

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation is in the process of complying with the requirements under the of National Environmental Policy Act by completing the Environmental Impact Statement (ELIS) as part of the Loop 375 Border Highway West Extension Project; and

WHEREAS, the public comment period for the ELIS is open until November 26, 2012 and affords the public, to include governmental entities, an opportunity to provide comments and concerns to the Texas Department of Transportation concerning the environmental impact the Project may have on the area; and,

WHEREAS, the Open Space Advisory Board was created to act as an advisory board to the mayor and City Council on matters pertaining to the preservation and acquisition of open spaces, to include recommendations on the implementation of the Open Space Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board, in fulfillment of its duties, has discussed the Border Highway West Extension Project and recommends that the City Council submit a Resolution containing comments and recommendations to the Texas Department of Transportation to be included as public comments and taken into consideration when completing the project; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

THAT on March 13, 2007, the El Paso City Council adopted the Open Space Master Plan, "Towards a Bright Future: A Green Infrastructure Plan for El Paso, Texas" and incorporated the Open Space Master Plan into the City's Comprehensive Plan to guide the protection and conservation of open space in and around the City of El Paso; and

THAT the Open Space Master Plan identifies twenty-five areas of highest priority to be preserved as open space in and around the City of El Paso and provides recommended strategies for the conservation of each. Cement Lake, located north of the ASARCO property and adjacent to I-10, is identified as one of these priorities; and

THAT the Lake, fed by area springs, maintains an unusual wetlands ecosystem physically separated from the Rio Grande, thereby supporting native plant vegetation and native species, and maintaining natural ecological processes of the area; and

THAT the Lake, visible from I-10, is the one green area in an otherwise heavily industrialized area, providing scenic beauty and contributing to the quality-of-life for our community and people and should be preserved; and

THAT the the Loop 375 Border Highway West Extension Project is in proximity to Cement Lake; and

THAT the Texas Department of Transportation consider and address the environmental impact the Loop 375 Border Highway West Extension Project and its associated drainage infrastructure may have on the sustainability and preservation of Cement Lake, to include the impact to its water source and the quality of that source, and take the necessary measures to protect the area to ensure that it remains a valuable resource to the green infrastructure of our Community.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2012.

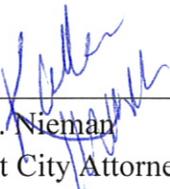
CITY OF EL PASO:

John F. Cook, Mayor

ATTEST:

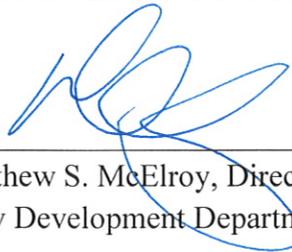
Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Karla M. Nieman
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Mathew S. McElroy, Director
City Development Department