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March 28, 2008

The Honorable Will Wynn
Mayor, City of Austin
P. O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Mayor,

The Heritage Society of Austin wishes to convey its support for the efforts of the City and its consultants in the development of the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan. For over 50 years the Heritage Society has been the leading protector of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. There is no place more significant to Austin's sense of place than Barton Springs Pool, which serves as the crown jewel of the City's parks system. The Pool and its historic elements are one of the quintessential places that come to mind as the embodiment of Austin and the region.

Our Preservation Committee recently had the pleasure of a through presentation from Al Godfrey, leader of the planning team, on the Master Plan. We are proud that the planning team includes many with long ties to the Heritage Society and to preservation efforts in our community.

Specifically, our Preservation Committee offers its support for the efforts of the planning team in preserving the historic features of the Pool and its environs. We applaud their care for the environmental sensitivity of the springs and their recommendations for enhanced educational presentations to help visitors understand the vital role played by the springs and the watershed that feeds them. Because of the established nature of the Pool itself, our Preservation Committee is opposed to moving the dams, as suggested by some stakeholders.

The Heritage Society believes that learning from and celebrating our past while planning for and creating the future enhances livability and a sense of identity. We encourage the City to embrace the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan and to move forward with the recommended improvements.

Sincerely,

John Philip Donisi
President, Heritage Society of Austin

Cc: Mayor Pro Tem Betty Dunkerley
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