

ALERT!

**Wetlands Permit for Proposed Grand Parkway
Segment E, Toll Road
Public Comments DUE BY SEPTEMBER 8, 2010**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is requesting public comments on a proposed wetlands Section 404 permit No. SWG-1997-02901 (Rev.) for the one-half billion dollar Grand Parkway, Segment E, Toll Road (U.S. 290 to I-10). This project will impact wetlands on the Katy Prairie and would be built by the Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA).

The Corps is requesting public comments so if you are concerned about this project, you MUST write now. Send your comments to the Corps via letter, fax, or email by September 8, 2010. Write what you think appropriate, but you may wish to:

1. Ask the Corps to hold a public hearing on the permit application.
2. ***No mitigation is planned on the Katy Prairie.*** Point out that the soundest environmental approach is to mitigate for the loss of native tallgrass prairie/prairie pothole wetlands on the Katy Prairie in the Cypress Creek Watershed, i.e., locally, not remotely. The Corps *usually* recommends that mitigation be conducted within the impacted watershed, in the impacted ecosystem, and of the same kind of habitat, in other words, where the loss occurs. The proponents of the permit have requested approval to undertake the wetlands mitigation at the Greens Bayou Mitigation Bank in northeast Harris County, *out of kind, out of watershed, and out of ecosystem.*
3. Suggest that the permit be revised to assess and compensate for stream and wetlands losses within the Parkway's "buffer zone;" and
4. Emphasize that the proposed project will significantly and deleteriously impact the Katy Prairie. If you believe this loss should be avoided, then state that you oppose permit application No. SWG-1997-02901 (Rev.) and request that the Corps withdraw and reject this permit application.

Send your comments by September 8, 2010 to: Mr. Dwayne Johnson, Regulatory Branch, CESWG-PE-RB, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, Texas 77553-1229; or fax to 409-766-3931; or email to dwayne.johnson@usace.army.mil.