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STATEMENT

2/17/26

Milan Bottoms is a large and complex Mississippi River ecosystem that totals some 3,500 acres. The Casino West Development Project (Project), as proposed by Rymak Construction Group LLC, is situated on a small 10-acre parcel along the divided Centennial Expressway highway. This parcel was previously developed, historically disturbed, and is not embedded within more pristine sections of the larger Milan Bottoms ecosystem. Environmental surveys at the Project site were conducted pursuant to the specifications, protocols, and requirements of state and federal regulatory agencies, including the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The USFWS regulates development activities if Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nests are within 660 feet of proposed project areas. They also regulate activities that include blasting, pile-driving, demolition, or other loud, intermittent noises within a half-mile of active Bald Eagle nests. Based on information provided by Rymak Construction Group, LLC, it is our understanding that the proposed Project does not include these types of construction activities which could generate noise impacts to the species. Subsequently, the USFWS does not require a half-mile survey area for Bald Eagle nests as part of the environmental review for this project.

Terracon conducted two Bald Eagle nesting surveys within and adjacent to the proposed project study area, the first during the 2025 nesting season, with a second follow-up survey in the 2026 nesting season. Bald Eagle nests were not identified within 660 feet of the Casino West Development Project in 2025; Terracon confirmed these findings again in 2026. Terracon acknowledges that the overall Milan Bottoms ecosystem is documented as a communal roost location for Bald Eagles and included this information within Terracon's Bald Eagle nest survey report dated July 14, 2025. Upon review of the Terracon July 2025 report, on August 22, 2025, the USFWS concurred with the Terracon report findings and made recommendations for the Project. A disturbance permit was not recommended by the USFWS for the Project.