

# LETTER OF INTENT TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF LANDS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

In accordance with the Programmatic Agreement between the United States Corps of Engineers (USACE), the National Park Service (NPS), San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and the State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Implementation of the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project of the San Antonio Channel Improvement Project, San Antonio, Texas (Mission Reach Project), executed in May 2006 and amended in August 2006 (the "Agreement"), approximately 75 acres of former historic *labores* land once farmed at Mission San Juan was acquired to mitigate impacts on approximately 50 acres of NPS land within the boundary of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park impacted in the completion of the Mission Reach Project along the San Antonio River. In addition to these mitigation properties, 5.5 acres of City of San Antonio property adjacent to Mission San Jose, are critical to the mission view-shed. All of these lands were added within the boundary of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park with the passage of public lands title contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014.

The recitals below express the intent of the parties with ownership of parcels comprising approximately 55 acres of mitigation property and 5.5 acres of view-shed property to transfer their ownership to the NPS and sets forth the anticipated schedule and process necessary for the incorporation of the properties within the expanded boundary of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and for the NPS to accept and manage the transferred lands.

WHEREAS, Mission Reach Project is a partnership comprised of Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, the NPS, SARA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Antonio River Foundation, the San Antonio Water Systems and the San Antonio River Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project has restored the ecosystem of the San Antonio River and reconnected the San Antonio River to the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park while enhancing the public access and appreciation for these treasured Spanish Colonial resources; and

WHEREAS, the completion of the Mission Reach Project required the acquisition of property to mitigate the impact of the project within the NPS boundary in accordance with the Agreement and SARA, as the local project manager, holds title to the acquired land which was comprised of approximately 15 acres previously owned by the City of San Antonio, approximately 3 acres previously owned by Bexar County and approximately 57 acres acquired by SARA from Mission Reach Project funding provided from Bexar County; and

WHEREAS, the property to be transferred is also within the buffer zone of the nominated San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site; and

WHEREAS, the Mission Reach Project also provided funding for the establishment of a demonstration farm at Mission San Juan which is operated by NPS and will provide visitors to the mission a working farm using agricultural practices and raising crops of the Spanish Colonial period; and

WHEREAS, the mitigation properties to be transferred to the NPS were historic farm lands of Mission San Juan known as the *labores* and the NPS plans to incorporate the acquired lands into its interpretive and educational programming; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio is a property owner of 5.5 acres bordering the nominated World Heritage Site which provides part of the view-shed for Mission San Jose and serves as a buffer zone to the proposed World Heritage Site.

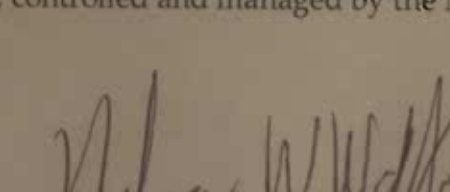
NOW THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN that SARA, the City of San Antonio and Bexar County support the transfer of approximately 55 acres of land acquired for the Mission Reach Project to the NPS to be managed and operated as part of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. SARA intends to officially transfer ownership of the land upon the successful completion of the NPS requirements for the acceptance of land according to the following estimated schedule:

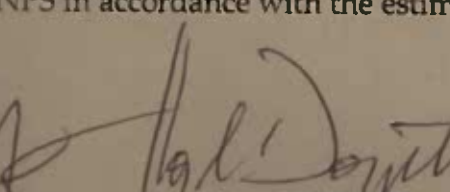
- 1) Amend the Agreement with all parties to include a survey of properties and plat and field notes, by October 2015; and
- 2) Complete property appraisals and property title reports by February 2016; and
- 3) Complete the Environmental Site Assessment by September 2016; and
- 4) Close on the transfer in November 2016.

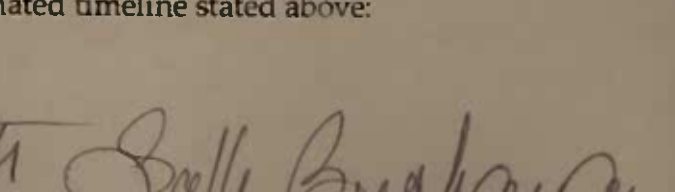
And it is the intent of the City of San Antonio and the National Park Service to meet the following estimated milestones to officially complete the transfer of approximately 5.5 acres to the National Park Service;

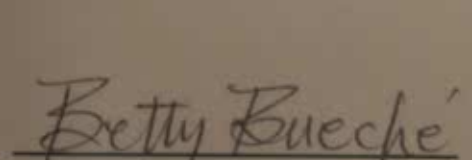
- 1) Coordinate the planning and necessary surveys associated with transfer of property by March 2016; and
- 2) Close on the transfer in April 2016.

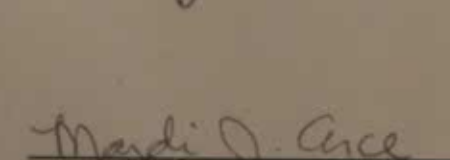
We the undersigned support the transfer of the property to be included in the boundary of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and to be owned, controlled and managed by the NPS in accordance with the estimated timeline stated above:

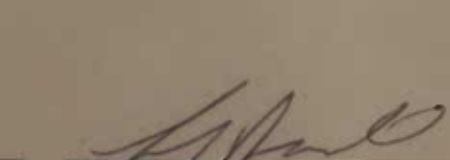
  
Bexar County Judge  
Nelson Wolff

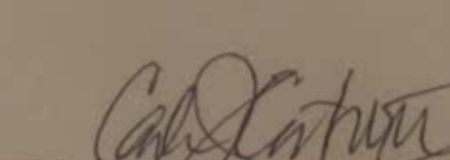
  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Congressman Lloyd Doggett

  
San Antonio River Authority  
Chairman Sally Buchanan

  
Bexar Heritage Program  
Betty Bueche

  
National Park Superintendent  
Mardi J. Arce

  
Director of Technical Services  
Steve Raabe

  
San Antonio Assistant  
City Manager  
Carlos J. Contreras, III