

**TIMELINE**

- 2009-05-15** LCRA Open Houses Landowners notified
- 2009-06-01** CVA goes live on world wide web
- 2009-09-24** Motion to Delay & Expand Study Area
- 2010-02-15** 1/4 scale model lattice tower tours region
- 2010-02-15** LCRA Open Houses second round
- 2010-04-19** LCRA / Fish & Wildlife Scoping Meetings
- 2010-07-28** Filing of CCN
- 2010-09-01** Hearing on the Merits, Austin Conv. Center
- 2010-12-17** ALJ issued PFD recommendation to PUC
- 2010-12-23** CVA filed Exceptions to PFD
- 2011-01-13** PUC routing deliberations / Final Order

**TERMS**

- PFD** Proposal for Decision
- ALJ** Administrative Law Judge
- CVA** Clear View Alliance
- LCRA** Lower Colorado River Auth
- PUC** Public Utilities Commission
- CCN** Certificate of Convenience & Necessity
- TPWD** Tx Parks & Wildlife Dept.
- PURA** Public Utility Regulatory Act
- CREZ** Competitive Renewable Energy Zones
- CTO** CREZ Transmission Optimiz

**Importance of Hill Country** [www.ClearViewAlliance.org](http://www.ClearViewAlliance.org)



ridge between Llano and James River watersheds, LCRA Preferred MK13 parallels scenic Ranch Rd 385 most of its length from near London to near Harper

**Importance of the Hill Country**

The ALJs correctly recognized that appreciation of the Hill Country is an important community value; their recommendation that Staff MK15 be selected simply does not go far enough to protect this portion of the state.

# IMPORTANCE OF THE HILL COUNTRY



## Importance of the Hill Country

The ALJs recognize in the PFD that avoiding “central” routes that would cut through undisturbed areas of the Texas Hill Country is one shared community value relevant to this proceeding. To the intervenors represented by CVA, it is the most important community value and it is shared by all landowners, no matter where they are located in the study area. The ALJs correctly recommend against LCRA TSC’s preferred route and all other central routes.

The Hill Country is important to the landowners in the study area, but it also is important to all Texans. While it is common in transmission line cases for a landowner to say their land is special or that their region is important, CVA witness Dr. Nick Parker provided testimony that illustrates why the Hill Country must be viewed as an important asset not just to the Hill Country region, but to Texas. Community values held among Texans with respect to their western heritage and the Hill Country landscape are reflected in the study performed for Texas Parks and Wildlife conducted in 2000 called TPWD 21st Century. Dr. Parker, a co-author of the study, testified that during the 13 focus groups conducted as part of the TPWD 21st Century study, the researchers learned that:



*Texans who do not own one square foot of land claim ownership of their western heritage, their history, and the magnificent vistas of the state and the Hill Country landscape. They appreciate and support parks and natural resource areas even if they never use them. They value the presence of the unspoiled lands and take pride in their being available for them to visit when, and if, they so wish. They value the presence of longhorns, chuck wagons, the cowboy lifestyle and the wide open spaces of the West.*

Dr. Parker testified that the TPWD 21st Century study was the largest study of its kind and is still the most thorough and recent survey of views and attitudes of Texas citizens regarding natural resources, the need for public lands, and Texans' concern for their cultural heritage. Dr. Parker further testified that the study showed:



**much of the land in the Hill Country is privately managed for wildlife and outdoor recreation**

There is an increasing need for outdoor recreation opportunities and for conserving natural resources. Texans have strong opinions about outdoor recreation and conservation issues, based on their love of the outdoors and the desire to protect natural resources. Texas citizens were in strong support of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Local and state parks are in short supply given the size of the Texas population. Private landowners are critical to conservation efforts in Texas. Differences exist in interests and opinions among ethnic groups with regard to conservation and recreation issues. Habitat conservation and restoration efforts are not at a scale adequate to preserve biologically sustainable habitats in all of the ecoregions of Texas.



The Hill Country is appreciated on a scope and scale well beyond the local and regional community. It is a Texas treasure and one that must be protected so that future generations of Texans may appreciate the magnificent vistas and the Hill Country landscape. The efforts taken to maintain this part of the state as an area where one can visit and experience the presence of longhorns, chuck wagons, and the cowboy lifestyle will benefit all Texans, not just Hill Country residents. The ALJs correctly recognized that appreciation of the Hill Country is an important community value; their recommendation that Staff MK15 be selected simply does not go far enough to protect this portion of the state.

