



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

February 12, 2009

Mr. Todd George
Attorney
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin Texas 78744-3291

OR2009-01911

Dear Mr. George:

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# 334801.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (the "department") received a request for sign-in sheets that were generated at five public meetings between November 11, 2008 and November 20, 2008. You state that you have released redacted copies of the responsive information to the requestor. You claim that portions of the submitted information are excepted from disclosure under section 552.137 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.137 excepts from disclosure "an e-mail address of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of communicating electronically with a governmental body" unless the member of the public consents to its release or the e-mail address is of a type specifically excluded by subsection (c). See Gov't Code § 552.137(a)-(c). We note section 552.137 is not applicable to a government employee's work e-mail address because such an address is not that of the employee as a "member of the public," but is instead the address of the individual as a government employee. Therefore, with the exception of the information we have marked for release, the department must withhold the e-mail addresses you have marked under section 552.137 of the Government Code. You must release the remaining information to the requestor.

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.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, 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 must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

Sincerely,



Adam Leiber
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ACL/jb

Ref: ID# 334801

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)