard about your space x facility that you want to open here in Brownsville, and Ifully support the possiblity of you opening the facility here at Boca Chica Beach. The beach isnt really used that often and like your pamphlet says you will only be operating the space x facility 6 times out of the year at most making the beach unavailabe for that short time.I hope you and your faculty decide to build the space x here in brownsville.
Date Received: 5/24/2013

P-140

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☑ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Craig Grove Date: 5/07/13
Organization/Affiliation: Grove Realty / Brownsville Living
Address: 1247 Lakeside Blvd.
City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TX 78520

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-140

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

MANUEL G. GUAJARDO, M.D., P.A.
BOARD CERTIFIED
DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD OF OBSTRETICS & GYNECOLOGY
Obstetrics · Gynecology · Aesthetics

May 18, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice our support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas.

This new venture would be beneficial to our local economy, as a small business employer and physician, this influx of new jobs and revenue would surely heal our current situation. The addition of SpaceX would give our students both in high school and the universities a much sense of hope in finding employment within the science, aerospace, and aviation programs and encourage them to search out and succeed at these skill sets.

We have suffered locally with job closings, and this trickle has surely affected small employers such as me that provide a much needed service for our community. Adding SpaceX as an employer, will also help put Brownsville on the map, and will surely attract thousands of visitors per year and provide a boost to the economy. This influx will also bring new vendors, new businesses to the area, and attract other aerospace industries to Cameron County.

The weather is very consistent, similar to Florida (Cape Canaveral) and would work well for this type of industry. Please know that this letter is meant in SUPPORT of this project, and its many benefits that it would bring to my hometown of Brownsville, Texas.

300 Lorenaly Drive · Brownsville, Texas 78526
Phone: 956.350.5007 · Fax: 956.350.0945

It would be an honor to welcome such a prestigious organization into our city.

Sincerely,

Manuel G. Guajardo, M.D., P.A.
300 Lorenaly Drive
Brownsvilc, Texas
956.350.5007
mggguajardomd@aol.com

Additional Support of this project from our office & clinical staff:

Edna V. Guajardo
Shannon D. Putzel
Elma Aida Aguilar
Lupita Gonzalez
Blanca Vasquez
Aurora Perez
Yolanda Vidal
Yolanda Delgado
Gracie Lopez
Mirna Fragoso

March 06, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas. As for a citizen that was born and raised in Brownsville I feel the SpaceX Project is a wonderful addition to our community. The SpaceX Project will bring over 600 direct and 400 indirect jobs to our community and with the job market not so hot right now I know the people of Brownsville really need these jobs. Generating over $71 million in annual payroll and wages exceeding $55,000 per job would really help out economically to our city. This would also be the first private launch site in the world which is going to also drive more people to come visit our city. With 12 launches per year this gives our city's business owners to also help them out with the thousands on visitors with will be attracted to see the launches monthly. This could also instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generations, and gives us a potential possibility for a Space Museum. Hopefully SpaceX decides to follow through with the launch site so Brownsville can also grow as a city.

Sincerely,

Chuckie D Gudino
Business Connect LLC
6825 Greystone Dr. Apt A
956-543-2537
chuckiegudino@gmail.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

In an effort to voice my support of *SpaceX (Space Exploration Technologies Corporation)* building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas, I am writing to wholeheartedly support their endeavors.

SpaceX is a visionary with the foresight to bring its dreams to fruition. In a world that that is becoming smaller and smaller every day, the need for synergistic relationships is becoming even more vital to the business world. It is my belief that Brownsville can be instrumental in their endeavors.

Brownsville is rich in untapped resources and community. I believe this potential can be harnessed by *SpaceX* in a symbiotic relationship in which Brownsville is instrumental in helping *SpaceX* becomes not only a leader in its field, but an innovator in the market.

Our universities would be at your disposal. UTB's Gravitations Wave Astronomy could be instrumental in your research efforts. As would, TSC's programs for industries. If research is truly the breeding ground for innovativeness then our universities would be an ideal source to bring your visions to fruition.

In my research of your company, *SpaceX's* tenaciousness in research and innovativeness has been impressive. I applaud both your efforts and determination. The power of one's conviction can be mighty indeed, and when vision accompanies it, great things can be accomplished. I believe great things can be accomplished in Brownsville, Texas.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Guerrero
Associate Vice-President of Client Relations
Newtek Business Services
301 Mexico Blvd., Ste. #H4-A
Brownsville, TX 78520-4159
jguerrero@thesba.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Gil Guevara (giguevar) <giguevar@cisco.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 12:26 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Brownsville SpaceX EIS

Good Day,

I'm a Brownsville resident and my friends and family do not like the idea of having a launch site.

We are concerned with not having access to the beach year round, and the chemical and noise pollution that will come. I love the peacefulness and the wildlife the way it is. We will be very happy if you choose another site.

Thanks,
Gil

1

P-145

Name: Irene Gulley
Comment: I am in favor of the FAA issuing launch licenses and or experimental permits from a private launch site located in Cameron County, which would allow constructing a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.
Date Received: 6/17/2013

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: guty316@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 12:47 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Space X kill our beach in Brownsville

KILL OUR BEACH! KILL OUR BEACH! KILL OUR BEACH! WE LOVE IT! THE ONLY CITY IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY WITH THEIR OWN 8 MILE BEACH...WHO CARES...KILL IT THE BEACH! WE LOVE IT! WHO CARES ABOUT THE NOISE OF THE ROCKET! LET SPACE X CLOSE THE BEACH.."ITS THE JOBS FROM THE HEAVENS" FILL OUR POCKETS WITH MONEY! MONEY! MONEY! KILL THE BEACH! KILL IT! SO WE CAN EAT TOXIC FISH...YEAH! AND GET CANCER AND DIE! BUT BUT..SPACE X TAKES CARES OF THE ENVIRONMENT..SPACE X ELON MUSK ASKS FOR THE U.S. GOV'T FOR 350 MILLIONS DOLLARS FOR HIS TESLA CARS, BUT WHO CARES TAX PAYERS LOVE TO GET RAPED BY TYRANTS..SO KILL THE BEACH..just for a couple of bucks in your pockets and for a rocket to go up and come down...

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: maria guzman <birol235@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 11:05 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: against space x

Dear Stacy

Boca Chica Beach is a ecological landmark aside from being a public beach, and there may be many extinct species of animals at the site it is for this reason that I am not in favor of the space x project at boca chica beach.

Thank You

Maria Guzman

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Jose Hernandez <josehernandez3300659@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 12:44 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Space x in brownsville (jose hernandez)

Hello, my name is Jose Hernandez and I am a student at Hanna High School in brownsville Texas.
I am writing you today in regards to Space X being located in brownsville, I think this is a wonderful idea. This can bring tourist and provide jobs for our community. Plus brownsville is not really known for anything besides being a sister city to Mexico. This project has alot of potential. You have my full support!

1

P-149

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☑ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Maribel Hernandez Date: 5-7-13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 373 San Cristobal St., Brownsville, TX

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TX 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-149

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I am concerned about all of the smoke that is released during the launching of this space craft or crafts. My mother lives very close by and I worry about any harmful chemicals that will go into the air that will make their way all through this area. But my major concern is that a rocket, GOD forbid might explode!!! What then? How would this affect the people that live in this area? Even though it will be away from most of the population, I am pretty sure some how some way it will affect the surrounding residents. Not to mention our wildlife in this area. Many families mostly low income, pass their weekends at the Boca Chica Beach beca it is an inexpensive pass time & not to mention beautiful view. By this area being blocked/used would the beach be closed as well? How drastic would it affect the area? The animals? The scenery? I don't like this idea at all!! Yes, the jobs will be available in the area, but what about our environment!!?!!

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Joe Herrera <joe711.jh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 11:56 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Launch Sight Comments

Good afternoon:

I Jose Herrera support the idea of the building of SpaceX in the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Brownsville, Tx. This Launch Pad would not only draw more attention and visitors to this area, but also provide more jobs and opportunities in the Brownsville area bringing families closer together. I could see this launch pad possibly expanding the knowledge of student's and citizens in the area. The idea of a launch pad in Brownsville is definitely a great one.

Thank you,
Jose Herrera

1

May 5, 2013

Stacy Lee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee:

This letter is in support of the development of the Spacex vertical launch site and command center in the eastern region of Brownsville, Texas, close to Boca Chica Beach.

I have been a fan of NASA ever since I was boy in elementary school when John Glen became the first American to orbit the earth in 1962. The news of Spacex potentially establishing the first ever commercial launch site, which may be located in our region near Boca Chica Beach, excites me; this is a good thing for our community. Brownsville needs the type of jobs that will come with the development of this launch site and I can only imagine that the economic impact will be positive throughout the region. I know it is said way too many times but in reality this project is "for our children", as it will allow our kids to dream like I did when I was growing up. That maybe one day one our kids will become an astronaut or develop a career in aerospace. It is highly possible that more kids will become more excited about math and science because of this launch site, whatever it may be, our community will be better for it.

Naturally I have concerns about the environment in the Boca Chica Beach area but seeing how NASA has successfully cohabitated for over fifty years with the environment and wildlife in Florida, and knowing how difficult regulations are today, I am confident that the right mitigation, as stated in the EIS, will take place in the Boca Chica Beach area and that for years to come, much like at Cape Canaveral, Spacex and the environment will grow and thrive together.

I cannot express my support enough in favor of the development of the launch site for Spacex.

Sincerely,
Christopher E. Hilts

Christopher E. Hilts
6 Casa de Oro
Brownsville, Texas 78570
956.542.0616

May 5, 2013

Stacy Lee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee:

Please consider this letter in support of the building of the Spacex vertical launch site and command center close to Boca Chica Beach, near Brownsville, Texas.

I am a sophomore at the University of Texas – Brownsville, and I have grown up in Brownsville. As I was attending high school I always thought that once I graduated from college that I would probably leave Brownsville as there are not enough quality, high paying jobs here. Then last year I attended the public scoping meeting for the Spacex project and I realized that maybe there is a future after all here in Brownsville, my perception is changing and I want to be part of something great. As I understand it, the development of the launch site and command center will mean that high paying jobs will be created both directly and indirectly and that our local economy will be positively impacted, that's a great thing! New careers in aerospace will open up, new companies will locate in the area, visitors will come in to watch the launches, new stores and restaurants will open, the whole dynamics of Brownsville and South Texas will change.

As in everything, there are the pros and the cons, but in this project, after reviewing information provided in the recently released draft EIS statement, especially as related to the environment, I find very few if any reasons to be against this project. The economic side is a no brainer, Brownsville wins. On the environmental side, I see Brownsville winning as well. Spacex will support existing adopt-a-beach programs and will create additional ones, they will train their contractors, employees and visitors alike on how to protect the environment, Boca Chica Beach will only be closed temporarily, up to only 15-hours and only 12-times a year, where the Sea Turtle Inc. people will be allowed on the beach to look for turtles and nests. The wetlands will not be adversely affected; the overall enjoyment of the beach will not be impacted; and the local wildlife will have an advocate in Spacex. Brownsville and the environment win.

I ask that Spacex be given all the consideration possible so that they may be allowed to construct their launch site and ultimately launch their rockets.

Sincerely,

Cristian N. Hilts
314 Staunton
Brownsville, Texas 78570
956.542.0616

May 5, 2013

Stacy Lee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee:

Please consider this letter in support of Spacex building vertical launch site and command center in the eastern part of Brownsville, Texas, close to Boca Chica Beach.

Brownsville is a community in need of an economic boost and with the proposed creation of this first ever commercial launch site in the world possibly being located in our region; this just may be the catalyst we have been looking for. With the creation of new high paying jobs and potentially thousands of visitors during the launch days, the economic impact will be great and will provide much needed opportunities to many.

I appreciate the recommendations stated in the recently released draft EIS for the Spacex Texas Launch Site and after reading the history of Spacex and its founder Elon Musk, I am confident that they will follow the recommendations stated in the report and that they will go beyond what is necessary to protect and enhance the environment surrounding the projected launch site.

We need Spacex!

Sincerely,

Kathryn L. Hilts
6 Casa de Oro
Brownsville, Texas 78570
956.542.0616

P-154

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☑ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: LARRY HOLTZMAN Date: 5/7/13

Organization/Affiliation: DOWNTOWN BROWNSVILLE

Address: 24 CALLE CENIZO

City, State, Zip Code: BROWNSVILLE TX 78520

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-154

We in Downtown Brownsville APROVE AND ENCOURAGE the SPACE X PLANS. This will Bring People To HELP Revitalize DOWNTOWN BROWNSVILLE -

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-155

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: GAYLE Hood Date: 5-7-13

Organization/Affiliation: SOUTH PADRE ISLAND BOARD OF REALTORS

Address: 2111 PADRE BLVD, STE A

City, State, Zip Code: SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TX 78597

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-155

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I represent the South Padre Island Board of Realtors. The board, its members, staff and all of us involved in real estate in our area support the SpaceX program. Our board and members reach from South Padre Island to Bayview to include Port Isabel and Laguna Vista.

Our main industry is tourism and we feel this will boost tourism and our economy.

We would love to work closely with anyone in SpaceX to promote their success. If you can think of anything we can do, please feel free to contact me. I was our board president in 2012, 2013 treasurer, 2013 MLS Chairman and will continue to stay involved with all the Realtors in our area to keep them abreast of the developments within SpaceX.

Gayle Hood
Padre Elite Team
RE/MAX 1st Choice
956-459-9536 cell
956-761-7676 office

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Carlos Huerta <chhc95@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 3:10 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: SpaceX

To whom it may concern,
Hello I am Carlos Huerta, a senior at Hanna High School in Brownsville, Texas. I am writing this message on behalf of the SpaceX project. I thinkt he SpaceX project will promote a huge number of tourists to come see this unique launch pad. I feel it will be known about nationwide and maybe even worldwide. This project will be a great oppurtunity for people looking for jobs, especially technical jobs, can throve with this project and will bring a diverse amount of people from all around to visit. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Carlos Huerta

1

HUGHSTON
INSURANCE AGENCY

David C. Hughston, CIC, CPCU
Peggy Gonzalez, CIC, CPCU, CRIS
Christopher Hughston, CIC
Brock Hughston, CISR

May 6, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

Re: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee:

My name is David Hughston and I am a businessman in Brownsville, Texas. More specifically, my family has been in the property and casualty insurance business in Brownsville since the mid 1920's. My only reason in sharing that piece of personal trivia with you is to demonstrate my familiarity with and commitment to, the Lower Rio Grande Valley in general and the Brownsville area in particular.

During my family's tenure in this little corner of the world, we have seen a number of marvelous projects which have had a profound, positive impact on our community. Two of those turning points have been the construction of our deep water port and the establishment of our international airport. In both cases, new logistical technology resulted in significant economic benefit to the community and its environs. The standard of living improved, wages grew and suddenly, literally Brownsville was on the map.

Now, we stand at the brink of another turning point in our history……..**SpaceX!**

It is my firm conviction that SpaceX will transform our area into a center of advanced transportation/communication technology, providing cutting edge career opportunities for our children and vibrant economic growth for all.

Please accept this letter as representing my wholehearted support for the proposed SpaceX launch facility in Brownsville, Texas.

Sincerely,

David Hughston, CIC, CPCU
President
Hughston Insurance Agency, Inc.

46 Cove Circle • P.O.Box 8190 • Brownsville, Texas 78526 • (956) 542-4387 • Fax (956) 542-8335
www.hughstoninsuranceagency.com

P-159

Name: R. Isbar
Comment: Please add me to the mailing list. Thank you.
Date Received: 5/30/2013

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Jonathan Lippa <jhnzone@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:57 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Space X

Dear FFA,

As a citizen of Brownsville, Texas I believe that you are making the right choice when you choose Boca Chica beach as the main area of launch for Space X. By bring Space X down to Brownsville you will not only be welcomed with open arms and receive the support of countless people, but also you will boost our local economy and hopefully offer hands on experience for the aero space engineering program at our college UTB. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Jonathan Inskeep

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: James <jts1709@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 4:42 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: EIS comment

To whom it may concern:

I want to commend the authors and staff of the study for an excellent EIS report. It was exceptionally thorough and well written.

However, I have been visiting the Boca Chica area for about 30 years now and I did not noticed it mentioned in the report that the area in question is subject to high sustained south winds which can blow 25-30 knots for several days at a time. These high winds often produce sand and dust storms.(especially from Feb-May).

I've frequently witnessed sand and dust storms blowing across Highway 4 in that vicinity. Visibility can be reduced to about 5 feet in certain parts of the site area. The high salinity sand and dust gets into everything. It can create havoc on intricate electrical equipment.

The air out there in that area is also uniquely corrosive and high in moisture.

Many parts of that area is also prone to tidal surge flooding. The land can go under water, before, during and after a good storm.

Is there a plan to contain the fuel and chemicals should the area experiences flooding due to future tidal surges?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment onthis EIS report.

Sincerely,

James
Harlingen, Texas

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Linda Jauregui <lindaaj25@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 11:07 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.

To whom it may concern, I am Linda Jauregui a senior from Brownsville's Homer Hanna high school. I want to comment on the good idea that the space x project can be for our beloved city. Yes, it may have minor polution problems but the benefits are so much greater for any future visitors and for job oppertunities. Many don't see the potential in Brownsville as a great city of Texas but rather as just a border city to Mexico but if Space x were to make their launch site here it would make Brownsville a better place.
Thank you for your time,
Linda Jauregui

1

P-162

Name: Jen
Comment: FAA,
I agree to bring space x to Brownsville, Texas to help establish more jobs in engineering. In addition, allow educational growth and development. I believe this is a wonderful opportunity for Brownsville to flourish.
Date Received: 5/19/2013

CARA
CENTER FOR ADVANCED RADIO ASTRONOMY

May 7, 2013

Re: letter of support for the SpaceX project.

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf the Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy (CARA) at the University of Texas at Brownsville, I'm am writing this letter of strong support for the SpaceX proposal to build a rocket launch site in Boca Chica beach, in South Texas. I am Fredrick A. Jenet, the Director of CARA, the Houston Endowment Chair of Science, Math, and Technology and the Chair of the North American NanoHertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves.

A SpaceX launching site in South Texas will create inimitable and unprecedented opportunities for changing the socio-economic fabric of the community by:

1. Greatly enhancing existing undergraduate and graduate programs in near and deep space exploration.
2. Attracting and retaining talented students in many areas including near and deep space exploration, radio frequencies technology development, as well as engineering and computer science.
3. Attracting and retaining world renowned scientists as well as talented and highly trained engineers to the area.
4. Create synergistic collaboration opportunities between industry, research in radio frequencies technologies and commercial space exploration.
5. Developing new, disruptive, technologies.

I have no doubt that the presence of SpaceX will allow Brownsville to participate in the next chapter in the history of human space exploration and development. I am looking forward to helping our students and faculty participate in this grand vision.

Sincerely,

Fredrick A. Jenet
Director, Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy

80 Fort Brown • SETB 1.320 • Brownsville, Texas 78520 • 956-882-7151• Fax 956-882-6726 •

P-164

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☐ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
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- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Erick Jimenez Date: 5/17/13

Organization/Affiliation: Student

Address: 6082 Rio River St.

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, Texas, 78526

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-164

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I Believe that a new Space program of our city could protect open alot of Businesses that are the direct result of a new surge of peoples in the area. New subdivisions and restaurants to house and feed the towns, all are great advantage to boost our city's economy and help our city be recognized for its space programs.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-165

Name: Tony Johnston
Comment: The opportunity to bring new technology to the Rio Grande Valley is exciting and very necessary. As we continue to see employeement losses in the Maquilla industries to China of other low cost countries, the need to establish a new employement base is required. As goverment support of space travel had been all but eliminated by the Obama adminstration, and the door has opened for private enterprise to step up and management more efficiently.
The concern raised by enviormentalist is unfounded. The beach area around Boca Chica is very similar to the conditions we found when the space program first began at Cape Carnaval in Florida. These space programs continue to operate for years with safe guards in place to protect the marsh and wet lands around the site.
I fully support and welcome Spacex to Brownsville.
Date Received: 6/1/2013

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Ramona Kantack <Ramona@KantackLawOffice.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 3:52 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: 'Ben Levenson'; 'Jo Ann Evans'; 'JoAnne Williams'; 'Roxanne Guenzel'; 'Roy Bailey'; 'Scott Friedman'
Subject: Draft EIS comments

To whom it may concern:

1. I, and the persons copied on this e-mail, are members of the Board of Directors for the South Padre Island Economic Development Corporation. I attended the public hearing last night on the draft EIS.

2. The City of South Padre Island is a beautiful ocean-front community that frequently markets – and is developing – itself as an Eco-Tourism destination. In fact, one of the main assets of the SPI EDC is its state-of-the art facility and network of boardwalks called the SPI Birding & Nature Center. One of nine World Birding Centers on the planet, it is designed to educate people about birds, flora, fauna and the natural environment in this area, with an emphasis on conservation and environmental awareness.

3. Any project of the magnitude SpaceX proposes will naturally have some effect on the environment. Mr. Musk has repeatedly demonstrated himself as an excellent steward of the Earth's resources, with respect for the environment and the living creatures on planet Earth.

4. I believe that SpaceX – under Mr. Musk's leadership – will proceed with great sensitivity to the effects of its activities on the environment, and that it will appropriately address such concerns as were expressed last night by the gentleman from the Audubon Society and a couple of other individuals.

5. Perhaps even more important, the SpaceX project will bring tremendous resources to the entire state, and in particular to the lower Laguna Madre area. The positive impact those resources will have on the educational, commercial, and cultural growth and opportunities in this area cannot be overstated.

6. These resources – and the ripple effect that will be felt throughout our communities from this project – will far outweigh any marginal negative impact on the environment. Those effects will supply our communities with even more resources to preserve and protect the environment and its creatures.

1

7. I therefore welcome SpaceX to the Rio Grande Valley with open arms, and embrace its proposal 100%. I urge the FAA to issue the necessary permits and licenses for this project to proceed in Brownsville.

Thank you.

Ramona Kantack Alcantara
Board Certified, Commercial and Residential Real Estate Law
by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
KANTACK ALCANTARA LAW OFFICE, P.C.
2111 Padre Blvd., Ste. 4
South Padre Island, TX 78597
(956) 761-6000 - telephone
(956) 761-6001 – facsimile
ramona@kantacklawoffice.com

www.kantacklawoffice.com

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: J. B. KEE Date: 5-29-13

Organization/Affiliation: Retired - U.S. TREASURY Dept.

Address: 1424 Mulberry LANE

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TEXAS 78520

Public Hearing Comment Form

P-168

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The first time I saw Boca Chica Beach it was pristine. The waves and how they would come rolling up, some would even knock me down, was very entrancing. That was some seventy years ago.

I have personally seen dramatic changes occur to this beach and its environment. These changes are greater and more noticeable the closer you are to the Gulf of Mexico. Inland behind the sand dunes, you might think that nothing is occurring, but truth be known it is. All of these changes are repaired and taken care of by time and nature.

The proposed site location for SpaceX is back almost one mile from the area that is the most vulnerable. The location would be beside Texas Highway 4 on a portion of some slightly higher ground that is almost surrounded by a lower flood plain. During storms the flood plain fills up with seawater. This treeless environment will only support cactus, small plants and grasses. Wildlife in the form of birds and animals are rarely found in this area. People trying to live here have mostly given up and left due to the harshness. It is hot, dry, windy and dusty just about every day of the year. Critics say that if the launch site is built here it will be an eye sore and ruin the pristine area. However, these same people will drive right passed all the concrete buildings on South Padre Island trying to reach open pristine beaches north of this town.

In Brownsville, at my home, I have created a bird habitat with trees, food and water. A hammer like noise or the lawnmower will scare away the birds however, they soon return. Across town at my place of business, an RV Park for Winter Texans, birds are also scared away by noise. The noise is so loud that people who are talking have to stop their conversations for thirty seconds or so. This disruption occurs when jets take off from the Brownsville South Padre Island Airport. The habitat was disturbed but soon after it returned to normal.

I have lived in Brownsville all my life and have seen the changes of the environment of both Boca Chica Beach and South Padre Island. One was mild and the other extreme beyond words. The plans that SpaceX has for Boca Chica Beach are mild when you compare them to South Padre Island.

So when it is all said and done and SpaceX sends its first rocket into space, people will pass by this launch site on their way to the beach where they will see waves rolling in, shorebirds running along and sand dunes with sea oats growing on them. Just what I saw some seventy years ago, a pristine beach.
To Recap:

1. Time and nature will repair site locations.
2. SpaceX will not be at beach area per say.
3. Site location has very little vegetation.
4. Site location has very few birds or animals.
5. Site location is harsh.
6. Site location an eyesore but Padre Island is not.
7. Rocket noise disruptions are short.
8. Building construction is mild.

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
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   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Anthony Knopp Date: May 7, 2013
Organization/Affiliation: University of Texas at Brownsville
Address: 32 Casa De Amigos
City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TX 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-168

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I am reassured by the assessment of environmental impact on Boca Chica. I am in complete support of this project which stands to benefit Brownsville in many and varied ways. We need this kind of development for the economic development of our impoverished community.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Donna LaRue <larue donna@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 10:18 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M
Subject: environmental impact

To Whom It May Concern.

I live in Brownsville Texas and have enjoyed frequent visits to Boca Chica Beach since 1981. On canoe trips down the last few miles of the Rio Grande River before it empties into the Gulf of Mexico I observed nesting pelicans (both brown and white), roseate spoonbills, herons and other water birds. On more than one occasion I was involved in the rescue of Ridley sea turtles and had the priveledge of watching a Ridley laying eggs on the beach not far from the end of Highway 4. My concern today is that the launching of any type of space vehicle would most likely be detrimental to the wildlife of this previously protected area. I am opposed to using this fragile area as a launch site and I am equally opposed to any kind of development in this area.

Sincerely,
Donna LaRue
larue donna@sbcglobal.net

Draft Environmental Impact Statement
SpaceX Texas Launch Site

Humanity's future lies outside our fragile atmosphere. What we do today will impact our future generations whether it may result in positive or negative consequence to our environment, our city's economic growth and education. This is true of SpaceX (Space Exploration Technologies Corporation) that is considering locating a launch site as described in the draft EIS.

SpaceX is at the forefront of private rocket launch just as NASA was when it was created by our government in 1958. NASA opened a path to new technologies and opportunities that inspired a whole new generation of thinkers and doers. Now, with the shuttle fleet retired and the United States having to rely on Russia to help get us to space, a new frontier has opened up that was not economically viable before…private rocket transport companies.

At issue is whether SpaceX can launch rockets from Boca Chica Beach in a manner that will achieve low cost access to space while protecting the immediate surrounding environment. The draft EIS is a very detailed report that describes the biological plants and animals that may be found in this particular area as stated in the report. 4.8 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PLANTS).

"A total of 15.74 acres of upland habitat and 3.34 acres of wetland habitat would be removed as a result of the construction of proposed vertical launch and control center area facilities and infrastructure. This permanent loss of upland vegetation would impact only a small fraction of this community in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and would not adversely affect local or regional plant diversity. In addition, the construction of buildings and roads at the vertical launch area would effectively cut off the tidal influence to 2.85 acres of wetland. These indirect wetland impacts are comprised of 2.54 acres of high marsh vegetated wetlands and 0.31 acre of unvegetated wetland salt flats".

The amount mentioned as affected by the launch is but a tiny fraction of the wildlife refuge. In fact, while this particular area may be affected by launching rockets, the rest of the five-mile no build zone will be protected. This is a good trade-off for the wildlife. SpaceX has agreed to specific measures that will ensure that the area is protected as stated in 6.0 MITIGATION AND SPECIAL CONSERVATION MEASURES. No matter where the space launch pad is built, it is bound to have some negative effect on the surrounding area. Instead of just saying no to this project, the best way to handle this is to minimize the effect on the surrounding area and I

Draft Environmental Impact Statement
SpaceX Texas Launch Site

believe that SpaceX will meet and exceed the requirements to protect the beautiful beach and its resources.

I fully support SpaceX and the construction of its launch pad at Boca Chica site. This is an opportunity that many cities cannot do due to the many factors that prohibit space launches. Just as Cape Canaveral was the first city to send men to the moon, Brownsville will also be the trail blazer to Mars and beyond. If our civilization is to survive the next millennium, then we must push forward and allow new private companies to plow new roads to space.

Thank you.

Mr. Anthony C Lehmann Jr
Math/Engineering Teacher
Harmony Science Academy-Brownsville

y 29 13 11:54a Lindale Medical 9565418043 p.1

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I am a Registered Dental Hygienist, attended a Catholic Schools here in Brownsville, TX. I was born and Raised here in Brownsville and reside in Rancho Viejo, Tx. 10 min. to Brownsville. Very excited about the possibility of having a launch site here at Boca Chica Beach in Brownsville, I believe our City can contribute to our country to have this site available, I do not see a threat to our Community so yes go for it and Brownsville will be recognized on the map.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Norm + Melinda Long Date: June 3, 2013

Organization/Affiliation: Winter Texans

Address: 8797 Carradale Dr

City, State, Zip Code: Caledonia, IL 61011

We think it would certainly help the economy etc in Brownsville

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: christa lopez <cflopez13@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 5:08 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Christa Lopez and I am a resident of Brownsville, Texas & student at Homer Hanna High school. I am writing this e-mail to voice my opinion on building a Space X launch pad in our community. I am most definitely in favor of this project, because I feel that not only will it produce more jobs, but it will also allow many young people to become more interested in Astronomy and Outer space. I also believe that by building this launch pad here, it would open the door to many more large companies that may wish to bring their businesses & job opportunities to our community.
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Christa F. Lopez

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Kayla Lopez <kaylathereselovesyou@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:53 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Space X Launch Pad

To whom it may concern,

Hello! My name is Kayla Lopez and I am a citizen of Brownsville, Texas and a 12th grade student at Homer Hanna High School. I am writing to voice my opinion on the development of the Space X launch pad in our community. I am in favor of the proceeds of this project. I believe that it will be beneficial to our city. Not only will it add more history to Brownsville, but it will also create many job opportunities for prospective engineers and scientists. It will no doubt spark an interest in Astronomy among our community. I also believe that this project will open even more opportunities for more potential projects. If you were build the launch pad in Brownsville it would make me very proud that I come from such a historical city. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kayla T. Lopez

Sent from my iPhone

1

Name: Michelle Lopez

P-175

Comment: Please consider this message to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas.

This project will be ideal to the region as it will create hundreds of jobs, helping the economy and the high unemployment rate which is currently higher than the entire state. As we attract more workers, we're also attracting thousands of visitors to the area, again helping our economy.

From the draft EIS, there isn't a significant impact on the wildlife at Boca Chica Beach. This project will allow the area to stay clean and pristine, just like Cape Canaveral.

I really hope you consider our location and allow SpaceX to launch from Brownsville.

Date Received: 6/11/2013

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Nina Lopez <ninalpz66@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 10:56 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Brownville wants SpaceX

To whom this may concern:

Hello I am a senior from Hanna High School, in Brownsville, Texas. I am writing to show my support for the construction of SpaceX's newest launch pad, in Brownsville. In addition to bringing more revenue to the area, it can also possibly benefit my older brother by providing him a job. He is an aerospace engineering major, currently finishing his degree at The University of Texas at Austin. The creation of SpaceX's launch pad, in Brownsville, can bring my brother closer to home, versus other major aerospace firms. The poverty level, in Brownsville, can be positively affected by the creation of many new jobs, by SpaceX. These new technical jobs would bring a much needed and more diverse profile to the job market in Brownsville. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have my voice heard.

Sincerely,
Nina Lopez

1

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

For Brownsville to have the following added to our resume would be outstanding:

- Would be first private launch site in the world
- 600 direct jobs
- Wages exceeding $55,000 per job
- $51 million in annual payroll
- 400 additional indirect, induced jobs
- Total of $71 million in annual payroll
- Majority of employment from the region
- Create new skill set for aerospace, aviation
- 12 launches per year
  - 10 launches of the Falcon 9
  - 2 launches of the Falcon Heavy
- Launches could attract thousands of visitors, per monthly launch
- $1 million economic impact per launch for area
- Each launch attracts 40-60 engineers, technicians and scientists, stay for 30 days
- Constant flow of suppliers traveling to Brownsville to do business with SpaceX
- No wetlands in immediate area
- Cape Canaveral sits in middle of wetlands and have successfully launched for decades
- SpaceX already mitigating risks to sea turtles and piping plovers at Cape Canaveral
- Falls within the STEM program of Brownsville ISD
- Opportunities for aerospace magnet program
- Opportunities for partnerships with local private schools
- UTB's Gravitational Wave Astronomy supplement SpaceX's efforts
- Opportunity to create aerospace pipeline of interns, employees
- TSC could cater programs for industry
- Project considered a community changer
- Change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County
- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Velia Lopez
TITLE Customer Serv. Representative
ADDRESS 301 Mexico Blvd
PHONE NUMBER 956-982-7000 ext 1011
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Stacey Zee

FAA Environmental Protection Specialist

SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.

275 West Street, Suite 110

Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

I'd like to present this letter to express my support of SpaceX / Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building of the vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of our beautiful Brownsville, Texas

I can't begin to express how excited I am at the thought of how much the presence of the first private launch site in the world would mean to our developing community. Not just for the internships, business, and employment it promises, but also for the attraction of other companies in aerospace industry as well as accompanying tourism and entertainment that will likely follow it. These too will very likely create a vast amount of employment opportunities for our residents.

Most importantly because I can see SpaceX also bringing amazing and very valuable learning and growth opportunities in the field of aerospace aviation to our future generations while ecologically maintaining our sea life and beaches.

Sincerely,

Claudia Macias

Training Specialist I

1044 San Jose Lane

Brownsville Texas 78521

956-293-9978

Claudia@clau-mac.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: jackiemld94@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 11:54 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: SpaceX

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm Jacqueline Maldonado and I am writing to support the building of SpaceX on Boca Chica Beach. Living in Brownsville my entire life, I believe that it would be a great addition to this city and it would bring us nothing but benefits. It would be amazing to be from a city known for something as grand as this and I support it 100%.

Thank you for your time,
Jacqueline Maldonado

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: friends_420 <friends_420@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 2:03 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us

Hello,

My name is Abigail Martinez. I am a high school student from Hanna high school. I support your decision to place a launch pad here in Brownsville, TX. I think it is a great idea because it opens jobs down here and it will attract tourism. It is also a great way to get students interested in space.

Sincerely,
Abigail Martinez

1

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

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- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Alma Martinez
TITLE ABSS
ADDRESS 1520 Rocky Circle Brownsville TX 78526
PHONE NUMBER 956-554-1672
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) almabmartinez80@gmail.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Adrinna <andii2886@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 12, 2013 2:06 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us

Good afternoon,

My name is Andrea Martinez from Brownsville, TX. The reason for my e-mail is to inform you that I believe the new launch site near Boca Chica beach will be a great addition to all of us in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Thank you for considering us as a location for this wonderous opportunity!

Sincerely,
Andrea Martinez

1

P-183

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☐ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: José Guadalupe Martinez Date: May 7, 2013

Organization/Affiliation: Arecibo Remote Command Center @ UTB

Address: 1652 Res Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, Tx, 78526

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-183

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

Hello my name is José Guadalupe Martinez, and I support Space X to come to Brownsville. I am a physics major at the University of Texas at Brownsville working as a research student at the Arecibo Remote Command Center, where we remotely control the world's largest radio telescope and discover stars. Since last year I have personally discovered 9 more stars, a running total of 12, and going to work this summer for a second time at Max-Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy at Germany. I graduate this weekend with my bachelors in physics, and next year I plan to graduate w/ my masters in physics. As I prepare myself to walk at graduation. I'm planning for the future. The future I see is right in front of me. SpaceX in Brownsville. I want SpaceX to come to Brownsville, to make a big difference in the world, here at home.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-184

Name: Lizette Martinez
Comment: To whom it may concern,
I am a senior at Hanna High School and support the issuing of licensure for SpaceX. I believe it would be a great opportunity for students of all ages to experience this great accomplishment so close to home. It will help students in this field of study have the chance to observe and do hands on work. This attraction will help open jobs for young students and bring attention to our city.
Thank you for your time
Date Received: 5/21/2013

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: S M <nevets0300@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2013 12:21 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; Aeortiz@bisd.us

Hello, my name is Steven Masso. I am writing in support of the building of Space X in Boca Chica Beach. I strongly believe that this will help our economy and our tourism. This will be a great contribution to south Texas and will provide the youth with a good learning experience. Thank you for your time and I hope you take this letter into consideration.

1

May 6, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas to create new skill set for aerospace aviation and for TSC could cater programs for the aerospace aviation industry.

Sincerely,

Ariana L. Mata
5087 Jovan Circle
956-203-6710
amata@bedc.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Mary McConnaughey <gmkodiak@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2013 12:48 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Draft EIS

Gale and Mary McConnaughey
21 Weems Street
Brownsville, TX 78521

June 24th 2013

My husband and I own our winter home in Boca Chica Village. We of course have many concerns regarding the proposed SpaceX launch site as it will be within 2 miles from our home.

Our concerns are not only for our future here in Boca Chica Village but also for the birds and animals that can't speak for themselves. SpaceX will be changing all of our environments.

First concern is with these chemicals that will be used. How will we be protected? Are these chemicals toxic to animals and birds?

Both MMH and NTO are toxic to humans and pose environmental hazard if released in sufficient quantity to the environment. MMH is highly reactive as well, and is listed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a possible human carcinogen. Because of these potential

hazards, all reasonable and feasible measures would be taken by SpaceX operators and the FAA to minimize accidents and to protect human health and the environment.

This is another concern and if there was an explosion on the launch pad how far will the debris travel? What about the animals and birds?

In the event of a launch failure, an explosion could injure or kill species adjacent to the launch pad or within areas impacted by debris. However, due to the limited number of launches and the unlikely scenario of a launch failure, the likelihood of an impact on nesting sea turtles is low. Debris scatter that could occur of the Gulf of Mexico during a launch abort would also have a low probability of impacting sea turtles.

Fires could potentially start from an explosion on the pad, which could result in a temporary loss of habitat. The launch vehicle propellant tanks would likely rupture and the propellants would burn explosively. Thus, it is possible for propellants to be spilled directly or released as a burning byproduct into local surface water bodies and infiltrating soils to make contact with groundwater. The extent of potential impacts would depend on the type of propellant, the conditions of the accident, and the nature of the terrestrial and water resources affected.

On page 4-89 it states that there is no children under the age of 18 residing in Boca Chica Village and that is incorrect as there is one child under the age of 18 residing in Boca Chica Village.

1

On page 4-86 it states that hearing protection measures would be implemented to ensure the health and safety of Boca Chica Village residents. What about our pets our cats, dogs, birds etc. What about their hearing protection? We will be encouraged to remain indoors during a launch event??? Wear hearing protection that SpaceX may make available??? What if the launch is at night will be need to wear hearing protection to bed???

Will we feel vibrations from a launch in our homes in Boca Chica Village?

We have many concerns regarding our way of life as we know it now and how SpaceX will change it in a negative way.

It saddens us that our quiet area will no longer exist if SpaceX is allowed to operate here. It saddens us that the wildlife will not be protected.

We and the wildlife will be put in potentially many dangerous situations if SpaceX is allowed to operate here.

Thank you,

Gale and Mary McConnaughey

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☐ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Melanie L. McCormick Date: 5-20-13

Organization/Affiliation: Los Fresnos CISD

Address: P.O. Box 309

City, State, Zip Code: Los Fresnos, TX 78566

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

What an exciting opportunity for our area. I support this project and will be thrilled for the final decision to be here in Brownsville, Texas!

MR Mclamur

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Vanessa <nessanicole10@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 2:21 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: SpaceX

To Whom it May Concern,

I, Vanessa Medina, am writing to support the building of SpaceX on Boca Chica Beach. I believe that SpaceX would bring Brownsville many benefits. I would be proud to say that my hometown of Brownsville, Texas is apart of such a great program. Building SpaceX on Boca Chica Beach would be the best attribute to the city, and a benefit for SpaceX, and I support it 100 percent.

Thank you for your time,
Vanessa Medina

1

P-190

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Dylan Melchor <dylthrilltrill@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:35 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Launch Pad in Brownsville Texas

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dylan Melchor and I am a resident of Brownsville, Tx who attends Hanna High School. I've lived in Brownsville all my life and I think it'll be great for our city to be the site of your launch pad. Brownsville's economy could really benefit from this. Our location and friendly atmosphere make us a prime candidate for the site of your launch pad.

With Regards,
Dylan Melchor

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: hector menchaca <hectormenchac06@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 3:48 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: I Agree

I fully approve of establishing the project space x on Brownsville, TX
It would be not on be beneficial for space x but also brownsville. It has perfect environment for the project for it has large areas of flat land and the weather that is always constant, being no frequeny storms, strong winds, and it mostly sunny and open clear days. This would also give brownsville the opportunity to boom in economic status and this would be a good tourist spot to see project x.

1

May 06, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas.

First and foremost, this is such a fantastic, once in a life-time, opportunity! Personally, I believe this is exactly what Brownsville needs. This would mark the first private launch site in the world. To our community, and many others; this is huge!

With 12 launches per year (10/Falcon 9 & 2/Falcon Heavy), I foresee thousands of visitors from all over the world wanting to participate or witnessing these historic, land mark events, at a monthly basis! With this in mind, a huge, huge beneficial economic impact follows. There would be tremendous job opportunities following as well, with over 600 direct jobs and 400 additional indirect, induced jobs coming to Brownsville. Wages will be exceeding $55,000 per job. This will also have a big impact on our education as TSC could cater programs for industry and there could possibly be partnerships with local private schools. UTB's Gravitational Wave Astronomy supplements SpaceX's efforts as well. In all, this would be a community changer and change people's perception towards Brownsville and Cameron County.

This is very exciting! I'm 100% on board with this program and will offer my support in anyway, shape or form.

Sincerely,

Candido A. Mendez
Newtek "The Small Business Authority"
Business: (646) 479-2416
cmendez@thesba.com

From: James Mills [mailto:James.Mills@utb.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 10:41 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: [redacted]@spacexfutures.com
Subject: FW: Release of Draft EIS for SpaceX Texas Launch Site EIS

Hi Stacey,

I have read a recent FAA report in our local *Brownsville Herald* newspaper (page 8A, Tuesday, April 16, 2013) and it clearly states that the proposed SpaceX project in Cameron County, TX. will have a negative impact: A) " three historic properties with(in) the 5 mile radius may be physically damaged." (Ruben, this includes Mexican War sites), and B) "Biological Resources: Proposed action may affect habitat for the piping plover, aplomado falcon, jaguarundi, ocelot and sea turtles."

Please consider this email as a preliminary complaint against the proposed SpaceX program locating in Cameron County, TX. I am adamantly opposed to this proposition.

Respectfully,

James Mills
History Professor
UT - Brownsville
80 Fort Brown
Brownsville, TX. 78520
(956) 882-3860

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
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   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Shannon Milum Date: 5-20-13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: PO Box 11667

City, State, Zip Code: Los Fresnos TX 78566

I fully support the SpaceX project coming to Boca Chica beach in Brownsville, TX. Shannon Milum

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: brilymor@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 2:43 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Space X

To whom it may concern:

Hello, my name is Brianna Morales and I am currently a senior at Homer Hanna High School. I write this to express my interest in the Space X program. I think it would be a great idea to bring a launch pad to Brownsville because it could help educate children and bring more job opportunities to people interested in this program. Hope we can start this down here in Brownsville. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

1

P-197

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Kimberly Morales <kimboou_10@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 11:22 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Public beaches

why do I have to give up my rights to go to a public beach ? public beaches are just that the public has open access to come and go as we wish I would rather watch a launch from nasa or Puerto rico on the tv.

thanks,

Kimberly Morales

1

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Sandra Morfitt Date: 5/7/2013
Organization/Affiliation: Episcopal Day School
Address: 34 N. Coria St.
City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TX 78520

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-197

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I Support Space X for the future of Brownsville and the opportunities for our future generation of Scientists!

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Andrew Moser <MoserTbone1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 11:56 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Public Response/ Opinion for Launch Site

Hello,

My name is Andrew Moser and I am a senior at Hanna High School in Brownsville, TX. I am writing to submit my opinion concerning the launch pad site near Port Isabel. I completely support the building of Space X in this area. I believe that this project will prove to be fruitful for Brownsville in regards to employment and public enthusiasm in space exploration.

Thank you,

Andrew D. Moser

1

P-199

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Paquita Muñoz Chaves Date: 5/7/13

Organization/Affiliation: Volunteer Attorney

Address: 3005 Old Alice Rd 1100 A

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville TX 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-199

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: ISOBEL A. CASSELL Date: May 30, 2013

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 29 The Cove Road

City, State, Zip Code: Newcastle ON Canada
L1B 1B9

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

We received this environmental impact statement.
We are Winter Texans & did hear talk about this launch when we were in Brownsville Texas for the winter.
We winter at Cactus Cart Trailer Park on Boca Chica Blvd.
We are against this launch pad if it is going to be at Boca Chica Beach & our understanding that the access to this beach could be closed. This is not good - that is such a beautiful site & many people go out to this beach to relax & fish - & sun bathe. So we are against this launch being at this site.
Garnet & Isobel Cassell.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

MAY-29-2013 14:29 From: To:14109900455 Page:1/1

P-202

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: OF Date: 5-29-2013

Organization/Affiliation: Rotary of Brownsville

Address: 625 N. Expressway

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TX 78520

Comment: Looking Forward for this great opportunity for Brownsville's Future 1 Benefit.

Thank you,
OF.

Public Hearing Comment Form

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: DUTCH FISHER Date: 05/07/13

Organization/Affiliation: DUTCH FISHER REAL ESTATE

Address: 1642 E. PRICE RD STE 102

City, State, Zip Code: BROWNSVILLE, TX 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-202

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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2

Public Hearing Comment Form

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- ☑ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: J Gomez Date: 5-20-2013

Organization/Affiliation: Los Fresnos CISD

Address: 600 N. Mesquite

City, State, Zip Code: Los Fresnos, TX 78566

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-204

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

SpaceX Texas Launch Site would give opportunities for students in our area. The relationship between the company and local universities would build a stronger experience for students

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: FRANCISCO GONZALEZ Date: 5-7-13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 208 Resaca Retreat Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Los Fresnos, TX 78566

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-204

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I welcome SpaceX to Comeron County. I believe that launching vehicles from here will be a landmark event that will make the community shine in the 21st Century.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Adriana Gonzalez <adriannag35@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 1:40 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Public Hearing Comment - SpaceX Texas Launch Site

May 21, 2013

To whom it may concern:

In regards to the Space X launch site, I believe it would be a great opportunity for Brownsville and our surrounding communities, as well as our industry.
I do not believe that it will have a significant environmental impact in our industry. Besides the fact that it will give Brownsville a place on the map, it will create job opportunities.

Thank you.

Adriana D Gonzalez
55 Haynes Lane
Unit A
Brownsville, TX 78521

Please withhold my name and address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law, and do NOT add my name to the mailing list for future updates.

1

P-206

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Noe Granado Date: 5-7-13

Organization/Affiliation: AVM Computers

Address: 4645 Elliott Cr.

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TX 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-206

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

SpaceX Texas Launch Site will be the best project to ever reach Brownsville, TX. This will allow the opportunity for educational growth as well as economical growth. ~~Univer~~ The University of Texas at Brownsville and Brownsville Independent School district will be able to solicite career opportunities to their students. ~~Tourist~~ Many People will travel to Brownsville and leave their monies in the Rio Grande Valley. Businesses will grow and empoyement rate will rise. I personally want to thank SpaceX for giving Brownsville the opportunity to prospere.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Kay Martens Date: 6-1-13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 5112 Boca Chica Blvd.

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TX 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I think this is a good idea.
Better use of a resource as long
as it doesn't disrupt the wildlife.
Well small Burrowing Owls

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Asael Ruvalcaba Date: 5-20-13

Organization/Affiliation: LFCISD

Address: PO Box 1951

City, State, Zip Code: Los Fresnos, Tx. 78566

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

SpaceX sounds like a great idea for our students and for the benefit of the Brownsville greater area.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-209

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Nathaniel Silva Date: 5-7-13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 1143 W. St. Francis

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, Texas 78520

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-209

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I completely support the launch site for spaceX, Not only does this give us new potential jobs, but allows our students the opportunity to learn more about the science behind aerospace. I ~~belive~~ believe the benefits outweigh any negatives of this project.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: William P Swantner Date: 5/29/13

Organization/Affiliation: Swantner RE Val. Srvcs

Address: P O Box 5046

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, Texas 78523-5046

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I believe the launch site will be compatible w/environment w/proper oversight.

I understand that CAPE CANAVERAL in Florida has been a benefit to surrounding ecosystem

I believe this can be the outcome here by focusing prelim impact and monitoring the ecosystem can only benefit the ecosystem over the long term.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: MARILYN A. TERRILL Date: 5-16-13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 5112 Boca Chica Blvd #17

City, State, Zip Code: BROWNSVILLE, Texas 78521

I am a winter Texas and truly believe a Space Center would be perfect at Boca Chica Beach. Just as the beach doesn't close.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

P-212

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Daira Maryol Tolosa Date: 5/7/2013

Organization/Affiliation: CFHS

Address: 401 East 9th Street,

City, State, Zip Code: Los Fresnos, Texas, 78566

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-212

What are your plans to control sound levels and hazardous waste spills? It is to my understanding that you'd have approximately 12 launches a year; this would affect locals and wildlife. I'm also concerned with how you would deal with concern of the Commissioner at that property.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Nava, Juan (GE Aviation, US) <juans.nava@ge.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 1:34 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: SpaceX EIS comment

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to thank you for the public hearing held last week. We learned a great deal regarding the proposed SpaceX project and the potential impacts on the surrounding area.

Personally, I support SpaceX in their endeavor to come to Brownsville. I believe it would be not only a great boost to our local economy but also to our education system. Our children will have one more thing to aspire to and dream about. I can only imagine how great it would be to have something like this in the Valley growing up as a kid. Having SpaceX launch rockets from Boca Chica will serve to inspire our young ones for generations.

I believe the benefits infinitely outweigh the minor potential impacts on the surrounding environment. In fact, I believe the city and SpaceX will do everything in their power not only to not harm the surrounding environment but also improve it for local wildlife.

Please accept my comment of support for SpaceX into consideration when making a decision later this year. Thank you for the opportunity.

Juan S. Nava
GE Aviation
McAllen IT Site Leader
PHONE (956)971-5262
CELL (956)648-1434
FAX (956)971-5229
DIAL COMM 8*355-5262
juans.nava@ge.com

GE Aviation, MC1
4260 S. 42nd St.
McAllen, TX. 78503

GE Aviation, MC2
5001 George McVay
McAllen, TX. 78503

GE imagination at work

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

For Brownsville to have the following added to our resume would be outstanding:

- Would be first private launch site in the world
- 600 direct jobs
- Wages exceeding $55,000 per job
- $51 million in annual payroll
- 400 additional indirect, induced jobs
- Total of $71 million in annual payroll
- Majority of employment from the region
- Create new skill set for aerospace, aviation
- 12 launches per year
  - 10 launches of the Falcon 9
  - 2 launches of the Falcon Heavy
- Launches could attract thousands of visitors, per monthly launch
- $1 million economic impact per launch for area
- Each launch attracts 40-60 engineers, technicians and scientists, stay for 30 days
- Constant flow of suppliers traveling to Brownsville to do business with SpaceX
- No wetlands in immediate area
- Cape Canaveral sits in middle of wetlands and have successfully launched for decades
- SpaceX already mitigating risks to sea turtles and piping plovers at Cape Canaveral
- Falls within the STEM program of Brownsville ISD
- Opportunities for aerospace magnet program
- Opportunities for partnerships with local private schools
- UTB's Gravitational Wave Astronomy supplement SpaceX's efforts
- Opportunity to create aerospace pipeline of interns, employees
- TSC could cater programs for industry
- Project considered a community changer
- Change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County
- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Juan David Navarro
TITLE CSR
ADDRESS 3679 Oviedo Dr. Brownsville, Tx 78520
PHONE NUMBER (956) 204-2413
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) Jnavarro@thesba.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: karla92610 <karla92610@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 12:47 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us

Dear FAA:

My name is Karla Nieto,I am writing you to express my support for project X in Brownsville!! I know this will promote tourism and more job oppurtunities. This will positively affect Brownsville' s economy, so I am really looking foward to know it will be accomplished.
Thank you for your time.
Sincerely. an involved community member

Sent from my Cricket smartphone.

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Ramiro Olivares <ramiroolivares13@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 11:58 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Launch site

Dear FAASpace X,

My name is Ramiro Olivares from Brownsville Texas and I am currently a student at Homer Hanna High School, and I am writing in the support of building SpaceX in Brownsville. I am interested in this project simply because of my pathway into astronomy I believe it will benefit many of us here in our area.
Thank you,
Ramiro Olivares

Sent from my iPhone

1

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Celia Ontiveros Date: _____

Organization/Affiliation: LFCISD

Address: 103 Mesquite

City, State, Zip Code: [redacted] Los Fresnos, TX 78566

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I think this is a great opportunity for Brownsville / Los Fresnos. If no environmental issues will arise, then it looks like this will be a great project.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-218

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Alma Ortiz Knopp Date: 5/7/2013

Organization/Affiliation: Brownsville Independent School District - Hanna High Sch

Address: 32 Casa de Amigos

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TX 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-218

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I have been a resident of Brownsville for the past forty years and am a local educator. I ~~feel~~ believe that SpaceX building a launching site in Brownsville, Texas would be a fantastic opportunity for our community. SpaceX would provide employment and business opportunities as a result of tourism. Local students will benefit from the educational opportunities SpaceX would provide. SpaceX would provide our community something to be proud of. This project would also help protect the environment by creating an economic venture that would have the ~~least of~~ most minimal effect on our wildlife since the development would be very limited. Our community would still have access to Boca Chica Beach and ~~to~~ the Beach would continue to be a natural beach. Thank you.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-220

Name: Mark Perales
Comment: Dear Space X,
I am a student from Hanna High School from Mrs. Knopp-Ortiz's government class. I approve of the establishment of the launch pad here in Boca Chica. It will increase jobs and further increase our understanding in space.
Date Received: 5/24/2013

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch comrnand center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

For Brownsville to have the following added to our resume would be outstanding:

- Would be first private launch site in the world
- 600 direct jobs
- Wages exceeding $55,000 per job
- $51 million in annual payroll
- 400 additional indirect, induced jobs
- Total of $71 million in annual payroll
- Majority of employment from the region
- Create new skill set for aerospace, aviation
- 12 launches per year
  - 10 launches of the Falcon 9
  - 2 launches of the Falcon Heavy
- Launches could attract thousands of visitors, per monthly launch
- $1 million economic impact per launch for area
- Each launch attracts 40-60 engineers, technicians and scientists, stay for 30 days
- Constant flow of suppliers traveling to Brownsville to do business with SpaceX
- No wetlands in immediate area
- Cape Canaveral sits in middle of wetlands and have successfully launched for decades
- SpaceX already mitigating risks to sea turtles and piping plovers at Cape Canaveral
- Falls within the STEM program of Brownsville ISD
- Opportunities for aerospace magnet program
- Opportunities for partnerships with local private schools
- UTB's Gravitational Wave Astronomy supplement SpaceX's efforts
- Opportunity to create aerospace pipeline of interns, employees
- TSC could cater programs for industry
- Project considered a community changer
- Change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County
- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Simon Ortiz
TITLE Newtech MS
ADDRESS 1979 Cordoba Drive
PHONE NUMBER 956-346-7777
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) Simon@rgv.rr.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

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Sincerely,

NAME Adriana Perez
TITLE Executive Assistant
ADDRESS 5839 Paso Real Dr. Brownsville, TX 78521
PHONE NUMBER 956-346-4164
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) aperez@thesba.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

05/30/2013 10:16 9565463606 ROBERT L PERKINS III PAGE 01/03

ROBERT L PERKINS, III CPA
OFFICE: (956) 546-2900
FAX: (956) 546-3606

TO: Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FROM: Robert L Perkins III
COMPANY: Robert L Perkins III, CPA
DATE: 05-30-13
FAX NUMBER: (410) 990-0455
TOTAL NO. OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER: 3
PHONE NUMBER:
SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:
RE: SpaceX TX Launch Site Environmental Impact Stmt
YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:

URGENT (FOR REVIEW) PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY

Notes/Comments:

IRS CIRCULAR 230 DISCLOSURE: As required by the United States Treasury Regulations, you should be aware that any tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, by the recipient for the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed under the Internal Revenue Code or local Tax laws provisions.

The information contained in this facsimile message is client PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL and is intended only for the individual or entity named in this transmission sheet. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by telephone, and return the original message to us at the address below via the U S Postal Service. Upon request we will reimburse you for any cost of return. Thank you.

173 E Price Road Brownsville, TX 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: ROBERT L. PERKINS Date: MAY 30, 2013

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 255 FRUITDALE DR.

City, State, Zip Code: BROWNSVILLE TX 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

A GOOD ARGUMENT FOR SPACEX PROJECT BROWNSVILLE, TX

I TOOK A GOOD LOOK AT THE AREA AROUND CAPE CANAVERAL CAPE KENNEDY.

THE BIRDS STILL FLY
THE FISH STILL SWIM
THE GRASS + TREES STILL GROW.

THE COMMUNITY BENEFITED BECAUSE IT WAS THERE.

WE WILL BENEFIT FROM SPACEX.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Maria Pointer <mariapointer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 8:06 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Pointer property adjacent to Space X.

Dear Ms. Stacey M. Zee,

You can imagine my surprise when I finally received a CD from you along with a recent email. Last year we were informed that a small rocket launch was being proposed on the beach and we never heard much after that. I gave you our address and asked to be kept informed. Needless to say we are in total shock as to the scope and range this facility and how it will affect our wilderness property that we have spent a decade building for our retirement move this very year. It is an exhausting prospect to think of what our future now will not be.

We just rebuilt our home from the ground up after hurricane Dolly in 2008, and the prospect of living next to your propellants and fuels in the next hurricane, is a good place to start asking questions. Other sad concerns are the building and road pollution, and all the influx of activity of non local traffic displacing local beach users of Brownsville. This is (was) a one of a kind spot and the wildlife is like no other place on earth.

I would like to start a dialogue of how you plan on protecting our home, property and lives, not to mention the loss of view shed, drainage, traffic, invasion of privacy, noise, lights, dust, rush hours of employee's and projects,and the list is endless at this point. Everything that is mentioned in the CD directly affects our home. For starters:

If you widened or raise the road, we get more water shed. Does our flood insurance increase? What's the FEMA input?

When you build directly on all three sides of us, gone is our wilderness location that we developed at our loss. We can't replace disrupted environment or displaced wildlife that moves away or is destroyed.

If you have an accident, we inherent all the damage and loss of wildlife, with the burden of proving losses.

If a tornado or hurricane destroys your property, you condemn our property beyond storm loss. Again giving us the burden of proof.

To sum up the beginning of our needs, there is not one thing that is being proposed that will not effect our property that is sandwiched in between all of your three sites. There basically is not much left of what we had by the time you've developed all around us.

It's to extensive of a list that we need to start addressing now that we finally got some information. How could you ignore the only property that is surrounded by your proposal? Is this normal communications? Is this how government backed programs take over? We hope you have some explanations that can move us to another way to work with you, other than finding a beat up piece of mail that came by way of three different addresses. Thanks to the efforts of our Brownsville's local route carrier to take it upon himself to track us down. Why didn't you use my Ketchikan Alaska address I emailed you last year? Or the updated new address on the tax records in Brownsville which I've listed below?

Please call us at 907.617.5852, and we look forward to hearing how we can address our private property concerns and losses.

1

Use our updated mailing address, not our physical property. Your CD was mailed to our physical property unfortunately and who knows what other correspondence that has been lost. Tax records do not reflect this location as our mailing address, and unfortunately this is my second attempt to stay in touch with you.

Maira and Rayford L. Pointer
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 715
Haines, Alaska
99827-0715

Boca Chica physical address:
52253 State Hwy.#4
Brownsville TX
78521-8927

2

P-224

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: SCOTT POKRASS Date: _____

Organization/Affiliation: B.I.S.D.

Address: 209 MORELOS

City, State, Zip Code: RVCC TX 78575

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-224

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-225

Name: Jon Presas
Comment: Hello, I am Jon Presas.
I am writing this to support the building of the space X launchpad in Brownsville. I think it is a great idea to build the launchpad down here because it would bring the boom in the economy that is very much needed down here. I feel it is also a big way to get south texas more involved with the rest of the nation. It would also bring more tourism and stuff alike which is great because there is alot of space to build and expand here in south Texas. It will also give many kids who are unable to see much as adolescents due to problems with money something amazing to witness.
Date Received: 5/24/2013

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Esmeralda Quintana Longoria Date: 5/20/13
Organization/Affiliation: LFCISD
Address: 309 N. Arroyo Blvd
City, State, Zip Code: Los Fresnos, Tx 78566

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

This is an excellent opportunity for our students to participate in a) STEM programs at school and have a) with close by in order for them to visit and learn about these jobs.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

05/31/2013 14:19 9565453606 ROBERT L PERKINS III PAGE 01/02

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Edgar Quintanilla CPA Date: 5/31/2013
Organization/Affiliation: Robert L Perkins III CPAs
Address: 7001 Rusty Rail Dr.
City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville TX 78526

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

05/31/2013 14:19 9565463606 ROBERT L PERKINS III PAGE 02/02

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

Based on my investigation of other Launch Sites I don't feel it would have any negative impacts in our environment. I feel this will bring prosperity & positive things to our community.

E Perkins 5/31/2013

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-228

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
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   Federal Aviation Administration
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   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: AuBree Ramos Date: 5-7-13

Organization/Affiliation: N/A

Address: 544 Land O' Lakes

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, Texas. 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-228

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I support the spacex because I think that it will be really cool to have in Brownsville. In Brownsville, the people never had anything like this. The interesting things would be able to watch the space ships launch, but I'm also confused about the environment and what it will do to the animals, plants, and every~~thing~~ living thing on this planet. The spacex would be cool but we also have to think of the positive things and the negative things.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Pedro Ramos <pedro.ramos.1126@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 9:57 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Space X and Brownsville

To whom it may concern,

My name is Pedro Ramos III. I am currently a senior at Hanna High School and will soon be moving on to college. I am sending this email in order to show my support of having Space X here in Brownsville, Texas.

I believe that space exploration is responsible for some of the greatest innovations in technology. Things like cloud storage have been a direct result of space exploration. In order to continue advancing science and technology, we must travel beyond our borders to the vast unknown of space.

Like many members of my community, I too am worried about the ecosystem of our city. Unlike some, however, I have full confidence in the promises that Space X has made in order to protect the environment. After all, experts hired in our best interest must know what to do in order to avoid catastrophe. After all, what good is searching for new planets if we can't care for our own?

The final reason I support Space X is more personal. I will be attending Texas A & M University - College Station and earn a Bachelor's degree, possibly even a Master's degree, in electrical engineering. I love Brownsville, it will always be my hometown, and it would be amazing if I could work on space launches and still settle down in my hometown.

I hope that you will take my humble opinion into consideration when deciding on a location for Space X. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Pedro Ramos III

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: terri reed <rgv.goldinvest@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 1:54 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.

Bringing the Space X project would be a great thing for our area. My nephew who is a bit of an academic and teacher said the he would be thrilled to have a shot at a career that had upward mobility and stay in an area close to his family.
As a math and science teacher, he could see the benefits of challenging the students with a career that they could experience locally.

As a Realtor I see the definite economic benefits.

Terry Reed

Have a Great Day!
Cell: 417. 660. 9407
rgv.goldinvest@yahoo.com
Brownsville, Texas
Your Gate to Caribbean Investments!

May 6, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas.

The list of advantages includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Would be first private launch site in the world
- 600 direct jobs
- Wages exceeding $55,000 per job
- $51 million in annual payroll
- Majority of employment from the region
- Create new skill set for aerospace, aviation
- $1 million economic impact per launch for area
- Each launch attracts 40-60 engineers, technicians and scientists, stay for 30 days
- SpaceX already mitigating risks to sea turtles and piping plovers at Cape Canaveral
- Falls within the STEM program of Brownsville IS
- TSC could cater programs for industry
- Project considered a community changer
- Change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rendon

Stephanie M. Rendon, MBA
Client Development Specialist, Terracon Consultants, Inc.
1506 Mid Cities Drive, Pharr, Texas 78577
956-283-8254
smrendon@terracon.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Luis Reyes <lfreyes2010@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 2:47 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Please Bring SpaceX to Brownsville, TX

Dear Ms. Stacey M. Zee,

Hundreds of thousands of years ago there once stood a man who looked upon the sea. In the far distance he could see the faint image of a mountain rising from the seemingly endless blue waters in front of him. He spent several months coming to the shore early in the morning to the shores right outside of his village, and he would spend hours looking across the water. His elders told him that in order to reach that spot of land he would have to travel thousands and thousands of days, and only the gods knew if he could make it there. One day he grew tired of just standing there and looking across the waters, so he set about to build himself a craft that would take him to the mountain at the horizon. He spent months working and testing his craft until finally he was ready to set sail. His kinsmen and friends called him crazy the day he decided to board what he called a "ship". Nervously they all looked at him as he crossed the sea. Several weeks passed. Everyone in the village figured he had perished, except for a small child who kept vigil at the spot where his hero had set sail weeks earlier. Then one day the little boy saw something in the distance. At first he thought he was just seeing things. Then to his surprise he could make out the image of his hero. The boy waved, jumped up and down, and shouted with joy as the man and his ship came closer to shore. Astonished, the entire village came to the shore to welcome the sojourner, who had brought back with him several fruits he had found across the waters. He told stories of what he saw and did. These stories inspired several boys to take it upon themselves to build their own ships and to set sail for the distant mountain. Others took to the sea as well, but their course took them to distant lands. While some, unfortunately, met their demise while out at sea, a number of them returned with treasures and stories to tell. And so began the process that would lead man to colonize all hospitable lands on Earth.

In 2013, to any boy or girl space is the final frontier. In Brownsville, the final frontier remains on Earth. For them, college, a paying career, and an escape from poverty are what matters more. They look up to the stars, but to them taking flight to explore far away galaxies and nebulae remains in the realm of distant thoughts. If SpaceX were to come to Brownsville, I can see a youngster stepping to the "shores"' of his/her town to look beyond and to dream of what awaits beyond the stars. It is not the economic boon or the prestige of having SpaceX in the Rio Grande Valley that drives me to write this email to you. For me, what compels me to write this is the chance that y'all can give the children of the Rio Grande Valley a chance to look beyond their world and to dream of greater dreams much like the young man in the story above.

Currently I live in New Orleans. I grew up nearby to where SpaceX would set up its spaceport. Since I heard that y'all were considering Cameron Count as a site, my heart was full of hope that y'all would grant my homeland this beautiful gift. Give my brothers and sisters the hope that theirs is the gateway to a new world, a new chance at life, and that they can take part in writing the next chapter in human history.

I hope that all is well with you.

Sincerely,

Luis Fernando Reyes
Tulane University's Center for Public Service AmeriCorps VISTA - Communications Coordinator for the Latino Farmers Cooperative

1

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

For Brownsville to have the following added to our resume would be outstanding:

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- Majority of employment from the region
- Create new skill set for aerospace, aviation
- 12 launches per year
  - 10 launches of the Falcon 9
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- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Guadalupe Rios
TITLE Business Service Specialist
ADDRESS 421 Jose Marti Blvd Apt. 101, Brownsville, TX, 78526
PHONE NUMBER 956-372-8575
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) griosiii@gmail.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

P-234

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Krysha Rivera-Ramos Date: 5.7.13

Organization/Affiliation: N/A

Address:

City, State, Zip Code: B'ville Tx 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-234

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I believe that the space X will have a devistating impact on our enviornment. Brownsville is rich of wildlife that may be destroyed by the construction of Space X. Also I believe it will not create jobs for our local community. All jobs will be contracted out from out-of-state personal

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-235

Name: Tom Robinson
Comment: The Boca Chica Beach area which SpaceX wants to use as a rocket launch station is part of a valuable environmental zone which will be destroyed if the government of Texas and the government of the United States allow SpaceX to get in and have its way.

For my part I can hardly believe that the SpaceX proposal was even given any serious attention, considering the negative impact it will have on such an important ecosystem which is one of the few places still left where wildlife can remain relatively unmolested. I have been a user of Boca Chica since 1954. The beach has remained practically undeveloped since 1933, to the great advantage of the brown pelican, nesting Ridley sea turtles, wildlife in general, as well as the fishermen and thousands of beachgoers of Brownsville.

Any intervention by SpaceX will result in harm to the wildlife and cultural traditions of the local citizens who need a place where their children can find economical recreation. Any purported economic advantages to Brownsville by sacrificing its most valuable natural recreational resource to SpaceX will be far outweighed by the environmental destruction to wildlife and the loss of a natural recreational area which will clearly become off limits to the average family which presently has access to the beauty and serenity which Boca Chica now provides.

The mayor of Brownsville, Antonio Martinez, visited the area which SpaceX wants to develop and then made the comment that there was "nothing there", implying that the area has no environmental or economic value and that it is perfectly acceptable, even necessary for SpaceX to move in. Mayor Martinez demonstrated his ignorance and indifference toward the need to preserve the beach as a part of the surrounding Federal Wildlife Refuge, the goal of which is to maintain the entire ecosystem intact. The greatest value economic value of Boca Chica Beach and its environs will continue to be realized by leaving it as it is and not allowing developers like SpaceX to interfere, no matter what promises they may make.

Date Received: 6/22/2013 and 6/23/2013

P-236

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

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- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Tony Robles
TITLE
ADDRESS 301 Mexico Blvd.
PHONE NUMBER 956. 982. 9000 Ext 21042
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

P-238

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Mando Rocha <mando_bigpapi@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 11:57 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Launch site

Dear Spacex

Hello there my name is Armando Rocha and I am writing to inform you that I support the area of your launch site. I am a student at a local high school here in Brownsville and I feel it would be great to finally put us on the map. Also, the experience of having the Spacex here would be great for those who are interested in an astronomy career plus it would be a great monument to the city of Brownsville. I SUPPORT YOU!

Thank you for listening to my concerns,
-Armando

Sent from my iPhone

1

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site Environmental Impact Statement

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Campy Rodriguez Date: 5/7/13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 1200 Tesoro

City, State, Zip Code: Rancho Viejo, TX 78575

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-238

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I want Rockets to launch in my backyard like they do at Nasa. Go SpaceX!!!!!

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Danielle Rdz <danielle_rod11@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 9:23 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us

To the Federal Aviation Administration,

My name is Danielle Rodriguez, and I am a senior at Hanna High School, which is located in Brownsville, Texas. I am emailing you to show my support of SpaceX recieiving their launch license. SpaceX can provide many new job opportunities to the locals, can attract people all over the world to Brownsville for these same jobs, and can raise the interests of space to many of our youths. With SpaceX many of our youths can be given new learning opportunities. SpaceX can also attract tourists to South Texas, which can in turn make more of our cities prosper.

Thank you,

Danielle Rodriguez

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: lluuvv_22@live.com
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 10:07 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Graciela Rodriguez;Space X

Hello, my name is Graciela Rodriguez from Hanna High School and I just wanted express my excitement from hopefully the future construction of Space X. I believe the construction of Space X will help with education and increase tourism in Brownsville.

-Thank you for you time,
Graciela Rodriguez

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: jrcraconsulting@gmail.com on behalf of June Rodriguez <junerodriguez@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 12:02 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Protection for Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Nesting Grounds

Good morning:

I am writing concerning the EIS regarding the proposed SpaceX launches at Boca Chica Beach in Texas on the Gulf Coast. Among several endangered species in that area, the Kemp's ridley sea turtle (Lepidochelys kempi) nests there. Since this is a critically endangered species, it is extremely important that the beach as well as the coastal area of the Gulf be left alone from early spring until September 1. Male Kemp's ridleys may be gathering in the coastal waters in February and March prior to the arrival of the nesting females. Then later in the spring although eggs may be moved to a corral by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), there may be nests that are not found. In that case, hatchlings would emerge and go to the water in July or even August. Traffic on the beaches must not be allowed during from February 1 until September 1.

If there is complete cooperation between SpaceX and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to assure that all protections for the Kemp's ridley sea turtles or other species of sea turtles in that area are complete, perhaps the SpaceX project can go forward. The Sea Turtle Restoration Project and thousands of sea turtle advocates are carefully watching the development of this project and request that the FAA and USFWS implement all the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

1

P-242

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Mickey Rodriguez (Aydo) Date: 5/7/13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 1200 Tesoro

City, State, Zip Code: Rancho Viejo, TX 78575

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-242

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I want to fly in a rocket from brownsville.

go spaceX

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

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- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Santiago Rodriguez
TITLE VP of Insurance Services
ADDRESS 4200 Boca Chica Blvd. #246, Brownsville, TX 78521
PHONE NUMBER 956-455-2589
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) srodriguez423@yahoo.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: ashlea rosenbaum <ashlearose77@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 12:32 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: I approve!

Hello, my name is Ashlea Rosemarie Rosenbaum and I approve of Space X locating itself on Boca Chica Beach. It will definitely bring technological, and education advancements, that the valley desperately needs.

1

P-245

Name: Kathy Roxlau
Comment: There seems to be some confusion on the number of historic properties affected by the proposed project. ES-12 reports four properties affected. ES-23 reports five properties. ES-28 is back to four properties. And 4-31 returns to five impacted properties.
I think there needs to be more emphasis in the Executive Summary that a NHL would be impacted.
Date Received: 4/16/2013

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Timo <timoruedas@myway.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2013 4:38 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M
Subject: Fwd: Jack Hanna Animal Adventures

Importance: High

FYI - In reference to the Environmental Impact Statement in Support for SpaceX.

"Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures" - Episode #2026 was filmed in Cape Canaveral.

-----Original Message-----
From: "Jack Hanna Team" [JackHannaIntern@columbuszoo.org]
Date: 05/21/2013 11:46 AM
To: "timoruedas@myway.com"
Subject: Jack Hanna Animal Adventures

Dear Timo,

Thank you so much for reaching out to Jack Hanna! He is currently out of the office traveling and asked that I get back to you.

I asked Jack's production manager if he had ever filmed in Cape Canaveral, and they did! However it was many years back for his first series, "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures" - it was episode #2026. Unfortunately, we do not have any of Jack's shows for sale here in the office, and Animal Adventures is owned by a different company. There are some episodes available on DVD through Amazon.com - or you can try and catch the correct episode on television because Animal Adventures is in syndication and still airs in many cities.

We apologize that we are unable to help you obtain a copy, but there is always a chance the complete series will be sold sometime in the future. Thanks again for writing and have a great day!

Take care,

Rachel Csaszar
Jack Hanna Team
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
www.jackhanna.com <http://www.jackhanna.com>

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: David Ruiz <druizcisneros@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 10:35 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Land owners with title

Dear Ms. Zee

I am against Space X because by law beaches belong to the public, and land owners have and hold rights to the land where it stands all the way to the stars, and to what ever minerals are underground.

Sincerely

David A. Ruiz Cisneros

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Alex Ruiz <loborocaruiz2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 12:12 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; rudyruiz1234@att.net; David Ruiz; mauro ruiz
Subject: Space X in South Texas

This email is addressed to Stacey M. Zee and all concerned with Space X,

My name is David A. Ruiz and am representing 125 members of the Cisneros family in Brownsville, Texas. We have come to a cross road with all agencies involved with bringing Space X program to South Texas especially since these lands are privately owned by the Cisneros family. We will be in high pursuit of claiming these lands back from the State of Texas and all others involved since we have precedence with a Land Purchased Title dating back to the 1700's. I further conclude that all parties involved with Space X and affiliates will be sued to the Highest extent of the highest courts in the land including all State and Federal courts.
Thank you for your concern in these matters.

Sincerely,

David A. Ruiz

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Alex Ruiz <laborocaruiz2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 08, 2013 12:21 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Space X apposed in Lower Rio Grande Valley

In the immortal words of true Texans: COME & TAKE IT! Of course I am exercising Freedom of Speech.

Cameron County Man Opposes Building of Rocket Launch Site : KRGV.com : CHANNEL 5 NEWS : Breaking...www.krgv.comA Cameron County resident says building a rocket launch site at Boca Chica Beach is a bad idea

D. Alejandro Ruiz

P.S.:125 members of the Cisneros Family are opposed to launch site from Boca Chica Beach!

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Erick <erick_ruva94@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2013 1:05 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: SpaceX

Hello, my name is Erick Ruvalcaba and i'm a Brownsville high school student. I believe that having the spaceX launch pad here in Brownsville would be a great idea. It would bring many jobs and tourism for the community.

To whom it may concern
Erick Ruvalcaba

1

P-251

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Alicia Elizabeth Salazar Date: 05/07/13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 1071 Marrs Ave.

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, Texas 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-251

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

-How will this affect our community and our wildlife?

-Are the fumes, that the rocket emitts ~~are~~ toxic? And at what extent?

-Also for this kind of project wouldn't you need an unpopulated area that is not that close to our city?

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-252

Name: Estephanie Salazar
Comment: My name is Estephanie Salazar from Hanna High school, and I support the building of SpaceX in Brownsville, Tx. I feel it would really help us economic wise, and would bring many tourists on this site. It would also help Brownsville get put on the map. Instead of being seen in a negative light because we are so close to the border; we will be seen in a new positive light.
Date Received: 5/23/2013

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Clarissa Salinas <csalinas0934@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 11:57 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: SpaceX Proposal in Brownsville

Good morning. I am a senior at Homer Hanna High School. I am writing to support the proposal of a SpaceX launch site in Brownsville, Texas. Having lived here all my life, I consider Brownsville not only my home, but also a prosperous city to live in. If SpaceX is built here, a mutual benefit would be made.

Thank you, Clarissa Salinas.

Sent from my Windows Phone

1

P-254

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☑ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Daniel Salinas Date: 5/7/13
Organization/Affiliation: Brownsville Early College High School
Address: 2553 Deer Trail
City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, TX, 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-254

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

SpaceX is the opportunity that Brownsville has been waiting for. This project is what will bring Brownsville onto the map, and make us known as the City of Space Transportation. This project will create many jobs and educational opportunities since middleschools and highschools will be able to create lessons and programs that will inspire children to learn about aoerospace technology and transportation This can open the doors to college and university opportunities. Children may decide to become a rocket engineer or even an astronaut. The SpaceX project can also bring tourism to our city as visitors will want to tour the facility. This in turn opens up even more jobs. So no matter how you look at it, there is an opportunity for jobs, education, and for tourism. Just look at us now, we are going up against Florida, Georgia, and Puerto Rico. Such a small city going up agains; states that will do anything to get this project. We can't let this project go now. Especially not with all the hardwork that BEDC, the city, and Cameron County has done. As Abraham Lincoln said, if we don't try, how will we succeed. So the only question that I have for you now is, will you give this project a chance?

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

P-255

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Gilbert Salinas Date: 5-7-13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: ~~27~~ 2553 Deertrail

City, State, Zip Code: 78521

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

P-255

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

I really want SpaceX to come to Brownsville because it will be a big opportunity for a small city. This will provide at least 500-600 jobs. Im hoping in the next few years, ~~we will see~~ that we are going to see a launch. Im in 7th grade and I want to work for SpaceX.

No

—Gilbert Salinas

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Nathan Salinas <salinas_bros@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 9:09 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: To whom it may concern.

Greetings to whom it may concern,
My name is Nathaniel Salinas, I am a high school student at Hanna High School, and i am writting in support of the building of SpaceX in Brownsville, Texas. I believe if SpaceX were to be built in Brownsville that it would benifiet the community in a great manner. With the SpaceX program here in Brownsville by Bocha Chica Beach the communtiy would prosper and grow in that area. Brownsville would as well become a tourist attraction to see and visit the space center. With all the tourists that go to South Padre Island a majority are bound to stop and visit the space center. Well thank you for your time.

Thank you,
~ Nathaniel Salinas

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: deanna sanchez <d_ang23@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:48 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: SPACE X IN TEXAS

Greetings
My name is Deanna Sanchez from Brownsville Texas and i currently a high school student soon to be in college and i strongly support the building of Space X in South Padre Island, Texas. I think this would be a wonderful opportunity to put Brownsville on the map and not just that be to help provide opportunities for those who are interesting in subject to pursue a career and not having to go that far. Space X would also provide jobs that are much needed in our area.
Thankyou very much and i really hope Space X is built here and not in Florida they already have disney world!
Sincerly,
Deanna Angelica Sanchez

1

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

For Brownsville to have the following added to our resume would be outstanding:

- Would be first private launch site in the world
- 600 direct jobs
- Wages exceeding $55,000 per job
- $51 million in annual payroll
- 400 additional indirect, induced jobs
- Total of $71 million in annual payroll
- Majority of employment from the region
- Create new skill set for aerospace, aviation
- 12 launches per year
  - 10 launches of the Falcon 9
  - 2 launches of the Falcon Heavy
- Launches could attract thousands of visitors, per monthly launch
- $1 million economic impact per launch for area
- Each launch attracts 40-60 engineers, technicians and scientists, stay for 30 days
- Constant flow of suppliers traveling to Brownsville to do business with SpaceX
- No wetlands in immediate area
- Cape Canaveral sits in middle of wetlands and have successfully launched for decades
- SpaceX already mitigating risks to sea turtles and piping plovers at Cape Canaveral
- Falls within the STEM program of Brownsville ISD
- Opportunities for aerospace magnet program
- Opportunities for partnerships with local private schools
- UTB's Gravitational Wave Astronomy supplement SpaceX's efforts
- Opportunity to create aerospace pipeline of interns, employees
- TSC could cater programs for industry
- Project considered a community changer
- Change the perception of Brownsville and Cameron County
- Help attract other companies in aerospace industry, in turn it would create a cluster
- Region could become future Space City
- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

NAME Giana Sanchez
TITLE
ADDRESS
PHONE NUMBER 956-238-7719
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) giana.sanchez@yahoo.com

CompetitiveReady

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: michele sanchez <michele@msanchezpc.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 3:17 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M
Subject: SpaceX at Boca Chica Beach

I believe that having the SpaceX launch site at Boca Chica will do more good than harm for that area. At least Space X will organize beach clean-ups and nurture the wildlife. Your favorable review of their application is encouraged.

Sincerely,
Michele Sanchez
michele@msanchezpc.com

Michele Sanchez, P.C.
Attorney at Law
717 N. Expressway
Brownsville, Texas 78520
Phone (956) 541-7211
Fax (956) 541-4294

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this Electronic Mail is private and confidential. It may be subject to the attorney-client privilege or the attorney work product privilege. This information is intended for the exclusive use of the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination by someone other than the addressee(s), copying or taking of any action because of this information is strictly prohibited. Please send comments directly to the sender of this transmission.

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Gilbert Salas <gsalas991@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 1:32 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.

To whom it may concern, I am a student from Hanna High school and I agree in having a launching pad in Brownsville TX. For this following reasons; working class will improve, the economical status of this border town will increase and tourisum will rise. But most importantly is the natural preservation of boca chica beach. -sincerly Jasmin Santibanez

1

Public Hearing Comment Form
SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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   Federal Aviation Administration
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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Don + LeAnn Sederholm Date: 5-30-2013
Organization/Affiliation: Winter Texans
Address: 1471-2nd Ave
City, State, Zip Code: Newport MN. 55055

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

We think the proposal for the SpaceX Launch site is good idea, as long as Boca Chica Beach is not completely ~~shut~~ close.

Wintw Texans

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

May 7, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Zee:

This letter is submitted in response to the May 7, 2013, Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from the FAA/AST proposal to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (Space X). I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Space X's proposal to launch from a site in Cameron County, Texas.

Locating the proposed launch facility on the Boca Chica Beach site off of Highway 4 would be an ideal location because of its close proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and because the land that Space X will need remains undeveloped today. I am confident that Space X will conduct its operations in a mutually beneficial and cooperative manner with respect to the environment, local residents, beachgoers, and the community as a whole. Just as they have in other areas, Space X's experience operating complex launches in and around wildlife refuges and other environmentally protected areas can lead to an eco-friendly facility for wildlife and natural habitat.

The proposed project will be an asset to the entire South Texas region. It will inspire our local school children to reach for the stars and focus more than ever on critical science, technology, engineering and math studies. It could also create opportunities for programs and degrees as well as research facilities at our local institutions of higher learning here in the Rio Grande Valley. The Space X project will create high-paying job opportunities for local residents and stimulate other indirect jobs. In addition, the tourism potential a project of this magnitude can bring to the region is immeasurable.

I am in full support of the project and am delighted that this commercial company is strongly considering Cameron County.

Sincerest regards,

Myrna G. Sepulveda

May 7, 2013

Ms. Stacey M. Zee
FAA Environmental Specialist
Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

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Sincerest regards,

Norma Sepulveda

May 7, 2013

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Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
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Annapolis, MD 21401

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Sincerest regards,

Rebekkah Sepulveda

Rebekkah N. Sepulveda

May 7, 2013

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Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
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I am in full support of the project and am delighted that this commercial company is strongly considering Cameron County.

Sincerest regards,

Sylvia Sepulveda

May 7, 2013

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Annapolis, MD 21401

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Sincerest regards,

Vivien S. Sepulveda

Vivien Sepulveda

May 7, 2013

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Space X EIS c/o Cardno TEC, Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

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I am in full support of the project and am delighted that this commercial company is strongly considering Cameron County.

Sincerest regards, Yaretzi

Yaretzi R. Sepulveda

NICHOLAS T. SERAFY, JR.
205 West Levee Street
Brownsville, Texas 78520-5596
Tel 956-546-5313 Ext 319 nick@serafy.com Fax 956-542-4041

May 6, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas.

This private launch site, one of the first in the world, has the potential to create 600 direct jobs with average wages exceeding $55,000 per job and a total annual payroll of $51 million. When you add the 400 additional indirect jobs created by the project, the annual payroll that will be generated by SpaceX and related projects will surpass $71 million. Additionally, each monthly launch could attract thousands of visitors to Brownsville and South Padre Island.

The University of Texas at Brownsville has a gravitational wave astronomy program that would be able to supplement SpaceX's efforts. SpaceX will also be a great supplement to Brownsville ISD's STEM programs.

SpaceX will not only be an economic stimulus to our area but also an educational stimulus. As one if the poorest, least educated communities in the U. S., SpaceX is a project that can change the direction of Brownsville for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Nicholas T. Serafy, Jr.

NICHOLAS T. SERAFY, JR.
205 West Levee Street
Brownsville, Texas 78520-5596
Tel 956-546-5313 Ext 319 nick@serafy.com Fax 956-542-4041

May 6, 2013

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SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
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Sincerely,

Nicholas T. Serafy, Jr.

S & M TRANSPORT, LLC
5226 Commercial Dr.
Brownsville, TX 78521
Tel: 956-838-5500

Dear Ms. Stacy Zee

First I would like to thank you for considering our beautiful city Brownsville, TX for the future site of Space X. My family, my business, my employees, my neighborhood, our city and myself are very excited and humbled that you would allow us to be part of Space X. I don't have a college degree but at 44 I took a semester at TSC/UTB and realized how important education is and when I heard that Space X was considering Brownsville for their launch site I felt like a kid again because I know that many children will try to become engineers, chemists or astronauts. Maybe other grown up as myself will also go to college or go back to college to obtain a degree. As a father I see the great future Space X will have in not only my children but many children and families.

I understand the positive economic impact Space X will have in our city and neighbor cities, but the long term impact is unmanageable. The dreams of the children as well as adults will become real.

I would love to be part of helping Space X to become part of the family to Brownsville, TX.

From the bottom of my heart I extend my support to you and if there is anything I could do please don't hesitate to email me or call me. My mobile is 956-592-4986 email is zeke.smt@gmail.com

Sincerely

Esequiel Silva

Esequiel "Zeke" Silva

Owner of S & M Transport LLC

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Lynne Skelley <lskelley@lcenturion.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2013 2:44 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: EIS process steps

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to get a better understanding of how the EIS process works in relation to the space launch facilities.

First, the FAA issues a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and invites public comments.

Is an RFP released either by the FAA, or the vendor, or the state?

Is most of the process done by the states?

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Ms. Lynné Skelley
Research Analyst III
lskelley@lcenturion.com
CENTURION
Centurion Research Solutions, LLC.
14048 ParkEast Circle • Suite 100 • Chantilly, VA 20151
Office 703-956-6628
http://www.centurionresearch.com

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

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SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
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- Could potentially see visitors center
- Space museum could be possibility
- Instill culture of aerospace in upcoming generation

Sincerely,

Elayne Sloane

NAME Elayne Sloane
TITLE Senior Vice President ~ Newtek Business Services
ADDRESS 2408 Gulf Blvd ~ South Padre Island, Texas
PHONE NUMBER 516-946-8085
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) elayne.sloane@gmail.com

BEDC, contracted by the GBIC / 301 Mexico Blvd. Suite F1 (ITEC Campus)
Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

CompetitiveReady

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please consider this letter to voice my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in the eastern outskirts of Brownsville, Texas ...

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Sincerely,

NAME Kyle Sloane
TITLE VP of Finance Senior
ADDRESS 301 Mexico Blvd Ste 1141 Brownsville TX 78520
PHONE NUMBER 212-273-8150
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) KSloane@fresba.com

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Sincerely,

NAME Warren Sloane
TITLE SVP
ADDRESS 301 Mexico Boulevard
PHONE NUMBER 210 273 8249
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)
wsloane@fresba.com

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Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Comment

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULES, REGULATIONS OR AGENCY ACTIONS:

Please approve of this launch. It will increase jobs in Texas and the space industry. Also, please restore the funding to NASA.

MARK SOKOLOW
ATTORNEY AT LAW
338 Wedgerock
Webster, Texas 77598
http://mtsokolow-attorney.com
mark@mtsokolow-attorney.com

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Jacob Soliz <jacobsoliz123@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 3:08 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Project Opinion

Hello, my name is Jacob Soliz. I am writing to inform you that I am in full support of what you wish to accomplish. I believe that this project (if successful) would create many new opportunities for the people in the Rio Grande Valley. I believe that people will take an interest in this project & may even help with donations or with employment. This is very exciting for me personally because I've always been fascinated with Aerospace Engineering. If I were to be fortunate enough to get a career opportunity with you, it would be a dream come true. I support what you are doing 100% and hope this is successful.
Thank You,
Jacob.

1

May 6, 2013

Re: FAA EIS Second Public Hearing Testimony

To Whom It May Concern:

As an introduction my name is John Sossi and I have been a resident of both Brownsville and South Padre Island for over 20 years. Although not near the scale of the SpaceX project, a business opportunity brought me into the area that not only made good business sense, but also brought a critical technology that helped the manufacturing base to grow. Our process was also environmentally sensitive, and we decided from the very beginning to not only do it the right way, but go beyond what was required much like I perceive SpaceX to be planning.

Over the last ten years I have had the great opportunity to work for the University of Texas at Brownsville, and Texas Southmost College in the areas of business incubation, entrepreneurship, commercialization, and a few special projects along the way, such as the Stargate project which is related to SpaceX.

From the last hearing, and I am sure from this hearing there is not much more I could add, or even express as well, related to the positive educational, and economic development impacts SpaceX would have for the entire Rio Grande Valley and the State of Texas.

Perhaps what I would like to emphasize is any good business deal has to make sense from an economic, and implementation point of view. If indeed the Brownsville site meets those requirements, then making the decision to locate here also brings with it a future for our young entrepreneurial population that would fulfill a real need, and make a true impact in our area, something extra to go along with making a good business decision.

It should be obvious, but in case it is not, I fully support the SpaceX project.

Sincerely,

John Sossi
2673 Greenhaven
Brownsville, Texas 78521

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

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Sincerely,

NAME Diana Soto
TITLE Insurance Accounting
ADDRESS 2314 Florencia Ave
PHONE NUMBER 956.598.5744
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) diana2384@yahoo.com

CompetitiveReady

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Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS will help the FAA arrive at the best possible informed decision about the proposal. Please record your comments on this form and submit by:

1. Filling out this form and dropping it in the comment box at the public hearing
2. Submitting comments via email to faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to:

Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
Federal Aviation Administration
SpaceX EIS
c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street—Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21401

Please Note: Written comments become part of the administrative record associated with this Proposed Action. Individual citizens may request that their name and/or home address be withheld from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or home address withheld, you must check the box(es) below. Please note that contact information for individuals or officials representing organizations and businesses may be disclosed.

- ☐ Please add my name to the mailing list for future updates.
- ☐ Please withhold my name from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.
- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Simon Soto Date: 5/18/13

Organization/Affiliation:

Address: 72 Cuba St.

City, State, Zip Code: Brownsville, Texas 78526

I Am in Complete Agreement with the County/City/State of Texas to Provide Incentives So that SpaceX Be established At Boca Chica Beach in South Texas

The project would place the South Texas Area "on the map"

Thanks

Sem Soto

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

May 5, 2013

Stacy Lee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee:

Please consider this as a letter of support for the development of the first ever vertical launch site and command center in the eastern part of Brownsville, Texas, close to Boca Chica Beach.

Believe it or not but I have read the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement – SpaceX Texas Launch Site and I have come away with a good feeling that this project makes sense for our region. The fact that the beach will only be temporary closed during launch days, and the closure will be limited to 15-hours per launch and that they will only launch up to 12-times per year, and that weekends will not be affected during the summer months, the people's beach will remain the people's beach.

Though most sea turtles do not nest at Boca Chica Beach, the fact that Sea Turtle Inc. will be allowed private access to the beach during launch days is encouraging, and I like that SpaceX will develop certain types of lighting for their launch site as not to attract the turtles. Even more so important to me is the fact that SpaceX will support adopt-a-beach programs for Boca Chica Beach, will provide environmental and wildlife awareness to its contractors, employees and visitors is great. From the EIS report, it does look like Spacex will do the right thing, and I am sure that unless done correctly, the EPA nor the FAA will not give their approval for the development of the launch site plan.

The fact that good paying jobs should be created, that thousands of people will want to visit our region to see a launch, the overall economic impact on our region should be very positive. And as a border community, the change in perception that yes a high-tech company can locate in our area will be priceless.

My wife and I fully support the development of the launch site for Spacex at Boca Chica Beach.

Regards,

Gary Stegg

Gary Stegg
22 Lakewood Drive
Laguna Vista, Texas 78578

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

The FAA is evaluating SpaceX's proposal to launch the Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy, and a variety of reusable suborbital launch vehicles from a private launch site located in Cameron County, Texas, which would require the FAA to issue launch licenses and/or experimental permits. Issuing launch licenses and/or experimental permits is considered a major Federal action subject to environmental review under NEPA. Under the Proposed Action, SpaceX would construct a vertical launch area at the eastern end of Texas State Highway 4 (Boca Chica Boulevard) and a nearby control center area to support up to 12 commercial launches per year.

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3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Jennifer Stumbaugh Date: 5/20/13
Organization/Affiliation: LFCISD
Address: PO Box 309
City, State, Zip Code: Los Fresnos, TX 78566

Public Hearing Comment Form

1

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

As an elementary principal the educational opportunities that Space X has to offer are very exciting. I support this project 100%.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

2

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Linda Torres <lindatorres14@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 6:32 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: space shuttle

Hello, good afternoon my name is Linda Torres an active Senior at prideful Hanna High School. I am writing in support for the building of Space X in Boca Chica Beach.
I am a citizen of Brownsville, Texas and I'm truthfully honored that our city has been chosen to be one of the finalists to have a space shuttle built.
I believe this is an awesome opportunity for Brownsville to grow economically and global because this will literally put us on the map, and will help us succeed in technonlogy and
infrastructure. I think our beach is the best place for this new invention because we have different cultural backgrounds that will be willing to always give a hand and welcome any tourists
with a warm welcome ALWAYS.
Thankyou,
Linda Torres

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Miguel Urrutia <urrutia_miguel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 9:09 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: SpaceX in Boca Chica TX

SpaceX at the mouth of the Rio Grande valley, is what NASA is all about. In an area not known for education, and with a lot of poor kids, the spectacle of the giant Falcon rockets blasting off will be inspirational to kids who only think of space a something on TV. With a small foot print, and once a month flights, the environmental impact would be less than other industries in this hard hit area, and several high paying jobs would help the local economy. It would provide the locals with a different way to think, including the environment, as Elon Musk is well known for his stance on environmental issues.
Keep it I'm perspective, this is a small launch pad, with once a month flights, not a big place with constant uncontrolled burning of fossil fuels. And SpaceX is the only one looking for environmental friendly fuels for their future engines. The companies using hydrogen are not telling how they make that dangerous fuel, but rest assured it is a carbon intensive process. SpaceX wants to move to methane, because it is easy to burn cleanly, is more efficient, it is abundant, requires little carbon to aquire, and it is much safer than hydrogen.
For all this reasons, the SpaceX launch pad at Boca Chica would be a great asset to the locals, and to the nation.
Sincerely,
Miguel Urrutia
Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: cecilia valdez <ceciliaavaldez@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 12:00 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Comment on SpaceX

Dear FAA,

My name is Cecilia Valdez. I am a current senior at Hanna high school in Brownsville, Texas. I would just like to inform you that I like many other residents in Brownsville completely support your program and idea. Brownsville is a small city that would greatly benefit from Space X. If you were to decide to build your launch pad here in Brownsville, you would not have to worry about the public being disappointed, because there would be a mutual benefit from this. I hope you can see that Brownsville is the ideal place for your project and decide to choose this small city that is yearning for opportunities like this.Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Cecilia Valdez

Sent from my iPhone

1

May 6, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

Dear Ms. Zee,

Please accept this letter as my support of SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, building a vertical launch site and launch command center in Brownsville, Texas.

SpaceX would create many opportunities for our children and also for the local businesses that are currently serving our community. This company would impact our entire region in a very positive manner.

Sincerely,

Janie Velasquez
714 Ripplewind Way
Brownsville, Texas 78526
(956) 592-8039

Brownsville Economic Development Council
www.BEDC.com

May 7, 2013

Stacey Zee
FAA Environmental Protection Specialist
SpaceX EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
275 West Street, Suite 110
Annapolis, MD 21409

RE: SpaceX Project for Brownsville, Texas

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Sincerely,

NAME Omar Villanueva
TITLE Associate of Merchant Services
ADDRESS (Home) 205 Park St., Brownsville, TX. 78520
PHONE NUMBER (956) 266-2385 (cell)
E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)

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Brownsville, Texas 78520 / (956) 541-1183 / www.BEDC.com

Public Hearing Comment Form

SpaceX Texas Launch Site
Environmental Impact Statement

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2. Submitting comments via email to **faaspacexeis@cardnotec.com**
3. Fax your comments to (410) 990-0455
4. Mailing your written comment form to: Ms. Stacey M. Zee, Environmental Specialist
   Federal Aviation Administration
   SpaceX EIS
   c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
   275 West Street—Suite 110
   Annapolis, MD 21401

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- ☐ Please withhold my address from public disclosure to the extent allowable by law.

Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY

Name: Joseph R. Villarreal Date: 5-20-13

Organization/Affiliation: Los Fresnos CISD

Address: P.O. Box 309

City, State, Zip Code: Los Fresnos, TX 78566

I support the project 100%.

Thank you for your comments. Please provide comments no later than June 3, 2013 to ensure they are considered during preparation of the Final EIS.

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Waldo Villarreal <w.villarreal20@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 5:32 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.; aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Space X project in Brownsville

To whom it may concern,

Hello there! My name is Waldo Villarreal. I'm a student at Homer Hanna High School in Brownsville, Texas. Personally, I think that this is a great opportunity for Brownsville to put itself in the map and this Space program will most definitely do that. It would benefit Brownsville so much because it would give Brownsville much more popularity and would therefore attract more people to Brownsville. It's a great opportunity for Brownsville and I believe that this is Brownsville's chance to really become a better known city. Thank you for your time and I really hope that you choose Brownsville as the city where Space X will be located.

Best regards,
- Waldo Villarreal

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Andrea <andrealejandra67@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 12:28 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: Space X

Hello my name is Andrea Virgen and I attend Hanna High School. I am writing in accordance with my support for the building of Space X. I believe it would provide great opportunities for future generations, and that is something I would've greatly appreciated as a student.

Thank you for your time,
Andrea Virgen

1

P-290

Name: T. Whelan
Comment: How are you related to the FAA? Did they hire your firm to conduct the EIS?
Date Received: 5/2/2013

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: DEBORAH WILSON <deborahw@springisd.org>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 3:47 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: SpaceX Launches

Good afternoon:

I am writing in regards to the proposed SpaceX launches at Boca Chica Beach in Texas on the Gulf Coast.

It is crucial that traffic on the beaches be restricted from February 1st through September 1st, in order to allow the endangered Kemp Ridley Sea Turtle to nest.

The Kemp Ridley's are a critically endangered species and to allow traffic during this time could have a tragic effect on their population.

Please consider this when scheduling the launching of the rockets.

Thank you.

--

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Perla Yanez <perlar18@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 2:20 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: Space X

Perla yanez
I support the building of space x in that it will also help the natural habitat become preserved because they have to help maintain the launch pad safe.

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: Juan Yu <juanpabloyu@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 8:28 PM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Cc: aeortiz@bisd.us
Subject: SpaceX EIS

To whomever it may concern,
Hello, my name is Juan Pablo Yu. I'm a current resident of Brownsville, Texas and a student of Hanna High School. I believe that if you do decide to build your launch site in Brownsville, it will be a benefit to, both, SpaceX EIS and to Brownsville. The city needs something innovative. Therefore, if the launch site is built in Brownsville, the fervor in the community would cause excitement;hence, there would be an exponential amount of support and aid in this project. So please consider Brownsville to build your launching site.

Thank you for your time, Juan Pablo Yu

1

Johnson, Jaclyn M.

From: skullduggery43 <skullduggery43@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 11:57 AM
To: Johnson, Jaclyn M.
Subject: SpaceX in Brownsville (Kristian Zamora)

Greetings
I am a high school student at Homer Hanna High School I feel that the building of SpaceX in brownsville would have an incredibly positive effect on our community and along with many others fully support it's construction

Thank You

Sincerely Kristian Zamora

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