



THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS

JIM MATTOX
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 25, 1990

Mr. Robert Shaddock
State Department of Highways
and Public Transportation
11th and Brazos
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

OR90-268

Dear Mr. Shaddock:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 9748.

The State Department of Highways and Public Transportation received a request for copies of any offers made by the department to buy a specific parcel of real estate it seeks to acquire for highway purposes. Neither the parcel in question nor other tracts of land that the department seeks to acquire for the project have been bought. You seek to withhold the offer letters written to the landowners under section 3(a)(5) of the Open Records Act.

We have considered the exception you claimed and examined the documents at issue. Previous determinations of this office, Open Records Decision No. 348 (1982); 234 (1980); 222 (1979), copies of which are enclosed, resolve your request. For this reason, you may withhold the requested information. After the negotiations for the land are completed, the purchase price is public information.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR90-268.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Newton".

David A. Newton
Assistant Attorney General
Opinion Committee

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Ref.: ID# 9748

Enclosure: Open Records Decision No. 348, 234, 222

cc: Ms. Laurie Lewis
Consort Inc.
501 Oakland Avenue
Austin, Texas 76703