



SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

April 3, 2019

Statement of the San Antonio Conservation Society regarding the redevelopment of the Borden Building and Star Storage Site at 815 E. Ashby Place adjacent to the San Antonio River and Highway 281.

TO: Historic and Design Review Commission, City of San Antonio
RE: 815 E. Ashby Place – Borden Building and Star Storage Site

The San Antonio Conservation Society supports the proposed redevelopment of the Borden Building and Star Storage Site at 815 E. Ashby Place adjacent to the San Antonio River and Highway 281. There are several reasons for our support of this important project for San Antonio.

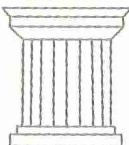
First, the project will rehabilitate the historic Borden Building with its distinctive Art Deco style architecture. This handsome landmark will be repurposed as office space and include features that connect to the San Antonio River. Second, the project includes the development of a Tobin Hill reach of the San Antonio River Walk, effectively extending the River Walk more than 2,000 feet beyond its current terminus north of the Pearl complex. This will improve the river's appearance, recreational facility, and urban environment. Third, the project proposes the removal of four billboards that currently blight the approach to the city on Highway 281. Finally, the redevelopment of the Star Storage facility into an apartment complex will dramatically improve the city's appearance for those arriving downtown from the airport. The current combination of billboards and storage units detracts from the city's appearance. Redevelopment, with a well-designed apartment building and no billboard blight, will improve the site and resonate with the city's natural and historic character.

Respectfully submitted,

SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Susan Beavin, President

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The Purpose of this Society is to preserve and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs, relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty, and all that is admirably distinctive to our State; and by such physical and cultural preservation to keep the history of Texas legible and intact to educate the public, especially the youth of today and tomorrow, with knowledge of our inherited regional values.

