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**Subject: Comment Opposing the Exchange of Land – Cameron County
Acquisition of 477 Acres in Exchange for 43 Acres at Boca Chica State Park**

We, the undersigned organizations, oppose the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) resolution that would allow SpaceX to expand the size and scale of its operations and take over more Boca Chica land because doing so is not in the public's interest.

Allowing SpaceX to increase its footprint at Boca Chica Beach would destroy sensitive ecosystems such as wetlands, mud flats, and numerous flora and fauna that are vital habitats for endangered and threatened species such as the ocelot, piping plover, Texas tortoise, Kemps Ridley sea turtle, aplomado falcons and more. As less than 3% of the natural habitat remains in the Rio Grande Valley, expanding SpaceX or any heavy industry in the delicate and unique wetlands and ecosystems of the Lower Rio Grande Delta would be environmentally detrimental.

The area in question is also a favored place of recreation and wonder for low-income families. It provides space for nourishment and quality-of-life enhancements that are irreplaceable to local, predominantly Spanish-speaking Latino communities and inspires the children of these communities into the study of life sciences. With 85% of the people of the Rio Grande Valley lacking adequate access to green spaces due to cost, time, or language barrier, current alternative opportunities to learn about land stewardship, like the Texas Master Naturalist program, remain inaccessible.

TPWD failed to provide the public with information about the land swap translated into Spanish. The notices published online and in the Brownsville Herald newspaper were not fully translated into Spanish, which is a language justice, as the Rio Grande Valley region is primarily low-income Latine, and the majority are Spanish/English bilingual.

Additionally, TPWD should have provided public notices to the Port Isabel South Padre Island Press newspaper and other news outlets that service the Laguna Madre communities directly impacted by the land grab and SpaceX operations.

Lastly, neither SpaceX, its subsidiaries, nor TPWD have ever consulted with the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas, the original Native people of the region, about the acres in question. The Carrizo/Comecrudo people have aboriginal ancestral ties to the Rio Grande, Boca Chica Beach, and surrounding areas, which include ancient village sites, sacred sites, and burials. Consultation must be sought from the original Indigenous people of these lands.

We adamantly urge you to deny the proposal to take 43 acres away from Boca Chica State Park. We also request a meeting with TWPD officials to discuss the agenda item before the vote.

Sincerely,

Voces Unidas
South Texas Environmental Justice Network
Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
Another Gulf Is Possible Collaborative
Sierra Club
Democratic Socialists of America - RGV
Divest/Invest RGV
Society of Native Nations
Southern Sector Rising
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Border Workers United
ENTRE Film Center
La Unión del Pueblo Entero
Greenfaith