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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Alamo RMA Chairman response to opinion issued in 281 lawsuit**

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*Alamo RMA Press Releases are available at [www.AlamoRMA.org](http://www.AlamoRMA.org)*

**(SAN ANTONIO)** – February 6, 2009 – The chair of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority, Dr. William E. Thornton, released the following statement today regarding the decision handed down in the lawsuit filed on the development of US 281.

“In 2008, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF) and Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas (AGUA), with the Save Our Springs Alliance (SOS) filed a lawsuit seeking an environmental impact statement for the US 281 North Corridor. Their wish was granted.

Since October 1, 2008, when the Federal Highway Administration withdrew environmental clearance and determined that any future capacity relief should come about as part of an Environmental Impact Statement, we have maintained that there was no point in this lawsuit continuing. The decision by Judge Biery to administratively close the case and allow the environmental impact statement to move forward on US 281 confirms that point.

In January, the Alamo RMA Board of Directors authorized the start of the process to hire environmental consultants to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for US 281, and a separate Environmental Impact Statement for Loop 1604 improvements. We take our charge to protect our environment and to provide needed relief to our community very seriously and will continue to do all we can to move these projects forward as quickly as possible.

We look forward to working closely with our community throughout the Environmental Impact Statement process. While we will spend at least three years engaged in this effort, we are also working, within the limits of the law, to find new ways to bring interim relief to the community.

Judge Biery correctly noted that the traffic congestion and gridlock issues do not end when this case is closed. The traffic along 281 will continue to be a source of pain and frustration for motorists until the EIS on 281 is complete. Drivers on Loop 1604 are experiencing the same frustration, and will continue to do so, until a separate EIS on this roadway is complete.

The questions of how to pay for the needed improvements to our road system still remains, as does the question of what to build, if anything, to provide relief on US 281 and Loop 1604. We now know, however, that the detailed Environmental Impact Statement is necessary to protect our environment. The Alamo RMA is moving forward with both the EIS on US 281 and a separate EIS on Loop 1604 to ensure the protection of our most precious resource, our environment.”

To read a copy of Judge Biery's ruling, please visit [www.AlamoRMA.org](http://www.AlamoRMA.org) .

### **About the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority**

Overseen by a seven-member Board of Directors, the Alamo RMA includes a professional staff and consultant team that are committed to finding ways to empower our local community to take charge of our transportation future. The purpose of the Alamo RMA is to provide Bexar County with opportunities to accelerate needed transportation projects - through the direction of a local board making local choices about local mobility needs - that enhance the quality of life and economic growth for all residents in our region.

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