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Western Travis County Public Utility Agency (WTCPUA) Submits Habitat Conservation Plan for Golden-Cheeked Warbler in Travis County, Texas

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has received a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and request for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the Western Travis County Public Utility Agency. WTCPUA is preparing to construct a secondary water pipeline near its existing water main in Travis County, Texas that would remove habitat within an existing preserve for the federally listed golden-cheeked warbler. WTCPUA is proposing to offset impacts on approximately eight acres from their activities through the purchase of conservation credits from an approved habitat conservation bank.

WTCPUA's HCP describes the conservation measures that would be undertaken to address the potential impact of their activities associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of a new parallel raw water pipeline, as well as the impacts from the existing facilities, on the golden-cheeked warbler. The Service has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (dEA) evaluating the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the implementation of the HCP.

The Service encourages the public to review and provide comments on the HCP and dEA during the 30-day public comment period. Written comments must be received by June 20, 2018. Comments may be submitted to the Service in one of the following ways:

- Electronically: Submit electronic comments to FWS_AUES_Consult@fws.gov. Please note that your request is in reference to the WTCPUA HCP (TE-62866C-0).
- By hard copy: Mr. Adam Zerrenner, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin TX 78758-4460; telephone 512-490-0057; fax 512-490-0974. Please note that your request is in reference to the WTCPUA HCP (TE-62866C-0).

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