

DATE: 09/08/09

TO: City Clerk

FROM: Representative Steve Ortega

ADDRESS Two Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, TX 79901 TELEPHONE 915-541-4124

Please place the following item on the (Check one): CONSENT  REGULAR

Agenda for the Council Meeting of September 8, 2009

Item should read as follows: Appointment of Kevin T. von Finger to the Open Space Advisory Board by Representative Steve Ortega, District 7

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD COMMITTEE/COMMISSION APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT FORM**

NAME OF BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION: Open Space Advisory Board

NOMINATED BY: Representative Steve Ortega DISTRICT: 7

NAME OF APPOINTEE Kevin T. von Finger  
(Please verify correct spelling of name)

BUSINESS ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: El Paso ST: TX ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: El Paso ST: TX ZIP: 79922 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

WHO WAS THE LAST PERSON TO HAVE HELD THIS POSITION BEFORE IT BECAME VACANT?

NAME OF INCUMBENT: Jose M. Landeros

EXPIRATION DATE OF INCUMBENT: 06/30/2013

REASON PERSON IS NO LONGER IN OFFICE (CHECK ONE): TERM EXPIRED: \_\_\_\_\_  
RESIGNED   
REMOVED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF APPOINTMENT: 09/08/2009

EXPIRATION DATE OF NEW APPOINTEE: 06/30/2013

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: 1<sup>st</sup> TERM: \_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> TERM: \_\_\_\_\_  
UNEXPIRED TERM:

Kevin T. von Finger

**WORK EXPERIENCE: Ecologist**

**SUMMARY:**

Retired from the Federal government September 2003; for approximately 28 years I was employed by the Directorate of Environment, Department of Army, Fort Bliss. Responsibilities included endangered species survey, ecological baseline survey, analysis of ecological trends and environmental impacts resulting from military training, and writing and reviewing environmental impact documents to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). I am currently self-employed as an environmental consultant. I conduct endangered species and baseline biological survey in support of master planning initiatives and environmental impact assessment documents, perform environmental baseline survey for biological and archeological resources and evidence of hazardous materials, and evaluate impacts of proposed projects on the environment in support of NEPA compliance.

**Recent (2003 – 2006) projects include:**

Environmental Baseline Surveys for various landowners and organizations.

Ecological inventories and endangered species surveys for various landowners and organizations.

Project Blue Space Port, Van Horn Texas. Performed vegetation community, wildlife and wildlife habitat, wetlands, soils, and landform survey and mapping of project areas. Conducted survey for endangered and sensitive species and species of concern and mapped potential habitat.

Rio Grande Riverpark and Trail System, El Paso County, Texas, southern trail segment. Conducted biological baseline survey, vegetation mapping, survey for Native American traditional cultural properties/traditional plants, and survey for endangered and sensitive species and species of concern; wrote alternative analysis, affected environment, and impact sections of Environmental Impact Assessment for Texas Department of Transportation for the following resource areas: biological, endangered etc. species, soils, wetlands/water resources and hydrology, and land uses.

**Civic and Other Activities:**

Founding Member and Vice President, Frontera Land Alliance (a non-profit land trust dedicated to preserving regionally significant natural and cultural resources).  
Member, Steering Committee, Celebration of Our Mountains (a not-for-profit El Paso, Texas community organization).  
Chairman, Habitat Committee, Keystone Heritage Park Inc.

**Federal Service to September 30 2003:**

Senior Ecologist, Fort Bliss Directorate of Environment.

Managed the Installation's biological resources. Performed surveys for endangered species, and mapped, inventoried, and quantified important ecological parameters of other sensitive natural resources. Conducted site-specific evaluations of biological resources in support of NEPA analysis and compliance activities.

Cooperated in writing, reviewing, and updating Fort Bliss' Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan.

Analyzed aerial photograph and satellite imagery to map vegetation communities, training impacts, and soils and landforms.

Performed archeological surveys to determine whether proposed actions could impact archeological sites.

Conducted NEPA compliance activities. Action Officer for various NEPA documents and compliance actions. Wrote and/or supervised the editing and completion of Environmental Impact Assessments and Statements (EA's, EIS's). Developed and maintained the Administrative Record for such project documents.

Worked with and assisted action proponents in developing alternatives to proposed actions, in particular alternatives that would reduce or eliminate impacts to the environment while permitting action to successfully proceed. Worked with and assisted action proponents in developing mitigation measures. Reviewed proposed training, testing, construction actions, and unit training requests for potential environmental impacts, in particular those that could affect natural and cultural (archeological, historic) resources, and for possible non-compliance with "substantive" environmental laws including the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, etc. Reviewed EA's and EIS's for compliance with NEPA law and regulation.

Developed research proposals for funding under the Department of Defense Legacy Program. Projects include "A 1,373 Year Reconstruction of Annual Precipitation for the Southern Rio Grande Basin"; "Episodic Sedimentation and Soil Formation in a Dune Terrain of Southern New Mexico" (co-principal investigator/author); "Mesoscale Disturbance and Ecological response to Decadal Climatic Variability in the American Southwest".

Managed research program. Developed proposals, research designs and survey methodology, and scopes of work for research to predict effects of military training on the environment and planning level surveys for biological resources. Research focused on determining effects of training and wildfire on vegetation communities, soils, and other ecosystem parameters as a basis for predicting long-term impacts to Fort Bliss'

ecosystems. Acquired and obligated funding, oversaw and participated in projects as project manager.

Performed administrative duties. Developed budgets, justified need, and obligated funds for projects that mitigated impacts associated with proposed actions, and ecological monitoring and research projects.

Coordinated actions, plans, and data exchange with federal and state resource and land management agencies (primarily the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS, and the BLM) as appropriate.

Classroom experience included the development of training modules for the Fort Bliss Environmental Compliance Officer training course and the Unit Commanders' Course, facilitating the training, and presenting training modules.

I scripted, and produced in cooperation with the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, New Mexico State University, a short documentary for the Public Broadcasting System entitled "The Chihuahuan Desert: Our North American Outback"

#### **EDUCATION:**

Master of Science in biology, May 15 1976, GPA 3.92, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso Texas, 79968; 39 semester hours.

Bachelor of Arts in biology (minor in chemistry), June 9 1968, class rank 135 of 284 (GPA not calculated by institution), Knox College, Galesburg Illinois, 61401; 180 quarter hours.

Various governmental and university courses and training between 1976 and the present such as Use of Remote Sensor Imagery for Environmental Analysis; New Mexico Bureau of Mines/New Mexico State University Desert Project; Soil Genesis and Morphology; U.S. Army Logistics Management Course; etc.

#### **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTED PAPAERS:**

Hochstrasser, T., D. Peters, J. Fehmi, and K. von Finger. 2002. A bibliography of important plant species in the Chihuahuan Desert of North America (1904 to 2002). Technical Report , 16 Oct 02 , USA CERL , Champaign, IL , Report Number ERDC/CERL SR-02-8 .

von Finger, K. 1988. Desertification and ecological change in the southwestern United States – cow or climate? Paper presented at the 26th International Geographical Congress, Sydney, Australia.

Gillespie, M., R. Marston, K. von Finger, and W. Nickling. 1987. Effects of tank maneuvers on soil compaction and eolian sand transport. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, Phoenix, Arizona.

Kondelin, R., D. LeMone, and K. von Finger. 1983. Ordovician rocks of Webb Gap area, North Franklins, Dona Ana County, New Mexico. Abstract in: New Mexico Academy of Science, New Mexico Geology 5(3) p. 63. Paper presented at meeting, 1982, Socorro, New Mexico.

Madden, H., D. LeMone, and K. von Finger. 1983. Stratigraphy and regional relationships of Mississippian System, North Franklins, Dona Ana County, New Mexico. Abstract in: New Mexico Academy of Science, New Mexico Geology 5(3) p. 64. Paper presented at meeting, 1982, Socorro, New Mexico.

McEvers, L., D. LeMone, and K. von Finger. 1983. Dolomite of the North Franklin Mountains, Dona Ana County, New Mexico. Abstract in: New Mexico Academy of Science, New Mexico Geology 5(3) p. 64. Paper presented at meeting, 1982, Socorro, New Mexico.

Roark, R., D. LeMone, and K. von Finger. 1983. Stratigraphy of the Pennsylvanian System, North Franklin Mountains, Dona Ana County, New Mexico. Abstract in: New Mexico Academy of Science, New Mexico Geology 5(3) p. 64-65. Paper presented at meeting, 1982, Socorro, New Mexico.

Daugherty, L. Gile, L., and K. von Finger. 1980. Episodic soil formation in dunes in southern New Mexico. In: Agronomy Abstracts, 1980, p. 211. Paper presented at annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, Detroit, Michigan.

Von Finger, K. 1980. Establishing a baseline for assessing military land use impacts to ecosystems within the Chihuahuan Desert utilizing aerial photography. In: Proceedings, Remote Sensing Symposium, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Reston, Virginia, pp 181-191.

Kevin von Finger