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Walt Smith
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LCRA Community Grants Review Committee
Lower Colorado River Authority

Honorable Members of the Review Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the City of Dripping Springs' application to the Lower Colorado River Authority's Community Grant Program for funding to support roof repair and insulation improvements at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park Event Center.

This facility plays a vital role not only in Dripping Springs but throughout Hays County. As a multi-use community center, emergency shelter, polling site, and event venue, it consistently serves a wide range of civic, recreational, and emergency preparedness needs. In recent history DS Ranch Park has served an important role in disaster response and recovery. For an example, as Winter Storm Uri wrecked havoc across our county, the Ranch Park served as a disaster shelter, housing for animals, emergency shelter and then became the reception area for millions of cubic yards of debris. It also regularly hosts county-wide events, trainings, and youth programs, making it a valuable regional asset.

The proposed roof and insulation upgrades are a necessary investment to preserve the long-term functionality, safety, and cost-efficiency of the facility. Improvements to the roof structure will reduce maintenance costs and weather-related damage, while added insulation will enhance energy efficiency and user comfort. These upgrades will help ensure that taxpayer-funded investments by the citizens of both Hays County and the City of Dripping Springs are protected and continue to serve residents for years to come.

I commend the City of Dripping Springs for proactively seeking grant funding to support this project and reduce the financial burden on local taxpayers. This type of collaboration and forward-thinking investment benefits not only municipal residents but also our greater county community. I encourage your full consideration of this grant application and appreciate the opportunity to voice my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walt Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Walt Smith, Hays County Commissioner Precinct 4