



October 29, 2020

Debralee Rodriguez
Executive Director
The Valley Land Fund
2400 N. 10th St., Suite A
McAllen, TX 78501

Dear Ms. Rodriguez,

The American Birding Association (ABA) is grateful to you and the current and former Directors and Staff of the Valley Land Fund (VLF) for your many years of dedicated, effective work in pursuit of your mission to preserve, expand, and enhance the native wildlife habitat of Deep South Texas.

We as birders are keenly aware of just how special this region and its wildlife are and we share your love for all of it. From local, state, national, and even global perspectives, the relatively small remaining fragments of intact habitat along the Rio Grande are incredibly precious.

So we are especially concerned to hear that the VLF is considering selling one of the most beloved and storied birding hotspots in all of South Texas—its 2.5-acre tract near the river at Salineño. This is far too rich and valuable a place to lose.

We urge you not to go forward with this sale. The prospect of doing so just days before a highly consequential election seems particularly ill-timed.

We at the ABA stand ready to assist and support you in preserving this iconic piece of South Texas' natural heritage. Thank you for your consideration and for all your good work on behalf of the rich wildlife habitat of the Valley.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey A. Gordon

Jeffrey A. Gordon
President