



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

College of Liberal Arts
Department of Anthropology

September 9, 2004

Mr. Steven C. Beachy, Director
Parks and Recreation Department
City of College Station
P.O. Box 9960
College Station, Texas 77842

Subject: Letter of Support for Lick Creek Park Monitoring Station

Dear Mr. Beachy:

I am writing in support of the proposal entitled "Environmental Research and Monitoring Station in Lick Creek Park" and submitted by John Nielsen-Gammon and Amy Stuart through the Center for Atmospheric Chemistry and the Environment, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University. Amy Stuart briefed me on the project and the proposed location of the modular walk-up tower. An inspection of the project map reveals that the proposed tower site is in the vicinity of, but does not infringe upon, archaeological site 41BZ147, a farmstead site. As you know, that site was discovered and recorded in conjunction with the archaeological survey project I directed for the Center for Ecological Archaeology several years ago. As such, construction activities will not impact the site, nor should subsequent monitoring and maintenance work. In short, I do not see any potential for adverse impacts to known or suspected cultural resources in the park. Moreover, the proposed project is not likely to curtail or otherwise impact any future cultural resources studies that may be carried out at Lick Creek Park.

In my opinion, the proposed environmental research and monitoring project is entirely compatible with city's efforts to record and preserve ecological and cultural resources at Lick Creek Park. The proposed project attests to today's growing concerns about pollution and global warming that result from very intensive land use characteristic of the late 20th century. Seen from this perspective the monitoring and research station is a testament to the most recent usage of the Post Oak Savannah. Appropriately, it takes its place in the land-use sequence, following use of the area by native hunter-gatherers through the millennia, by Euro- and African-American farmers and ranchers in the 19th and 20th centuries, and as part of Lick Creek Park itself in the 21st century. No doubt, the public will benefit from the project's pollution-education component.

Sincerely,

Alston V. Thoms
Assistant Professor

