



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 8, 2013

Ms. Patricia A. Mercado-Allinger
Archeology Division Director and State Archeologist
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

OR2013-13758

Dear Ms. Mercado-Allinger:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 495750.

The Texas Historical Commission (the "commission") received a request for a specified permit. You state you have released some information to the requestor. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This section encompasses section 191.004 of the Natural Resources Code, which provides:

- (a) Information specifying the location of any site or item declared to be a state archeological landmark under Subchapter D of this chapter is not public information.
- (b) Information specifying the location or nature of an activity covered by a permit or an application for a permit under this chapter is not public information.

¹We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

(c) Information specifying details of a survey to locate state archeological landmarks under this chapter is not public information.

Nat. Res. Code § 191.004. You indicate the information at issue relates to activities covered by an Antiquities Permit issued by the commission and specifies the location of a site or item declared to be a state archeological landmark, specifies the location or nature of an activity covered by a permit or an application for a permit, or specifies details of a survey to locate state archeological landmarks under chapter 191 of the Natural Resources Code. Based on your representations and our review, we agree the information at issue is within the scope of section 191.004. Therefore, we conclude the commission must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 191.004 of the Natural Resources Code.²

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Kristi L. Wilkins
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KLW/bhf

Ref: ID# 495750

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

²As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure.