



American Planning Association
Texas Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

Chapter Officers

Heather Nick, AICP
President
903.245.4459
hnick@tylertexas.com

Kelly Porter, AICP
President-Elect
817.392.7259
Kelly.kris.porter@gmail.com

Carol Barrett, FAICP
Secretary
512.731.0755
carolbarrett@gmail.com

Gary Mitchell, FAICP
Treasurer
281.721.4105
gary@kendjgkeast.com

Chance Sparks, AICP
Past-President
512.312.0084
cs@freese.com

Rolandrea Russell
TML Representative
954.871.7683
rolandrearussell@ymail.com

Executive Administrator

Chelsea Irby, AICP
403 Cedar Mound Pass
Cedar Park, Texas 78613
254.723.4248
administrator@apatexas.org

APA Texas Chapter
www.txplanning.org

April 12, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Burns, for the opportunity to present the following information from the American Planning Association, Texas Chapter (APATX). Our Association supports the growth and prosperity of Texas communities, and is composed of public and private sector planners, planning academics and students, elected officials, and citizen planners in the great state of Texas. My name is Rob Parsons, and I represent the APATX. We are testifying in support of **HB 3859**, relating to the approval of beach access and use plans by the commissioner of the General Land Office.

Texas coastlines are some of our state's greatest treasures, providing residents and visitors with a wide variety of recreational activities. Preparing a beach access and use plan can be a time consuming and costly process. This amendment to Natural Resources Code, Section 61.015, will provide the General Land Office with the flexibility they need to develop effective partnerships with our coastal communities. It will also avoid red tape that may slow down the implementation process. The result of this amendment will be to enhance the recreational and environmental value of Texas beaches.

We encourage you to support this important amendment and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Parsons

Matt Bucchin, AICP, LEED
APA Texas Chapter

The Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association is a 501(c)3 organization (23-7431522) as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. Gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.