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June 25, 2018

Ms. Mary Jo Galindo and Historic Landmark Commissioners

City of Austin

Post Office Box 1088

Austin, TX 78767-8865

Sent via E-mail

Re: Seaholm Intake Building

Dear Chair Galindo and Commissioners

Preservation Austin commends the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) for revisiting the public process for the rehabilitation of the Seaholm Intake Facility, a project that has the potential to adaptively reuse the site, enhance connections to the existing trail system, and allow for citizens to interact with this unique and important site. The Seaholm Intake Facility is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Parks and Recreation Department has engaged in a yearlong planning process. They have included Preservation Austin, Downtown Austin Alliance, Austin Chapter of the AIA, Six Square, Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association and many more throughout the planning process.

The planning process acknowledged the historic nature of the building including that it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and made reference to the contribution of the building to the growth and development of the city of Austin. The result of the process is a Conceptual Design Study that incorporates the historic nature of the buildings and site; promotes repair and renewal of the landscape and waterscape; builds on local knowledge and experience; strengthens sustainable design, and connects the city and its waterfront at an important convergence of community infrastructure.

Preservation Austin looks forward to a continued partnership with PARC on this important project. We know that PARC will also work with the Texas Historical Commission and the Historic Landmark Commission to review any proposed plans for rehabilitation of the building. As the project continues forward towards a final design, Preservation Austin will work with PARC to ensure that the project meets the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation, follows generally accepted preservation principles and respects the architectural integrity of the historic facades.

For 65 years, Preservation Austin has been the leading protector of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the City on this important Austin landmark.

Sincerely,

Ken Johnson

President, Preservation Austin