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October 22, 2013

Mr. Nathan Kuhn
Lead Facilitator, Seagrass Monitoring Workgroup
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

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Dear Nathan:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) would like to congratulate the Texas Seagrass Monitoring Workgroup (Workgroup) for their ongoing work in seagrass conservation. I certainly appreciate the Workgroup's effort to review the ongoing progress made in the implementation of the Seagrass Conservation Plan. Obviously, the Legislature and the citizens of the state of Texas recognize the need to protect this valuable resource, as is shown by the recent passage of HB 3279 by the 83rd Texas Legislature. The recommendations provided by the Seagrass Conservation Plan Review Workshop (Workshop) participants are comprehensive and contribute to this effort. They provide useful guidance for TPWD and the other state agencies responsible for protecting Texas's valuable seagrass resources.

TPWD appreciates the opportunity to review the Workshop proceedings. As one of the agencies who implements parts of the Seagrass Conservation Plan for Texas, we have and will continue to align our activities with its goals. Over time, we have contributed significantly in advancing the goal of seagrass protection. Some of the Workshop's recommendations have already been incorporated into our seagrass management, conservation, and outreach practices, and we will thoughtfully consider the Workgroup recommendations and suggestions in the context of the Department's mission and resources.

Carter P. Smith
Executive Director

TPWD believes the Workgroup is a valuable resource for Texas seagrass conservation, but believes that coordination of agency policy and the resolution of any tension(s) that arise due to agency mission or policy should best be resolved between the respective agencies. The Workgroup certainly has a role in that process by helping to ensure that all the agencies have the scientific information needed to help make the most informed policy decision.

Significant progress has been made in seagrass conservation in the state of Texas since the Plan was published in 1999. TPWD will continue to lead efforts to conserve our state's seagrass resources for present and future generations.

We look forward to working with the Workgroup to protect Texas's seagrass resources in the future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Robin Riechers at (512) 389-4636. Thank you.

Sincerely,
[Carter Smith Signature]
Carter Smith
Executive Director

Nathan - Many thanks for the good work you & the other team members have put into this important conservation effort.
[Carter Signature]

CS:RR:dh