

Highland Lakes Sub-Regional Planning Commission Coordination Meeting



BURNET COUNTY
— HIGHLAND LAKES —
SUB-REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

July 23, 2026

Welcome

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ARTICLE II – Section 1 Regional Need vs. Local Impact

1. Demonstrate how the proposed infrastructure serves regional or system-wide needs in relation to local impacts, and whether those impacts are proportionately borne by affected communities; and



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ARTICLE II – Section 2

State Park Scenic, Recreational, and Aesthetic Values

2. Demonstrate that transmission structures visible from within any state park will not materially impair the scenic, recreational, and aesthetic values of the park or conflict with the community values and recreational resources of the region; and



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ARTICLE II – Section 3

Colorado River and San Gabriel River Watershed and Environmental Integrity

3. Demonstrate that facilities located within the watershed of the Colorado River or San Gabriel River, or visible from the river corridors, will not negatively impact the environmental integrity and scenic character of the region, with coordination with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and the Brazos River Authority (BRA); and



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ARTICLE II – Section 4

Tourism and Recreational Impact Evaluation

4. Perform a comprehensive evaluation of potential impacts on tourism and recreational opportunities, including but not limited to areas surrounding the Colorado River, San Gabriel River, and the Highland Lakes system. Such evaluation shall consider impacts to visitation, property values, recreational access, overall economic impact to the community, ad valorem property tax assessment and collection, and include consultation with relevant local and regional stakeholders, including county officials and tourism organizations; and



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ARTICLE II – Sections 5-6

Existing Right-of-Way Utilization and PURA §37.056(c) Minimization

5. Demonstrate that the proposed route utilizes existing transmission line paths or easements to the greatest extent practicable; and

6. Demonstrate that the routing of the line complies with PURA §37.056(c) and, considering engineering constraints and costs, minimizes impacts to affected communities and landowners by: (i) utilizing existing compatible rights-of-way for electric facilities, including vacant positions on existing multiple-circuit transmission lines; (ii) utilizing other compatible rights-of-way, including roads, highways, railroads, or telecommunications corridors, with coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) where applicable; (iii) paralleling property lines or natural or cultural features; and (iv) conforming to the policy of prudent avoidance. Any deviation from these requirements must be supported by a study acceptable to the Commission demonstrating that such requirements cannot be reasonably achieved; and



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ARTICLE II – Section 7

Public Safety Communications Non-Interference

7. Demonstrate that the project will not interfere with the county's public safety communications infrastructure and must provide supporting engineering studies, including microwave path analysis, Fresnel zone obstruction analysis, electromagnetic interference modeling, and certification by a licensed telecommunications engineer; and



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ARTICLE II – Section 8

Vegetation Management and Wildlife Corridor Fragmentation

8. Include an assessment of the short- and long-term impacts of right-of-way clearing and ongoing vegetation management on wildlife movement, habitat fragmentation, and ecological integrity, including the displacement of native species and disruption of established corridors, with coordination encouraged with appropriate state and local wildlife and natural resource entities, including, but not limited to, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and



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ARTICLE II – Section 9 Protected Species Habitat

9. Demonstrate that the project will not negatively impact federally protected species habitat within the Commission's jurisdiction, including habitat associated with the Golden-Cheeked Warbler, Tricolored Bat, Guadalupe Bass, Houston Toad, Bald Eagle, freshwater mussels, and other species listed by Texas Parks and Wildlife as rare, threatened, or endangered; and



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ARTICLE II – Sections 10-12

Cemeteries, Burial Sites, and Cultural Resources

10. Identify, map, and evaluate all known and potential cemetery and burial sites within the project area, including those identified by local historical commissions, and must demonstrate that routing alternatives will avoid impacts to such sites; and

11. Demonstrate that proposed routes will not cross, bisect, or be located in close proximity to dedicated cemeteries or burial sites; and

12. Demonstrate that construction activities, easements, and infrastructure will not endanger burial sites, restrict access to cemeteries, or disturb unmarked or undocumented graves; and



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ARTICLE II – Section 13

Agricultural Operations Impact

13. Provide an evaluation of impacts to agricultural operations, including effects on grazing, land productivity, water access, aerial application, and the continued viability of agricultural use, examining both direct and long-term impacts to agricultural economies within the affected area, utilizing coordination with local agricultural stakeholders and relevant agencies, including, but not limited to, the Texas Department of Agriculture; and



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ARTICLE II – Sections 14 - 15

Aviation Facilities and Fort Hood Military Training

14. Identify and evaluate all aviation facilities, including private airstrips, agricultural aviation operations, and helipads; and must demonstrate that the project will not create hazards to aviation operations, including impacts to approach and departure paths, low-altitude flight operations, aerial agricultural flight paths, or emergency response activities; and
15. Demonstrate that installation of the proposed facilities will not interfere with low-altitude military training exercises conducted by the U.S. Army at nearby Fort Hood; and



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ARTICLE II – Sections 16 - 19

Water Wells and Groundwater/Aquifer Protection

16-19. The project must identify, map, and evaluate all existing, historic, abandoned, and previously undocumented water wells within or near the proposed right-of-way, including wells located within 1,000 feet of the proposed route. It must also demonstrate that construction, operation, and maintenance activities will not render wells inaccessible, interfere with their inspection, maintenance, plugging, or remediation, or create pathways for groundwater contamination through improperly plugged or unknown wells, with appropriate coordination with TCEQ and the Texas Water Development Board.



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ARTICLE II – Sections 20-21

Critical Infrastructure and Specialized Facility Proximity

20-21. Demonstrate the use of routing and siting practices that avoid, to the greatest extent possible, locating EHV transmission lines near critical infrastructure and specialized industrial, testing, or research facilities. Where proximity cannot reasonably be avoided, the transmission service providers shall demonstrate adequate separation distances, complete site-specific engineering analyses, coordinate with affected operators and the Railroad Commission of Texas, and implement mitigation measures to protect public safety, infrastructure integrity, and ongoing operations.



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ARTICLE II – Section 22

Public Safety, Wildfire, and Emergency Response

22. Provide an evaluation of potential public safety impacts, including but not limited to wildfire risk, emergency response access, and electromagnetic field exposure, especially near parks and schools, which shall include coordination with local emergency service providers, including fire departments and emergency management personnel, and the Texas A&M Forest Service regarding wildfire risk and vegetation management practices, to assess and mitigate risks to public safety; and



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BEYOND ARTICLE II

Road Use and Landowner Treatment

This last piece sits outside the numbered sections of Article II, but sits squarely within the Commission's coordination interest and within Burnet County's own authority under Chapter 251 of the Texas Transportation Code.

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Public Comment

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Closing

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