

February 19, 2025

Razi Hosseini, P.E., R.P.L.S
Director/City Engineer
City of San Antonio
Public Works
Via email: razi.hosseini@sanantonio.gov

Dear Director Hosseini,

The Nature Conservancy in Texas (TNC) is providing this letter of support in reference to the Cibolo Canyons Conservation Easement amendment being presented for consideration by the San Antonio City Council.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the federal authority entrusted with Golden-Cheeked Warbler recovery and habitat protection efforts. The agency has conducted its evaluation of the impacts of modifications requested by T.F. Cibolo Canyons to replace a 30 acre tract in the Conservation Area with a 144 acre tract from the Development Area under its existing Incidental Take Permit (ITP), as documented in the study dated July 26, 2024 and titled "Findings and Recommendations on Issuance of an Amended Incidental Take Permit (TE-102437-1) for the Golden-cheeked Warbler on the 1,600-acre Cibolo Canyon Master Phase II; Habitat Conservation Plan Located in Bexar County, Texas." Based on these findings, the USFWS recommended and issued the amended ITP for the requested modifications. The amended ITP requires the additional acreage to the Conservation Area be placed under conservation easement.

The modifications approved by USFWS in the amended ITP will reduce the amount of habitat loss and take of Golden-Cheeked Warblers by decreasing the Development Area and increasing the Conservation Area, will reduce the edge to area ratio of the Conservation Area, and will provide contiguity between two occupied portions of the Conservation Area. Through their analysis and review, the USFWS determined that the proposed modification to the Conservation Area will benefit Golden-Cheeked Warblers to a greater extent when compared to the original ITP due to the expansion of the Conservation Area. Based on the USFWS conclusion of benefit for the Golden-Cheeked Warbler, The Nature Conservancy supports the proposed easement amendment.

Please note that Section 11 of the Conservation Easement requires the City's prior approval of the easement amendment by resolution or ordinance before TNC consents to the amendment, so the amendment instrument cannot be executed until after the City has approved.

Sincerely,



Suzanne B. Scott
State Director
The Nature Conservancy, Texas Chapter