

September 12, 2006

Ms. Phyllis Thomas, Director
Contract Administration Division
Texas Water Development Board
1700 N. Congress
P.O. Box 12321
Austin, Texas 78711-3231

Dear Ms. Thomas,

The Rio Grande Council of Governments is pleased to submit the attached research & planning fund application on behalf of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group. This application is submitted in response to the Texas Water Development Board's Request For Applications for interim funding for regional water planning projects as published in the Texas Register on June 23, 2006.

Our grant application includes both an administrative/public participation scope of work and budget, as well as scopes of work and budgets for four proposed special projects. Each of the special studies will enhance water planning efforts in the Far West Texas region, and will aid in the revision of, and improvements to, the Far West Texas Water Plan. The members of the planning group scrutinized the scopes of work and budgets for the projects in detail prior to their submission herein, and are satisfied that the tasks and expenses listed are both necessary and reasonable. Study progress will be monitored closely by both the Rio Grande Council of Governments and the Far West Texas Water Planning Group on a regular basis. A list of deliverables and time schedules for each project are part of this grant application. Copies of all public notice materials are also attached to the application.

The Rio Grande Council of Governments certifies that the proposed planning does not duplicate existing projects. The proposed interim planning projects are designed to address tasks noted in the 2006 update to the regional plan as being areas where additional work is needed to further the evaluation and implementation of water management strategies, and to overcome problems identified in the previous round of regional water planning.

The Rio Grande Council of Governments also assures the TWDB that any viable solutions identified as a result of the proposed interim project will be diligently pursued.

Phyllis Thomas
September 12, 2006
Page 2

All applicable funding sources for implementation of viable solutions arising out of the interim planning project will also be pursued in the future.

Please contact our project manager, Barbara Kauffman, at (915) 533-0998, ext. 121 if you require additional information in order to complete your review of our application package. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jake Brisbin, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jake Brisbin, Jr.
Executive Director

Attachment: Grant application package

***Application for Planning Funds, Regional Water Planning
September 14, 2006***

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. *Legal name of applicant(s).* Rio Grande Council of Governments
2. *Regional Water Planning Group:* Far West Texas Water Planning Group (Region E)
3. *Authority of law under which the applicant was created.* The Rio Grande Council of Governments was established under the authority of Title 12, Subsection C, Chapter 391, Texas Local Government Code.
4. *Applicant's official representative, Name, Title, Mailing address, Phone number, Fax number, if available, E-mail Address, and Vendor ID Number.* Jake Brisbin, Jr., Executive Director, Rio Grande Council of Governments, 1100 N. Stanton, Ste. 610, El Paso, TX 79902. Phone: 915-533-0998; fax: 915-532-9385. E-mail: jakeb@riocog.org
Vendor I.D. # 74-1559724
- 4a. *Date that political subdivision was designated the regional water planning group as a representative of the regional water planning group to receive funds for all or part of the cost of developing or revising regional water plans defined in Texas Water Code, §16.053 and Chapter 357.* The Far West Texas WPG voted unanimously to retain the Rio Grande Council of Governments as its administrative entity and designated political subdivision for the third planning cycle on July 27, 2006, authorizing it to receive funds for developing or revising the regional water plan. The TWDB Deputy Executive Administrator was notified of these actions by letter dated July 31, 2006.
5. *Is this application in response to a Request for Proposals published in the Texas Register? Yes ✓ No*
6. *If yes to No. 5 above, list document number and date of publication of the Texas Register.* Texas Register, June 23, 2006, Vol. 31, Number 25, TRD-200603279
7. *Type of proposed planning (Check all that apply)*
 - ✓ *Initial scope of work*
 - Development of a regional water plan*
 - Revision of a regional water plan*
 - ✓ *Special studies approved by TWDB*
 - ✓ *Administration/Public participation*
8. *Total proposed planning cost.* **\$744,930**
9. *Cash Contribution to the study.* \$0

10. *List source of cash contribution, explanation of source of local cash contribution.*

N/A

11. *Total grant funds requested from the Texas Water Development Board. **\$744,930***

12. *Detailed statement of the purpose for which the money will be used. (Not to exceed 1 page.)*

Texas Water Development Board grant funding will be used for activities which will enhance water planning efforts in the Far West Texas region. These activities include planning group administration, including fiscal management of TWDB funds, reimbursement of planning group travel costs, and facilitation of public meetings and hearings, by publicly advertising and providing adequate meeting space for public access and participation, and providing copies of meeting materials to planning group members. Planning funds are also sought to support public information and participation activities, including distribution of planning related materials at meetings, on the planning group website, through press releases, and via email, as well as through other activities which enhance public participation in the planning process.

In addition, planning funds are sought to hire a consulting team to carry out four special projects which will address one or more of the criteria stated in the request for proposals. A table listing the relevance of each proposed project to the criteria is included in item 16. These special studies include Project 1: Groundwater data acquisition and compilation, and aquifer well testing; Project 2: Conceptual evaluation of surface water storage in El Paso County; Project 3: Evaluation of irrigation efficiency strategies; and Project 4: Municipal water conservation education and training. All four of the proposed special studies address the evaluation criteria of (a) studies that will further implementation of recommended water management strategies, and (b) further evaluation of water management strategies to meet needs in small and rural areas. Projects 1, 3, and 4 also address the criteria of (c) refinement of water supply information or water management strategies, and (d) activities that will help overcome problems from the last round of planning. In addition, Project 2 will also contribute to the evaluation of new water management strategies in response to changed conditions. The timing that each need addresses is 2010, coming up very quickly on the planning horizon. Each of the proposed projects will aid in the revision of, or improvements to, the Far West Texas Water Plan.

13. *Detailed description of why state funding assistance is needed. (Not to exceed 1 page.)*

State funding is absolutely necessary for the Far West Texas WPG to engage in the proposed projects to aid in the revision of, and improvements to, the Far West Texas Water Plan, and to carry out certain administrative and public participation activities. Region E is characterized by (1) limited financial resources to serve a population with critical needs (all counties in the planning region are EDAP eligible); (2) limited surface and groundwater resources in an arid area that is always in "drought"; (3) limited data on water supply sources, especially critical groundwater resources; and (4) geographic location where supply, demand, planning, and legal control are shared among three states, two nations, and many regulatory authorities. In addition, over the past several

years, Rio Nuevo's proposal to develop and export groundwater out of the planning region has heightened awareness of the lack of data on many of the aquifer systems in the region, and the limited utility of GAMs developed with inadequate data. There is currently a deficiency of hydrologic data on file to support groundwater supply availability analysis for much of the more rural portions of both the designated and non-designated aquifer areas. Due to the overwhelming reliance on groundwater, the Far West Texas WPG strongly feels that it is imperative that aquifer availability analyses be significantly improved such that they can have more confidence in strategy recommendations involving groundwater sources. Recent regulatory changes pertaining to groundwater districts also underscore the need for critical data to sustainably manage critical groundwater resources. The attached scope of work addresses several tasks which were noted in the 2006 update to the regional plan as being areas where additional work is needed to further the evaluation and implementation of water management strategies and overcome problems identified in the previous round of regional water planning.

14. Identify potential sources and amounts of funding available for implementation of viable solutions resulting from proposed planning.

Potential sources of funding which might be available to implement the solutions resulting from the proposed special studies include local sources of revenue such as taxes and user fees or bond revenue, grant and loan funds from several state agencies, as well as federal funds. Federal funding sources include USDA Rural Development and Rural Utilities Service grants/loans, BECC/NADBank water and wastewater planning and infrastructure funding, and EPA pass-through funding programs such as the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds. State funding sources include EDAP grant/loan funds, the State Participation Program, agricultural water conservation grants/loans, and water and wastewater loan programs through the TWDB, ORCA, Texas Capital Fund, and the Rural Water Assistance Fund and Water Infrastructure Fund.

II. PLANNING INFORMATION

15. Scope of Work for each project (s) . (Not to exceed 6 pages.)

If funding is requested for more than one project, a separate Scope of Work is required for each.

PROJECT 0 - Planning Group Administration/Public Participation

Task 0. Scope of Work Preparation

1. Post public notice and hold public meeting to gather input on scope of work and regional priorities
2. Prepare scopes of work, budgets and grant application
3. Submit application for funding to TWDB

Task 1. Public Information Activities

1. Prepare and distribute public information material for the purpose of encouraging public participation, including response to individual inquiries, meeting summaries, press releases, and information of water planning related activities within the region, and posting and distributing public notices.
 - A. Develop and maintain a planning group website to provide timely information on the planning process to the public and to interested parties, including meeting agendas, minutes, backup materials, reports, and planning group information.
 - B. Develop and maintain public contact mail and e-mail databases to transmit planning related materials directly to interested parties and to individuals and entities designated in statute.
2. Serve as the point of contact for all public information activities associated with the regional water planning process, including coordination with other planning regions, and distribute information on water planning to the public as requested.
3. Serve as water planning group liaison to other local and regional water planning entities and organizations, such as the Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization and the Paso del Norte Water Taskforce, in order to share information and coordinate common goals and planning activities.
4. Conduct public meetings and/or hearings to convey information on planning group activities and project progress, solicit public involvement and comment to set regional priorities and to gather input on the development of project reports, solicit comment on draft reports and on the development of any updates to the regional plan.
5. Provide copies of any draft and final reports resulting from planning group activities to libraries, public officials, planning group members, and interest groups.

Task 2. Planning Group Administration

1. Coordinate and facilitate public meetings of the planning group, including securing meeting space with adequate public access, and ensuring adequate copies of meeting materials are available for public inspection prior to and following public meetings.
2. Administration, financial oversight and reporting associated with reimbursement of members' travel expenses, sub-consultant contracts and other eligible political subdivision administrative expenses.

Task Budget

| TASK | DESCRIPTION | COST |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 0 | Scope of work preparation | \$5,000 |
| 1 | Public Information activities | \$20,000 |
| 2 | Planning Group administration | \$29,930 |
| | Total | \$54,930 |

PROJECT 1 - Groundwater Data Acquisition and Compilation, and Aquifer Well Testing

Description

Far West Texas contains three TWDB-designated major aquifers and six minor aquifers. In addition, there are a number of areas within the region that have no aquifer designation but in which groundwater is the primary source of supply. This will be a two-phase project consisting of the acquisition and compilation of existing data from major, minor and other aquifers in the planning region, to identify all available well data that can be used for groundwater supply availability analyses and modeling, and to identify where additional data are needed. The second phase of the project will involve field-testing up to 100 wells to acquire needed baseline hydrologic data. This project will be coordinated with groundwater conservation districts and will not duplicate GAM activities currently underway in the region.

Relevance

Other than El Paso Water Utilities, which obtains a portion of its supply from the Rio Grande, and irrigators along the river primarily in El Paso, Hudspeth and Presidio counties, all other water supplies throughout Far West Texas are derived from groundwater sources. Most of these groundwater sources (aquifers) occur in the rural, less populated part of the region and have received far less hydrologic evaluation than have other aquifers elsewhere in the state. The Far West Texas Water Planning Group considers this a significant problem in the supply analysis portion of the current regional water plan.

There is currently a deficiency of hydrologic data on file to support groundwater supply availability analysis for much of the more rural portions of both the designated and non-designated aquifer areas. Due to the overwhelming reliance on groundwater, the Far West Texas Water Planning Group strongly feel that it is imperative that aquifer availability analyses be significantly improved such that they can have more confidence in strategy recommendations involving groundwater sources. This is particularly apparent in the rural part of the region where small communities totally rely on groundwater. It is recognized that the first step in this process is the establishment of an adequate amount and distribution of aquifer characterization data upon which to base further availability analyses.

Although municipal supply shortages starting in 2010 are only recognized in El Paso County, the uncertainty of future groundwater withdrawals are a major concern throughout the remaining rural counties of the region.

Beneficiaries

The additional aquifer characterization data will benefit the Far West Texas Planning Group in better defining available water supplies in the region. The data will also support groundwater conservation districts in their responsibility of managing supplies and evaluating future desired conditions.

Scope of Work

Task 1. Data acquisition and compilation

1. Review existing distribution of well data in the TWDB Groundwater Database and determine areas that are deficient in well data coverage.
2. Coordinate with Sul Ross State University and the Texas State University System to identify wells that have been tested or will be tested (for water quality and other aquifer attributes) under their “Sustainable Agricultural Water Conservation in the Rio Grande Basin” research project.
3. Coordinate with the following groundwater conservation districts to identify wells currently on file in the district records that are not in the TWDB database.
 - Brewster County GCD
 - Culberson County GCD
 - Hudspeth County UWCD#1
 - Jeff Davis County UWCD
 - Presidio County UWCD
4. Identify additional sources of well data in areas not covered by groundwater conservation districts.
5. Select appropriate well data in areas of identified insufficient data coverage and prepare data for inclusion in the TWDB Groundwater Database, including accurate well locations and assignment of correct aquifer designations.
6. Work with TWDB staff to identify up to twenty wells for water quality sampling and analysis.
7. Develop recommendations for improvements to water supply availability analyses to be incorporated into the Year-2011 Far West Texas Water Plan.

Task 2. Aquifer well testing

1. Review existing distribution of aquifer/pumping test data in the TWDB Groundwater Database and determine areas that are deficient in test data coverage.
2. Coordinate with Sul Ross State University and the Texas State University System to identify wells that have been aquifer tested under their “Sustainable Agricultural Water Conservation in the Rio Grande Basin” research project, and coordinate future well tests to avoid duplication.
3. Coordinate with the above groundwater conservation districts to identify wells within their respective boundaries that can be tested.
4. Identify additional wells in areas not covered by groundwater conservation districts that can be tested.
5. Select up to 100 wells throughout all aquifers in the region for testing. Obtain well-owner permission. Where possible, select wells where other wells in the general vicinity can be used as observation wells. Conduct aquifer/pumping test according to accepted standard procedures. Pumping time for each test will be determined based on size and production rate of each well. Upon completion of the pumping period, continue to record measurements during the recovery period.

6. Calculate transmissivity or storage coefficient of each test and prepare data to be entered into the TWDB database.

Deliverables

Task 1 - Well data will be prepared in an appropriate database format for transfer to the TWDB Groundwater Database.

Task 2 - Pumping test results will be prepared in an appropriate database format for transfer to the TWDB Groundwater Database.

Task Budget

| TASK | DESCRIPTION | COST |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Data acquisition and compilation | \$40,000 |
| 2 | Aquifer well testing | \$500,000* |
| | Total | \$540,000 |

**\$5,000 per test*

Expense Budget

| CATAGORY | TOTAL AMOUNT |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries and Wages | |
| Fringe | |
| Travel | |
| Other Expenses | |
| Subcontract Services | \$540,000 |
| Voting Planning Group Member Travel | |
| Overhead | |
| Profit | |
| TOTAL | \$540,000 |

This project will be coordinated with Sul Ross State University/Texas State University System’s “Sustainable Agricultural Water Conservation in the Rio Grande Basin” research project. The groundwater component of this USDA funded project (Rio Grande Basin Initiative) is approximately \$278,000 over three years.

PROJECT 2 - Conceptual Evaluation of Surface Water Storage in El Paso County

Description

This conceptual level study would identify the needs and benefits of developing surface water storage. Specifically, the study would evaluate alternative sites for surface water storage, conceptually examine potential operational strategies, and identify the benefits and costs of each alternative on a conceptual level.

Relevance

One of the limitations of conjunctive use management in El Paso County is the lack of local storage of surface water. Under the current conjunctive use approach, surface water is used for irrigation and municipal use as it becomes available through

the Rio Grande Project. When surface water availability is limited, groundwater pumping is increased. The current Far West Texas Water Plan details this management approach (E-3).

Local surface water storage facilities could extend and enhance the use of surface water. Such facilities could be used to temporarily store Rio Grande Project water or capture monsoon storm runoff and put it to beneficial use for irrigation and municipal uses. Previous studies have identified the benefits of a surface water treatment plant in the Upper Valley, and discussions between El Paso Water Utilities and El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 regarding the use of the Socorro Ponds as a surface water storage facility are ongoing.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this project include agricultural water users, municipal users, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, and El Paso Water Utilities.

Scope of Work

- Task 1.** Meet with El Paso Water Utilities and El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 representatives to gain an understanding of previous studies and discussions regarding the Upper Valley site and the Socorro Ponds as possible surface water storage sites.
- Task 2.** Develop and analyze up to four alternatives for a conceptual level evaluation of surface water storage. Include the location, size, land ownership, conceptual operation, and flow routing for each alternative.
- Task 3.** Evaluate how the implementation of each alternative would be integrated into the current conjunctive use management approach.
- Task 4.** Develop a conceptual level estimate of benefits in terms of increased water availability for irrigation and municipal use and decreased groundwater pumping for each alternative.
- Task 5.** Develop a conceptual level estimate of costs to implement each alternative.

Deliverables

Task 1 - No deliverable.

Tasks 2-5 - A report will be prepared that describes the findings and conclusions of this project.

Project Budget

Task Budget

| TASK | DESCRIPTION | COST |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| 1 | Meet with EPWU and EPCWID#1 | \$5,000 |
| 2 | Development and analysis of four alternatives | \$45,000 |
| 3 | Implementation into conjunctive use management | \$10,000 |
| 4 | Estimate of benefits | \$25,000 |
| 5 | Implementation cost estimate | \$15,000 |
| | Total | \$100,000 |

Expense Budget

| CATAGORY | TOTAL AMOUNT |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Salaries and Wages | |
| Fringe | |
| Travel | |
| Other Expenses | |
| Subcontract Services | \$100,000 |
| Voting Planning Group Member Travel | |
| Overhead | |
| Profit | |
| TOTAL | \$100,000 |

PROJECT 3 - Evaluation of Irrigation Efficiency Strategies for Far West Texas: Feasibility, Water Savings and Cost Effectiveness

Description

The purpose of this project is to evaluate the feasibility, water savings potential and cost effectiveness of Far West Texas proposed irrigation practice efficiency strategies. Agricultural, hydrologic, economic, and institutional considerations will be evaluated.

Relevance

Agriculture is projected to have the largest unmet demand for water in the recently approved 2006 Far West Texas Water Plan. The primary strategies (E-17 thru E-31) proposed to mitigate the impact of insufficient water supplies for agriculture are to implement some of the irrigation management practices recommended in Water Conservation Best Management Practices published by TWDB (2004; WDB report 362). However, as TWDB notes, the conservation practices listed are generalized and require further analysis to determine applicability, actual efficiency (water supply) gains, and feasibility of implementation. The applicability and actual water savings of these practices are not known and vary substantially across regions, locations, type and quality of water supplies, crops produced, irrigation technologies in use, and location specific costs and returns of implementation.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this project include agricultural water users, irrigation districts, rural communities and the Region as a whole from a healthier and more sustainable economy.

Scope of Work

Task 1. Survey, identify and review current agricultural production, water use practices and technologies in Far West Texas.

Task 2. Evaluate TWDB proposed BMP strategies in terms of:

- a. Applicability for Far West Texas agriculture
- b. Potential for locating specific additional water savings
- c. Institutional and infrastructural considerations and implications
- d. Economic costs and returns of BMP implementation

Task 3. Analyze and provide BMP recommendations and estimates of regional water savings. Analyses will be conducted in collaboration with agricultural water users and groups.

Deliverables

Tasks 1-3 - A technical report and presentations will be provided to the Far West Texas Water Planning Group.

Project Budget

This project will be performed cooperatively with Texas A&M University through the Rio Grande Basin Initiative with an in-kind value of approximately \$40,000.

Task Budget

| TASK | DESCRIPTION | COST |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Survey current practices and technologies | \$10,000 |
| 2 | Evaluate TWDB proposed BMP strategies | \$20,000 |
| 3 | Analyze and provide BMP recommendations | \$10,000 |
| | Total | \$40,000 |

Expense Budget

| CATAGORY | TOTAL AMOUNT |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries and Wages | |
| Fringe | |
| Travel | |
| Other Expenses | |
| Subcontract Services | \$40,000 |
| Voting Planning Group Member Travel | |
| Overhead | |
| Profit | |
| TOTAL | \$40,000 |

PROJECT 4 - Municipal Water Conservation

Description

Far West Texas is located in the arid part of the state and is subject to drought-like conditions on a daily basis. The region has limited water sources for existing entities and future growth. Thus, conservation is recognized as an essential water management strategy necessary to meet demands in the region.

The purpose of this project is to implement municipal water conservation education programs, small community water utility staff training, and to provide technical assistance such as water audits to increase municipal water conservation savings

throughout the region. El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU) would take the lead and provide education, training, and technical assistance to the smaller utilities in the region. The Water Resource Education Center located at the new El Paso-Fort Bliss Joint Desalination Facility will be the focal point for this conservation education program.

Relevance

The project will provide an opportunity for the EPWU conservation strategy (E-2) discussed in the 2006 Far West Texas Water Plan to be considered elsewhere in the region. The project is an example of inter-regional collaboration and cooperation, and represents a foundation of “bottoms-up planning”. Through this project, the Planning Group can better evaluate and refine municipal conservation strategies throughout the region (especially for small utilities and utilities in rural areas) for the next round of regional water planning.

The project will help overcome problems encountered in the last planning period of having insufficient time and funding to adequately identify municipal conservation needs throughout the region. The project is intended to help remedy water supply deficits in El Paso County that are identified starting in 2010, as well as other potential shortages elsewhere in the region.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this project include all municipalities in Far West Texas that take the opportunity to participate in this public service.

Scope of Work

Task 1. Staff of the El Paso Water Utilities will develop an educational conservation program primarily intended for small water utilities. The program will highlight specific actions that EPWU has successfully instituted. The program will also consider best management practices (BMPs) for municipal users identified by the TWDB Conservation Task Force that have relevance in the desert communities of West Texas. Brochures and fact sheets will be developed for the education program.

Task 2. Invitations will be sent to all municipal water utilities within the region to attend a training session presented by EPWU. A number of sessions will be scheduled to insure that all utilities have the opportunity to take advantage of this program. EPWU will offer to visit those utilities that request on-site training.

Task 3. Two months prior to the end of the funded project biennium, EPWU will provide a report to the Far West Texas Water Planning Group describing the educational program, and documenting the number of training sessions offered and identifying the utilities that participated. The report will also provide recommendations pertaining to the practicality of the educational program and suggestions for its continuation.

Deliverables

Task 1 - A conservation training program and materials will be developed.

Tasks 2-3 - A report will be generated describing the educational program and documenting the number of training sessions offered and identifying the utilities that participated.

Project Budget

This funding is primarily intended for travel expenses for water utility personnel in Far West Texas counties to travel to El Paso for training sessions, and, if necessary, for EPWU personnel to travel to the rural areas. EPWU will provide additional funding necessary to insure the success of this program.

Task Budget

| TASK | DESCRIPTION | COST |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Development of a conservation educational program | \$0 |
| 2 | Presentation of program | \$10,000 |
| 3 | Report of results | \$0 |
| | Total | \$10,000 |

Expense Budget

| CATAGORY | TOTAL AMOUNT |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries and Wages | |
| Fringe | |
| Travel | |
| Other Expenses | |
| Subcontract Services | \$10,000 |
| Voting Planning Group Member Travel | |
| Overhead | |
| Profit | |
| TOTAL | \$10,000 |

16. *Prioritization of scope of work tasks/projects by the regional planning group.*

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Priority

1. Groundwater data acquisition and compilation, and aquifer well testing
2. Conceptual evaluation of surface water storage in El Paso County
3. Evaluation of Far West Texas irrigation efficiency strategies
4. Municipal water conservation education and training

Project Relevance

| Relevance Factor | Project | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Evaluation of new water management strategies in response to changed conditions | | X | | |
| Studies that will further implementation of recommended water management strategies | X | X | X | X |
| Refinement of water supply information or water management strategies | X | | X | X |
| Activities that will help overcome problems from the last round of planning | X | | X | X |
| Further evaluation of water management strategies, especially regional solutions, to meet needs in small and rural areas | X | X | X | X |
| Reevaluation of population and demand projections only under the presence of changed conditions | | | | |
| Interregional coordination | | | | |
| Timing of need that the proposed task addresses | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 |
| Total project cost | \$540,000 | \$100,000 | \$40,000 | \$10,000 |

17. A task budget for *each* project listed in Item #15.

TASK BUDGET

| TASK | DESCRIPTION | TOTAL |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | Project 1: Groundwater Data Acquisition and Compilation, and Aquifer Well Testing | \$540,000 |
| 1a | Data acquisition and compilation | \$40,000 |
| 1b | Aquifer well testing | \$500,000 |
| 2 | Project 2: Conceptual Evaluation of Surface Water Storage in El Paso County | \$100,000 |
| 2a | Compile/review existing studies on potential sites | \$5,000 |
| 2b | Develop & analyze alternatives | \$45,000 |
| 2c | Evaluate implementation of alternatives RE: conjunctive use | \$10,000 |
| 2d | Develop conceptual level estimate of benefits | \$25,000 |
| 2e | Develop conceptual level estimate of costs | \$15,000 |
| 3 | Project 3: Evaluation of Irrigation Efficiency Strategies for Far West Texas: Feasibility, Water Savings and Cost Effectiveness | \$40,000 |
| 3a | Survey/review current production, water use practices, technology | \$10,000 |
| 3b | Evaluate TWDB proposed BMP strategies: applicability etc. | \$20,000 |
| 3c | Analyze/provide BMP recommendations/estimate water savings | \$10,000 |
| 4 | Project 4: Municipal Water Conservation | \$10,000 |
| 4a | Develop educational program & training materials for small water utilities | \$0 |
| 4b | Hold training sessions | \$10,000 |
| 4c | Report on training program, provide recommendations | \$0 |
| 5 | Administrative and public participation activities | \$54,930 |
| 5a | Scope of Work Preparation | \$5,000 |
| 5b | Public Information/Participation | \$20,000 |
| 5c | Planning Group Administration | \$29,930 |
| Total | | \$744,930 |

18. An expense budget for detailed scope of work by expense category **for each project** listed in item 15.

EXPENSE BUDGET

| CATEGORY | TOTAL AMOUNT |
|---|-------------------|
| Salaries & Wages | \$ 11,640 |
| Fringe | \$ 3,955 |
| Travel | \$ 0 |
| Other Expenses | \$ 7,795 |
| Subcontract Services | \$ 695,000 |
| Voting Planning Member Travel | \$ 7,400 |
| Overhead (<i>see note for Subcontract Services below</i>) | \$ 19,140 |
| Profit | \$ 0 |
| TOTAL | \$ 744,930 |

** Subcontract Services Note: To calculate overhead for the Administration expense budget to include the cost of managing any subcontracts for funded projects, as well as for the SOW preparation, subcontract services were estimated at \$15,000 per year over the FY07 – FY09 contract period. By state law, Councils of Government can only charge indirect cost (overhead) on the first \$15,000 of each subcontract per fiscal year.

19. A time schedule for completing detailed Scope of Work **for each project** by task.

| Project 0: Planning Group Administration/Public Participation Tasks | Performance Date | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| | Aug - Sep - 06 | Oct - Dec 06 | Jan - Jun 07 | Jul - Dec 07 | Jan - Jun 08 | Jul - Dec 08 | Jan 09 |
| | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Task 0- Scope of Work preparation | | | | | | | |
| Task 1- Public Information Activities | | | | | | | |
| Task 2- Planning Group Administration | | | | | | | |
| Quarterly Status Report | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

The time schedules for Projects 1 through 4 are attached on the following page.

| Project 1 Groundwater data acquisition & compilation, and aquifer well testing | 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Task 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Status Reports | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Project 2 Conceptual evaluation of surface water storage in El Paso County | 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Task 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Status Reports | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Project 3 Evaluation of Far West Texas irrigation efficiency strategies | 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Task 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Status Reports | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Project 4 Municipal water conservation education and training | 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Task 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Status Reports | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

20. Specific deliverables for each task in Scope of Work.

Deliverables are listed following each project scope of work under item 15

21. Method of monitoring study progress.

The Rio Grande Council of Governments will conduct all public information and planning group administration activities. It will also act as the contract manager and fiscal manager of all TWDB grant funds and grant-funded projects, and provide oversight for all sub-contract activities. All activities undertaken on behalf of the Far West Texas WPG will be carried out with input and guidance from the planning group. The Rio Grande Council of Governments will be responsible for contract administration, staff support to the Far West Texas Water Planning Group and soliciting public involvement.

As the representative of the Far West Texas WPG, the Rio Grande Council of Governments will conduct the administrative and public information activities, and will designate the RGCOG Executive Director to serve as the Project Director. The Project Director and/or his designee (the Project Manager) will be responsible for oversight of all projects funded by the TWDB as part of this grant application. Where designated, the RGCOG Deputy Executive Director will act as overall Project Manager under the direction of the Project Director, and dedicate approximately 5% of her time to the direction and coordination of project tasks by RGCOG staff and sub-contractors. The Project Director or his designee will coordinate the input of WPG members, subcommittees, and the public, and keep the WPG informed of the project's progress.

The applicant's financial staff will be responsible for documenting project expenses on a monthly basis, ensuring that billings are properly documented and submitted on a timely basis. All management and oversight of planning fund dollars will be in strict accordance with the Uniform Grant Management Standards.

22. Qualifications and direct experience of proposed project staff.

JAKE BRISBIN, JR., Executive Director. Judge Brisbin has been Executive Director of the Rio Grande Council of Governments since 1999. Prior to his service as Executive Director, Judge Brisbin was Presidio County Judge. Judge Brisbin has also served as Mayor of Marfa and President of the Rio Grande Council of Governments Board of Directors, and was owner and CEO of the Marfa TV Cable Company. Judge Brisbin attended Trinity University, St. Mary's University, and Sul Ross State University. He has extensive experience in public service and public administration, and will serve as the Chief Administrative Officer and Designated Agent for the Regional Water Planning Program and will guide all staff efforts associated with this activity as the Project Director.

HECTOR F. DIAZ, Director of Finance. Mr. Diaz has been Director of Finance for the Rio Grande Council of Governments since 1986. In this capacity Mr. Diaz is the senior staff person responsible for all financial record keeping of the organization. Mr. Diaz ensures that all finance and accounting functions of the organization meet appropriate State and Federal standards of practice, rules and regulations. Mr. Diaz has many

years of governmental accounting and finance experience and is an expert in financial accounting rules governing purchasing, auditing and financial management of public funds. He will be responsible for financial administration and oversight of the project, the same role he filled during the previous two water planning cycles.

BARBARA E. KAUFFMAN, Deputy Executive Director and Director of the Environmental Services & Special Projects Division. Ms. Kauffman holds undergraduate degrees in Anthropology and International Studies from American University in Washington, D.C. as well as a master's degree in Anthropology with a specialization in Environmental Archaeology from the University of Chicago. She also holds a master's degree in Business Administration from New Mexico State University. Ms. Kauffman has over 25 years of experience in environmental planning and project management. As the Project Manger for the Far West Texas Water Planning Group, Ms. Kauffman will be the primary point of contact on all project activities and will supervise staff support and sub-contractor oversight for the project.

III. WRITTEN ASSURANCES

Written assurance of the following items: (Assurances combined below)

- 1. Proposed planning does not duplicate existing projects;*
- 2. Implementation of viable solutions identified through the proposed planning will be diligently pursued and identification of potential sources of funding for implementation of viable solutions.*
- 3. If a grant is awarded, written evidence that local matching funds are available for the proposed planning must be provided when the contract is executed.*

The Rio Grande Council of Governments, on behalf of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group, certifies that the proposed planning does not duplicate existing projects. The Rio Grande Council of Governments also assures the TWDB that any viable solutions identified as a result of the proposed project will be diligently pursued. All applicable funding sources for the implementation of viable solutions arising out of the preparation of the special projects carried out to assist in the revision of the regional water plan will also be pursued in the future. If a grant is awarded, the Rio Grande Council of Governments will provide written evidence of any local matching funds which are available for the proposed planning. However, no local (Applicant/RGCOG) matching funds are anticipated. Other institutions and entities which do not currently have a contractual relationship with the RGCOG have indicated that they can provide project match for specific project proposals as noted in the narrative, through in-kind support.

IV. PROOF OF NOTIFICATION

- 1. Proof of notification*

Develop or revise regional water plans. Eligible applicants requesting funds to develop or revise regional water plans must, not less than 30 days before board consideration of the application, provide notice that an application for planning assistance is being filed with the executive administrator by:

- (1) publishing notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in each county located in whole or in part in the regional water planning area; and*
- (2) mailing notice to each mayor of a municipality with a population of 1,000 or more or which is a county seat and that is located in whole or in part in the regional water planning area, and to each county judge of a county located in whole or in part in the regional water planning area, to all districts and authorities created under Texas Constitution, Article III, §52, or Article XVI, §59, located in whole or in part in the regional water planning area based upon lists of such water districts and river authorities obtained from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and all regional water planning groups in the state.*

Notice content and copies.

The notice shall include:

- the name and address of the eligible applicant and applicant's official representative;*
- a brief description of the proposed planning area;*
- the purposes of the proposed planning;*
- Texas Water Development Board Executive Administrator's name and address; and*
- a statement that any comments on the proposed planning must be filed with the executive administrator and the applicant within 30 days of the date on which the notice was mailed.*

The notice of intent to apply for planning grant funds appeared on June 22, June 23, or June 25, 2006, in the newspapers of general circulation in the planning area noted in the table below. A copy of the Public Notice was mailed to each of the entities specified in number 2 above, and mailed to our general water planning contact list on June 21, 2006. The notice was also e-mailed to a list of interested parties on June 16, 2006, and posted on the water planning group's web page on June 19, 2006 <http://www.riocog.org/publichearing/Public%20Notice%20-%20Rnd3SOWMtg.pdf>, A copy of the public notice, mail lists, and tear sheets confirming the publication are attached to this application.

| Newspaper | Notice of Intent to Apply for Funds Published |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Alpine Avalanche | June 22, 2006 |
| Big Bend Sentinel | June 22, 2006 |
| The Presidio International | June 22, 2006 |
| Jeff Davis County Mountain Dispatch | June 22, 2006 |
| Van Horn Advocate | June 22, 2006 |
| West Texas County Courier | June 22, 2006 |
| Terrell County News-Leader | June 23, 2006 |
| Hudspeth County Herald | June 23, 2006 |
| El Paso, Inc. | June 25, 2006 |

July 31, 2006

Mr. William F. Mullican, III
Deputy Executive Administrator
Office of Planning
Texas Water Development Board
P.O. Box 13231, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711-3231

Dear Mr. Mullican,

At the July 27, 2006 public meeting of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group the Group set the terms of participation to meet the requirements of 31 TAC 357.7(a)(5)(c)(ii). The terms of participation specify that the water planning group shall plan for all eligible political subdivisions that supply water within the planning region, without regard to their actual participation in the regional water planning process.

During the same meeting, in accordance with 31 TAC 357.6(5), the planning group also voted unanimously to retain the Rio Grande Council of Governments as its administrative entity and designated political subdivision for the upcoming planning cycle. Jake Brisbin, Jr. was designated as the planning group's administrative officer. The Rio Grande Council of Governments was authorized to apply for financial assistance from the TWDB for regional water planning activities on behalf of the planning group.

Please let us know if you or your staff require any additional information. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Kauffman, Deputy Executive Director, at (915) 533-0998, ext. 121. Thank you,

Sincerely,

Jake Brisbin, Jr.
Executive Director

CC: Tom Beard, Chairman, FWTWPG
Robert Flores, TWDB
David Messey, TWDB



FAR WEST TEXAS WATER PLANNING GROUP

*1100 North Stanton, Suite 610
El Paso, Texas 79902*

915/533-0998

915/532-9385 (FAX)

Jesse Acosta
Counties

Janet Adams
Water Utilities

Jerry Agan
Public

Loretta Akers
Public
Executive Committee

Ed Archuleta
Municipalities
Vice Chairman

Randy Barker
Groundwater Districts

Tom Beard
Agriculture
Chairman

Becky Brewster
Municipalities
Executive Committee

Elza Cushing
Public
Secretary

Mike Davidson
Travel & Tourism

David Etzold
Building and Real Estate

Howard Goldberg
Industry

Carl Lieb
Environment

Ralph Meriwether
Small Business

Albert Miller
Groundwater Districts

Jim Ed Miller
Water Districts

Adrian Ocegueda
Municipalities

Chuy Reyes
Water Districts
Executive Committee

Charles Stegall
Counties

Teresa Todd
Counties

Teodora Trujillo
Public

Jim Voorheis
Electric Utilities

Paige Waggoner
Economic Development
Executive Committee

TO: Mayors, County Judges, Water Districts, Water Suppliers, Water Rights Holders

FROM: Jake Brisbin, Jr., Executive Director, Rio Grande Council of Governments

DATE: June 22, 2006

SUBJECT: Public Notice – Public Meeting to Receive Input on the Scope of Work for the Third Cycle of Regional Water Planning and Application for Water Planning Grant

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group (Region E) will receive suggestions and recommendations from the public on the issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the scope of work for the amended regional water plan during the third cycle of regional water planning at a public meeting of the planning group. Notice is also given that the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) will submit an application for financial assistance to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to carry out the scope of work. The application will be submitted on or before September 14, 2006. Jake Brisbin, Jr., RGCOG Executive Director, is the official representative of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group. Region E includes the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Jeff Davis, Hudspeth, Presidio and Terrell.

The public meeting will be held at the Texas A&M University, El Paso Research Center, at 1380 A&M Circle, El Paso, Texas, on Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. (MDT). Written and oral comments will be accepted at this meeting, and an agenda for the meeting is attached to this notice. Copies of the application may be obtained from the RGCOG when it is available at the RGCOG office. Comments on the application must be filed by September 14, 2006 with the applicant and with J. Kevin Ward, Executive Administrator, TWDB, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711-3231. For additional information, please contact: Barbara Kauffman, Rio Grande Council of Governments, 1100 N. Stanton Street, Ste. 610, El Paso, Texas 79902. Phone: (915) 533-0998, ext. 121; e-mail: barbarak@riocog.org.

AGENDA
FAR WEST TEXAS WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING

Thursday, July 27, 2006

1:00 P.M. (MDT)

at:

**Texas A&M University, El Paso Research Center
1380 A&M Circle, El Paso, Texas
915-859-9111**

- I. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- II. Recognition of Guests and Designated Alternates
- III. Election of Officers for 2006
 - Consent Agenda
- IV. Approval of the Minutes of the WPG Meeting of November 17, 2005
- V. Certification of Allowable Administrative Expenses
 - Regular Agenda
- VI. WPG Member Updates on Local Projects & Issues of Importance to the Planning Process
- VII. Discussion on Issues to be Addressed During the 2006 – 2011 Planning Cycle, Including:
 - A. Who and what are we as a planning group?
 - B. Do we want to be here?
 - C. Where do we want to go?
 - 1. Regional control?
 - 2. TWDB functionaries?
- VIII. Consideration & Possible Action on Amending the Planning Group's Bylaws Concerning Quorum Requirements, Member Term Limits and Procedures for Replacing Members
- IX. Discussion & Action on Authorizing the RGCOG to Post Public Notice Requesting Nominations for Vacancies on the Planning Group
- X. Discussion & Action on Determining the Terms of Participation in the Regional Water Planning Process for Water Suppliers in the Planning Region
- XI. Discussion & Action on Designating the RGCOG as the Political Subdivision Representing the Planning Group and Authorizing the RGCOG to Apply for Financial Assistance from the TWDB for Regional Water Planning Activities
- XII. Request for Public Comment on Issues to be Addressed During the 2006-2011 Planning Cycle
- XIII. Discussion & Action on Setting Regional Priorities to be Included in the Scope of Work for a Grant Application to the TWDB to Revise or Update the Far West Texas Water Plan

- XIV. Discussion & Action on Reaffirming LBG-Guyton Associates as the Group's Principal Consultant to Assist in Developing the Scope of Work
- XV. Administrative & Procedural Matters
- XVI. Adjourn

Notice to the Public: All matters listed under the Consent Agenda will be considered by the FWTWPG to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless any of the members of the FWTWPG request that specific items be removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Regular Agenda for discussion prior to the time the FWTWPG votes on the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda.

For additional information contact Barbara Kauffman, Rio Grande Council of Governments, 1100 N. Stanton Street, Ste. 610, El Paso, Texas 79902. Phone: (915) 533-0998, ext. 121, Fax: (915) 532-9385, e-mail: barbarak@riocog.org

classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES



the grandma's baby shower.

grandma's baby shower

Emma was the honoree of a "Grandma's Shower" at the Big Bend Radio. The hostesses were her co-workers at the office of Presidio, including Rosalinda Aranda and Alicia Jiménez.

They congratulated the excited and anxious grandmothers with prizes awarded to the winners. After the cake and cookies were served, Emma presented. Her grandson will look mighty handsome in blue and yellow outfits. Emma and her husband Benbolt will be with their son and daughter Rod Myers, for the much awaited birth.

The hostesses were: Rosie Garcia, Josie Aguilar, Lucy Aranda and her husband Johnny also have a son, and his home station is in San Antonio.

Emma in Sierra Blanca

Emma, a Marfa native and a former Presidio, was named the 2006 Woman of the Year by the chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS PECOS DIVISION CIVIL ACTION NO. P-06CV-28 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Petitioner, V.

VARIOUS LOTS AND TRACTS OF LAND LOCATED AND SITUATED IN PRESIDIO COUNTY, TEXAS, KNOWN AS "RIO GRANDE STOCKYARDS, INC.," WITH ALL BUILDINGS, APPURTENANCES AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, Respondent

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE OF REAL PROPERTY

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT:

1. A verified Complaint for Forfeiture was filed in this Court on April 30, 2006, by the United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas, against the Respondent Property more particularly described in Appendix A of the Verified Complaint for Forfeiture, to enforce the provisions of Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 881(a)(6), 881(a)(7) and/or Title 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A), for violations of Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 801 et seq. and/or Title 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) to violate §§ 1956(a)(1)(A)(i), 1956(a)(2)(A), 1956(a)(2)(B)(i).

2. A claim may be filed with the clerk of this Court not later than thirty (30) days after service of process or thirty (30) days after date of final publication, and an answer to the complaint shall be filed not later than twenty (20) days after the date of the filing of the claim, pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. Rule C(6) of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Maritime Claims, Fed. R. Civ. P. and Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 983(a)(4)(A) and (B).

usms 6-8/15/22/29 & 7-6/13-2006b

June 26, 2006

Rio Grande Council of Governments
Attn: Finance Department
1100 North Stanton Suite#610
El Paso, Texas 79902

Ad No: LN0625-11
Case:
RE: Public Notice
Size: 7.5 Inches
Cost:\$129.38

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group (Region E) will receive suggestions and recommendations from the public on the issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the scope of work for the amended regional water plan during the third cycle of regional water planning at a public meeting of the planning group. Notice is also given that the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) will submit an application for financial assistance to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to carry out the scope of work. The application will be submitted on or before September 14, 2006. Jake Brisbin, Jr., RGCOG Executive Director, is the official representative of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group. Region E includes the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Jeff Davis, Hudspeth, Presidio and Terrell.

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

State of Texas
County of El Paso

Before me, a Notary in and for El Paso County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared Isabel Uranga who states upon oath that she is the Legal Advertising Supervisor for El Paso Inc., a newspaper published in the city and county of El Paso, State of Texas, which is a newspaper of general circulation and which is continually and regularly published in the said county of El Paso, and she was such upon the dates herein mentioned.

That the Legal copy was published in El Paso Inc. for the dates of such publication being as follows:

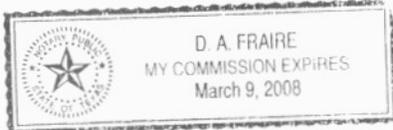
DAY (s) to wit: June 25, 2006

Signed

Isabel Uranga

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this the 26th day of June 2006

D. A. Fraire



The public meeting will be held at the Texas A&M University, El Paso Research Center, at 1380 A&M Circle, El Paso, Texas, on Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. (MDT). Written and oral comments will be accepted at this meeting, and an agenda for the meeting is posted at www.riocog.org/publichearing/publicnotice.htm. Copies of the application may be obtained from the RGCOG when it is available at the RGCOG office. Comments on the application must be filed by September 14, 2006 with the applicant and with J. Kevin Ward, Executive Administrator, TWDB, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711-3231. For additional information, please contact: Barbara Kauffman, Rio Grande Council of Governments, 1100 N. Stanton Street, Ste. 610, El Paso, Texas 79902. Phone: (915) 533-0998, ext. 121; e-mail: barbarak@riocog.org.

El Paso Gas Service Company, a division of ONEOK, Inc. ("Company"), hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for approximately 191,564 residential, 12,311 commercial, 67 industrial, 825 public authority, 26 municipal water pumping and 51 standard transportation customers within the incorporated areas of El Paso, Anthony, Clint, Horizon City, Socorro and Vinton, Texas, in accordance with the Company's Statement of Intent filed with the Cities of El Paso, Anthony, Clint, Horizon City, Socorro and Vinton, Texas, on June 9, 2006. The proposed effective date is for meters read on and after August 30, 2006.

It is anticipated that the effect of the change in rates will be to increase the revenues of the Company within the El Paso Service Area by approxi-

by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code.

The proposed tariffs include increases in gas sales and transportation rates for all residential, commercial, industrial, public authority, and municipal water pumping customers in the incorporated areas of the El Paso Service Area. The effect of the change in rates, when allowed, will be to increase the revenues of the Company by approximately 0.59 percent. Based on the proposed rate design, the average monthly residential bill of 45 Ccf will increase by approximately \$0.27, or 0.6 percent, the average monthly commercial bill of 279 Ccf will increase approximately \$0.96, or 0.4 percent, the average monthly public authority bill of 975 Ccf will increase approximately \$2.99 or 0.4 percent, the average

municipal water pumping bill of 11,698 Ccf will increase approximately \$16.11 or 0.2 percent, and the average standard transportation bill of 31,397 Ccf will increase approximately \$52.87 or 2.2 percent.

A complete copy of the Statement of Intent is available for inspection in the municipalities' offices and in the Company's business office located at 4600 Pollard St., El Paso, Texas 79930.

TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY

WTCC: 06/15, 06/22, 06/29, and 07/06/06

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group (Region E) will receive suggestions and recommendations from the public on the issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the

application for financial assistance to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to carry out the scope of work. The application will be submitted on or before September 14, 2006. Jake Brisbin, Jr., RGCOC Executive Director, is the official representative of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group. Region E includes the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Jeff Davis, Hudspeth, Presidio and Terrell.

The public meeting will be held at the Texas A&M University, El Paso Research Center, at 1380 A&M Circle, El Paso, Texas, on Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. (MDT). Written and oral comments will be accepted at this meeting, and an agenda for the meeting is posted at <http://www.riocog.org/publichearing/publicnotice.htm>. Copies of the application may be obtained from the RGCOC when it is available at the RGCOC office. Comments on the application must be filed by September

N. Stanton Street, Ste. 610, El Paso, Texas 79902. Phone: (915) 533-0998, ext. 121; e-mail: barbarak@riocog.org

WTCC: 06/22/06

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006

BAKERY PRODUCTS CSP NO. 199-0627-6112 ACCEPTED UNTIL 1 P.M.

MEXICAN FOOD PRODUCTS CSP NO. 199-0627-6114 ACCEPTED UNTIL 1:30 P.M.

BEVERAGES AND SNACKS PRODUCTS CSP NO. 199-0627-6111 ACCEPTED

Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and on the Socorro ISD website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-06/22/06

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE: Friday-Saturday, June 23-24, 19005 Bremerton Drive in Horizon City, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. Furniture and miscellaneous items. 6/22

LIVESTOCK

GOATS / CHEVITOS for milk or meat. \$25 and up. Anthony, N.M. 505-882-7256. 6/29

PERSONALS

EXPERIENCED TEACHER will take care of your children this summer. San Elizario area. Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Many summer activities, reading and much

LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family. Health insurance and fee scale accepted. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

REAL ESTATE



CLASSIFIEDS
15 words - \$5 per week

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Please print Send for





On The Edge of Common Sense

by Baxter Black, DVM
WHY THE HORSE?

Why the horse? It's like asking why the sun? Why the horse? Why the color purple? If there were a monarchy, the horse would be king. Equines hold an exalted position in the society of mankind. On their backs humans became a better species. No matter how you stack up other domesticated animals, none has quite the stature of the horse.

Perhaps it is because of the inherent wildness that is always lurking behind their eyes.

It is a quality that is shared with cats. Regardless of how tame or trustworthy, the potential for a feral reaction that can maim or destroy lies within their pores.

Horses have always possessed the potential for heroism. Thunderous poetry like The Man From Snowy River to East is East and West is West elevates the horse to mythical proportions.

I grant there are many examples of dogs saving the day, but dogs have become too domesticated, too subservient.

Indians had dogs for millennia and never invented the wheel. Coronado gave them the horse and they became warriors. Ask any handicapped kid what it feels like to be a horseback.

Until the catapult, it was as close as man could come to flying. Mueen combat and explode beneath you rearing up forward like an eagle over the surface of the earth.

Without the horse the cowboy becomes a herder, Napoleon is infantry, and taxation without representation becomes the sport of kings. The horse is both masculine and feminine.

What other animal can be said to prance? Strength and beauty, beauty and the beast, hard as horses hooves - soft as a filly's nose! "That mare can buck", "That stud's a beauty." Like women wearing chaps.

Artists strive to portray their power, grace and dexterity. They try to capture their spirit.

Dead raptor action photo: 1300 pounds balanced on one toe, fetlock extended, nostrils flaring, neck reaching, ears back, mane flying, tail fanning, eyes locked on target and a human attached to the withers like a space shuttle on a rocket! It's no wonder they take our breath away.

The horse, more than all other domesticated beasts demands respect. They possess an intelligence that derives from being both predator and prey, hard and soft, brave and skittish, loyal and wary.

They may deign to show some affection, but they don't pant and lick. Horses are, after all, royalty.

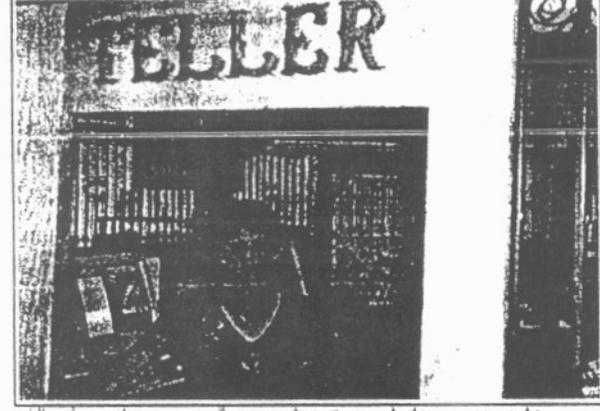
For that reason I would propose that we eliminate the term "Giddy up". Can you imagine walking up behind Queen Elizabeth or Ghenghis Khan and saying, "Giddy up."

SANDY FLIPPEN
REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPIST
432-249-0708 432-729-4778

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE AND SPA SERVICES

FORT DAVIS, TEXAS

Meet the friendly folks at Fort Davis State Bank . . .



Toller Tommy Hicks came to Fort Davis State Bank early this year. Married to Gaydon Hicks III, she and Gaydon live in Fort Davis and are the parents of William II, and Robert, three, both of whom consume many of Mom and Dad's waking hours.

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Conservancy report indicates drop in park visits, hike in TV

SAN ANTONIO -- A Nature Conservancy-funded study to be published next month found that per capita visits to U.S. national parks have been declining since 1987, after having risen for the previous 50 years.

The more than 20 percent drop occurs as the use of electronic media is on the rise - something that researchers call "evidence of a fundamental shift away from people's appreciation of nature."

"When children choose television over being outdoors, they lose touch with the natural world and the fundamental importance of land and water to our daily lives," said Carter Smith, Texas state director for The Nature Conservancy. "An electronic simulation of a desert cannot compare with standing in Far West Texas, seeing the vast grasslands and watching pronghorn antelope graze under an enormous blue sky."

"Reproduced sights and sounds of the ocean will never replace the rich sensory experience of wading in the waves of the Gulf of Mexico along Padre Island National Seashore.

"These places aren't just part of the Texas experience, they're part of the human experience - something no one should miss."

The data was analyzed by University of Illinois ecologist Oliver Pergams and Stroud Water Research Center ecologist Patricia Zaradic with contributions from Conservancy Lead Scientist Peter Kareiva. The project was funded through a National Science Foundation grant.

More donations needed for the 4th

FORT DAVIS - The Fourth of July celebration in Fort Davis is just around the corner and the Friends of the Jeff Davis County Library are making plans for the silent auction and raffle.

Anyone with donations is asked to contact Nancy Robinson at 426-9018 or Jan Koch at 426-3322. Subjects of books donated in previous years are art, the southwest, photography and classic fiction.

The Nature Conservancy. While more than two dozen variables were tested, Pergams said that video games, home movie rental, going out to movies, Internet use, and rising fuel prices explained almost 98 percent of the decline in people visiting national parks.

"It's fairly stunning," Pergams said, but he cautioned that correlation is not the same as causation. "We've shown statistically that the rise in use of these various types of media, as well as oil prices, is so highly correlated with the decline in national park visits that there is likely to be some association."

Pergams and Zaradic ruled out variables such as family income, age of the population, a recent rise in foreign travel or park capacity as major factors.

These variables were tested, but the correlations were not nearly as strong as home entertainment and fuel prices, Pergams said. He added that further research is needed to explain the relationships found in this study.

The researchers noted that the results of the study point to a need to find ways to connect children to the special places and natural systems that sustain us all. "We demonstrate our values in the way we allocate our time," suggested Zaradic. "Research indicates that children who experience nature with a mentor develop an appreciation of nature as adults."

"As pressures to develop natural areas to meet human needs intensify, conservation is becoming increasingly challenging," added Smith.

"Successful, long-term conservation of our natural resources will call for creative, collaborative solutions. We depend upon future generations to recognize the value conservation adds to our quality of life, human health and economic vitality."

Peter Kareiva, lead scientist for The Nature Conservancy, said, "Nature cannot just be found in exotic, far-away continents."

From each city to every subdivision, there must be access to lands and waters that inspire and teach. This study reminds us that we need to do conservation to connect with children."

In Texas, The Nature Conservancy helped create Big Bend National Park, a number of national wildlife refuges - including Matagorda Island, Lower Rio Grande Valley and Balcones Canyonlands national wildlife refuges - and state parklands including Enchanted Rock, San Jacinto, Boca Chica and Caddo Lake.

Tumbleweed Smith

THE MONEY FACTORY IS A FUN PLACE TO VISIT



The Western Currency Center in Fort Worth produces more than half of the nation's paper money. It can take out about six billion bills a year in several denominations.

"We make ones, twos, fives, tens, twenties and fifties," says I. Harris Williams, manager of the Texas branch of the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing (website: moneyfactory.gov). More than 500 people work there.

"When someone comes to work here, it becomes a big part of his or her life. Some jobs stay in the same family for generations. "Some positions at the plant require years of training."

"We have picture engravers and portrait engravers who go through an apprentice program for seven or ten years depending on what type of engraver they are."

Only two cities in the US have plants that print our currency. The other one is Washington D.C. The facility has been in Fort Worth for fifteen years. A plane crash in the nation's capital made some people at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing a little nervous.

"In 1982 there was an Air Florida flight that crashed into the 14th street bridge. Had that plane been only inches closer to the bureau, that would have caused a major economic devastation. There had already been talks about building another plant outside of the Washington area."

That plane crash speeded up efforts to get one built. "When word got out that the bureau was looking for a place to build a new facility, 80 cities indicated they were interested in getting it. The list was narrowed down to eleven cities, then three: Las Vegas, Denver and Fort Worth."

"It's the civic pride that got this plant to Fort Worth. The people here were very committed to getting it here. It's a brand new multi-million dollar facility that sits on a hundred acres of land. People of Fort Worth wanted this place here. They donated a hundred acres of property and a 240,000 square foot shell building. In return, we would bring jobs to the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The first 100 jobs that were offered here brought in 14,000 applicants."

The facility offers free 45 minute guided tours. Sometimes the guides are people who actually work with producing the money.

"It's a great way to see how our money is made. We have two floor-level educational interactive exhibits and displays. There's a fifteen minute film that talks about the overall production of the bills. And there's a gift shop for people to buy souvenirs. We consider our output here a product. We want it to be the best. If an employee starts thinking of it as money, then it might be time for that person to find another job."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group (Region E) will receive suggestions and recommendations from the public on the issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the scope of work for the amended regional water plan during the third cycle of regional water planning at a public meeting of the planning group. Notice is also given that the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOC) will submit an application for financial assistance to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to carry out the scope of work. The application will be submitted on or before September 14, 2006. Jake Brisbin, Jr., RGCOC Executive Director, is the official representative of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group. Region E includes the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Jeff Davis, Hudspeth, Presidio and Terrell.

The public meeting will be held at the Texas A&M University, El Paso Research Center, at 1380 A&M Circle, El Paso, Texas, on Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. (MDT). Written and oral comments will be accepted at this meeting, and an agenda for the meeting is posted at www.twater.org/publichearing/publicnotice.htm. Copies of the application may be obtained from the RGCOC when it is available at the RGCOC office. Comments on the application must be filed by September 14, 2006 with the applicant and with J. Kevin Ward, Executive Administrator, TWDB, P.O. Box 15221, Austin, TX 78711-3231. For additional information, please contact: Barbara Kaufman, Rio Grande Council of Governments, 1100 N. Stanton Street, Ste. 610, El Paso, Texas 79902. Phone: (915) 832-0998, ext. 121; e-mail: barbara@rwater.org.

Rio Grande 6154

www.alpineavalanche.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE
BREWSTER COUN-
TY
TEXAS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT-
BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM**

Brewster County will hold a public hearing at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, June 26, 2006, at the J.W. Red Patillo Community Center located behind the U.S. Post Office fronting State Highway 118 in Study Butte. The public hearing is in regards to the submission of future applications to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grants. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen's participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds. The County encourages citizens to participate in the development of TxCDBG applications and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and comments to Val Beard, Brewster County Judge, by mailing them to P.O. Drawer 1630, Alpine, Texas, 79831. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the County Judge's Office at (432) 837-2412 at least two days prior to the hearing so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Val Beard, Brewster County Judge

San Vicente ISD is soliciting bids on the following items:

- 15 Laptop computers
 - 20 Workstation computers
 - 5 digital cameras
 - 5 PDAs
 - 5 Printers
 - 5 Wireless Access Point deployment units
- Specifications for each item may be obtained from Kathy Muntean, Superintendent's Secretary, San Vicente ISD, Box 195 Big Bend National Park, TX 79834; k m u n t e a n @ e s c 1 8 . n e t ; 432-477-2220, Monday through Thursday between 8 and 5. Bids should be mailed to the address above and clearly marked Technology Bids. Sealed bids will be accepted until July 14th. Bids will be opened on July 19th at 10 AM and voted on during the regular Board meeting beginning at 6:00 PM. San Vicente reserves the rights to reject any and all bids submitted.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given by the City of Alpine that a public hearing will be held on changing the name of 11th street (from West Murphy to West Avenue I) to Fierro Street. The Planning and Zoning Public hearing will be held on July 11, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers, at 803 W. Holland, Alpine, Texas, to hear citizens views and comments to recommend to the city council. The city council public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at 6:00p.m. in the council chambers, at 803 W. Holland, Alpine, Texas, to

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- op Road, Alpine, Texas (432) 837-3343. F
- (432) 837-7076. EOE.

TO: Independent Businessmen in West Texas

FROM: Nelson Harwood Puett

We have been ranch owners in the Trans Pecos area of Texas since 1967. Many of our fondest family memories have occurred in the big country of West Texas and during this time, we have supported the local communities with college scholarships for 62 young men of the area.

Although we raised a few cattle, we primarily have leased our land to cattlemen who are professionals in the business. We have always felt an abiding respect for the land and its inhabitants and we have strived to be good stewards of the land and its wildlife. My father has developed a particular affinity for the Texas mule deer during his many years of ranch ownership in the Sierra Diablo Mountains and I also share his enthusiasm for these distinctive and magnificent animals. Our concern for their well-being coexists with our concern for the welfare and success of this entire community.

As an independent business man, ranch owner, and wildlife enthusiast, I am a strong supporter of the managed land permit for mule deer. I have been to several public hearings and spoken in favor of this program. I believe it is best for the wildlife and mule deer population and this attitude is shared by most of the professional biologists (Texas Parks & Wildlife personnel) in this field.

I understand that there are opponents to this program who worry that it would in some way harm the mule deer population. Some of these same people also opposed the mule deer season being changed from 9 days to the current 16 days. I will side with the professionals concerning what is best for the West Texas Mule Deer.

I also believe that we should view and consider the economic impact that this program would have on local businesses. With an extended season, virtually all local entities would see an increase in revenue. An extended season translates to more hotel business, more food business, more fuel sales and vehicle repairs, etc. The large ranches have seen their hunting revenue rise dramatically in the last 10 years, but the local economy and citizens have not had the opportunity to share in this additional money.

We all have a vested interest in and concern for the continued health of the mule deer population. This program will not endanger the deer, but rather will encourage the prudent maintenance and harvesting of the Texas mule deer. This program is voluntary, so no one is being forced to do anything. Some of the opponents say that they would be "forced" to provide supplemental feed for the mule deer. Supplemental feeding is an individual decision to be made, but I am sure that the local merchants and farmers who supply the feed would appreciate the revenue and opportunity to sell their products. The increased sale from lodging, food and deer feed are the only mechanism some local businesses have to benefit from the windfall of the popularity of mule deer hunting.

As an independent businessman, I believe that this program deserves your thoughtful consideration.

Nelson H. Puett

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
REGIONAL WATER PLANNING**

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The public meeting will be held at the Texas A&M University, El Paso Research Center, at 1380 A&M Circle, El Paso, Texas, on Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. (MDT). Written and oral comments will be accepted at this meeting, and an agenda for the meeting is attached to this notice. Copies of the application may be obtained from the RGCOG when it is available at the RGCOG office. Comments on the application must be filed by September 14, 2006 with the applicant and with J. Kevin Ward, Executive Administrator, TWDB, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711-3231. For additional information, please contact: Barbara Kauffman, Rio Grande Council of Governments, 1100 N. Stanton Street, Ste. 610, El Paso, Texas 79902. Phone: (915) 533-0998, ext. 121; e-mail: barbarak@riocog.org.

Individuals with special needs may contact our office five (5) working days before our meeting to request special accommodations.

AGENDA

FAR WEST TEXAS WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING

Thursday, July 27, 2006

1:00 P.M. (MDT)

at:

**Texas A&M University, El Paso Research Center
1380 A&M Circle, El Paso, Texas
915-859-9111**

- I. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- II. Recognition of Guests and Designated Alternates
- III. Election of Officers for 2006
Consent Agenda
- IV. Approval of the Minutes of the WPG Meeting of November 17, 2005
- V. Certification of Allowable Administrative Expenses
Regular Agenda
- VI. WPG Member Updates on Local Projects & Issues of Importance to the Planning Process
- VII. Discussion on Issues to be Addressed During the 2006 - 2011 Planning Cycle, Including:
 - A. Who and what are we as a planning group?
 - B. Do we want to be here?
 - C. Where do we want to go?
 1. Regional control?
 2. TWDB functionaries?

CLASSIFIEDS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

BIDS WANTED

TERRELL COUNTY NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the County Judge and Commissioners of the County of Terrell, Texas will be received at the office of the County Judge until **Monday July 10, 2006 9:30 A.M.** for furnishing all necessary materials, machinery, equipment, superintendence, and labor for Bicentennial Park II Hiking Trail for Terrell County, Texas.

State funds from the Texas Recreation and Parks Account administered by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are being used on this project. The contractor is required to comply with regulations issued pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with respect to non-discrimination in assisted programs of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Bidders without exception must submit Cashier's or Certified Check, issued by a bank satisfactory to the County of Terrell, or Bid Bond issued by a bonding company satisfactory to the County of Terrell, payable without recourse to the order of Terrell County in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible bid submitted as a guaranty that Bidder will enter into contract and execute Bond and Guaranty in the forms provided within ten (10) days after Notice of Award of Contract to him. Bids without required check or bid bond will not be considered.

The successful bidders must furnish performance and payment bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total contract price from a Surety Company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as Surety, or other Surety or Sureties acceptable to the County of Terrell. Should the total contract price be less than \$25,000.00, no performance bond or payment bond will be required.

MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

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INDIVIDUAL LOOKING for active existing or former ranching operation. Interested in keeping large properties intact. No "recreational" properties. Please contact 800/340-1425 Monday through Friday 8 - 5 or ranchingproperties@hotmail.com.

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House For Sale. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home located at 908 Houston Street. Living room, kitchen, laundry room. Sheds in back. Big yard. Call 915-539-1918.
 6-15-4tp

10 Acre Parcel For Sale. 2 miles south on U.S. Highway 90. Call Phil Hardy, 505-824-0799. 4-20-tfc

Lots For Sale - 5 residential lots and commercial lots (by Border Patrol office). Call Moises at 283-1246, or 284-0654. 4-20-tfc

Commercial Building For Sale. Ideal for retail or office space. Excellent rental income potential. 2,500 square feet. Central heat and air. Central location on Broadway. Call (432) 283-2003 (days) or (432) 283-2664 (evenings). 4-20-tfc

40 Acres and House For Sale. \$10,000 in full. Near Sierra Blanca (1 mile out of town). Terry Leftely. Home (281) 331-3074 or cell: Theresa, (713) 291-2077. 6-8-2tp

Commercial Property For Sale - 300 West Broadway, AKA Ramirez Wrecking. Appraised by taxing agency for \$36,630. Phone 283-2340 or write P.O. Box 383, Van Horn, Texas 79855. 2-23-tfc

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Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

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Hard heads still need helmets when it comes to motorcycles

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

I've got to admit that when I was younger, and fearless, and invincible, I rode a motorcycle.

For many years that's all I had. I rode up and down the freeways of Los Angeles for about three years.

And yes, I bought my motorcycle without knowing how to drive it.

My cousin taught me how to drive it and off I went. But in the beginning when I was learning, I took a spill or two. I was in my early twenties so after I fell down, I simply got up and started again until I quit falling down.

But now that I have a teenage son who inquires about motorcycles, my gut reaction is to change the subject because I can't stand the thought of anything bad happening to him on

a motorcycle.

In a split second a person can be enjoying the wind in his face, and the next he's scraping the pavement with his face, especially if he's riding without a helmet.

Last week Ben Roethlisberger, the quarterback for the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers, reminded us how dangerous riding a motorcycle is, and how stupid it is to drive one without a helmet.

Roethlisberger received a lot of criticism after colliding with a vehicle. The quarterback was not wearing a helmet and received facial lacerations, a busted nose, a broken jaw, and lost two teeth. He also cracked his head on the vehicle's windshield.

Ouch, talk about your quarterback sneak.

After the accident, Big Ben said if he ever rode a motorcycle again, he'd certainly wear a helmet. Good for him. A little too late — but good for him.

score of 42 or higher are awarded this honor. Only 25 schools nationwide have received the RAMP status since the program's inception in 2004."

No one could be more proud of the counselors than El Dorado principal Nora Paugh and Bill Sybert School principal Carole Bauer.

"It is a very high honor," Paugh says. "We are one of the few schools in the country that implements a truly comprehensive guidance program."

Counselors

From Page 4

Guidance and Counseling, says the fact that Bill Sybert School and El Dorado High are the first and only schools in Texas to receive this prestigious honor is an amazing accomplishment.

"This is a reflection of their counseling programs," she says. "Programs that have a

mately \$ 825,952 or 0.59 percent. The proposed change does not constitute a "major" change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code.

The proposed tariffs include increases in gas sales and transportation rates for all residential, commercial, industrial, public authority, and municipal water pumping customers in the incorporated areas of the El Paso Service Area. The effect of the change in rates, when allowed, will be to increase the revenues of the Company by approximately 0.59 percent. Based on the proposed rate design, the average monthly residential bill of 45 Ccf will increase by approximately \$0.27, or 0.6 percent, the average monthly commercial bill of 279 Ccf will increase approximately \$0.96, or 0.4 percent, the average monthly public authority bill of 975 Ccf will increase approximately \$2.99 or 0.4 percent, the average

monthly industrial bill of 2,926 Ccf will increase approximately \$8.87, or 0.4 percent, the average monthly municipal water pumping bill of 11,698 Ccf will increase approximately \$16.11 or 0.2 percent, and the average standard transportation bill of 31,397 Ccf will increase approximately \$52.87 or 2.2 percent.

A complete copy of the Statement of Intent is available for inspection in the municipalities' offices and in the Company's business office located at 4600 Pollard St., El Paso, Texas 79930.

TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY

WTCC: 06/15, 06/22, 06/29, and 07/06/06

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group (Region E) will receive suggestions and recommendations from the public on the issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the scope of work for the amended regional water plan during the third cycle of regional water planning at a public meeting of

the planning group. Notice is also given that the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) will submit an application for financial assistance to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to carry out the scope of work. The application will be submitted on or before September 14, 2006. Jake Brisbin, Jr., RGCOG Executive Director, is the official representative of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group. Region E includes the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Jeff Davis, Hudspeth, Presidio and Terrell.

The public meeting will be held at the Texas A&M University, El Paso Research Center, at 1380 A&M Circle, El Paso, Texas, on Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. (MDT). Written and oral comments will be accepted at this meeting, and an agenda for the meeting is posted at <http://www.riocog.org/publichearing/publicnotice.htm>. Copies of the application may be obtained from the RGCOG when it is available at the RGCOG office. Comments on the application must be filed by September 14, 2006 with the applicant and with J. Kevin Ward, Executive Administrator, TWDB, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711-3231.

For additional information, please contact: Barbara Kauffman, Rio Grande Council of Governments, 1100 N. Stanton Street, Ste. 610, El Paso, Texas 79902. Phone: (915) 533-0998, ext. 121; e-mail: barbarak@riocog.org

WTCC: 06/22/06

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Bid/Respond:

Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006

BAKERY PRODUCTS CSP NO. 199-0627-6112 ACCEPTED UNTIL 1 P.M.

MEXICAN FOOD PRODUCTS CSP NO. 199-0627-6114 ACCEPTED UNTIL 1:30 P.M.

BEVERAGES AND SNACKS PRODUCTS CSP NO. 199-0627-6111 ACCEPTED UNTIL 2 P.M.

METAL SHADE STRUCTURE CSP NO. 199-0627-6105 ACCEPTED

Another football player who knows exactly what Roethlisberger is going through is Kellen Winslow Jr.

The brash, young, Cleveland Browns draft pick declared that he was about the best thing since sliced raisin bread when he arrived on the scene.

The tight end came into the league with great hands but it was obvious that the most powerful part of his body was his unrelenting mouth.

Then the arrogantly-blessed athlete decided to buy a motorcycle. On a day when he was performing tricks on it in a parking lot, he hit the curb, did a 360 over the handlebars and busted his knees so bad he missed all of last season.

Winslow, who appears to have toned down his "hey, everybody look at me" attitude since the accident, has vowed never to ride a motorcycle again.

Roethlisberger and Winslow Jr. are just two examples of how to lose an argument with a motorcycle. Another is an NBA player who may never get his chance.

In 2003, Chicago Bulls guard Jay Williams was seriously injured when he ran his motorcycle into a light pole. He fractured his pelvis, he tore knee ligaments and damaged nerves in his left leg.

Williams, out of Duke, was the second overall player selected in the draft. He came in with all the promise in the world but he hasn't played a single second since the accident. He is still planning to attempt a comeback next season.

These sports are tough enough on the body without going out and risking it on the streets.

Besides, why do you think video games were invented?

I love this gaaaame

Don't get me wrong, I've enjoyed this year's version of the NBA playoffs as much as anyone. But please answer a question for me. What is it with every single public address announcer and the drawn-out pre-game festivities?

They last half-an-hour.

I never got the memo. When was it established that every announcer had to pronounce every player and team name like they were shouting goooooaaaal at a foreign soccer match.

It's like every announcer has got to say Shaquilllllllllll O'Neeeeeeaaaal longer and louder than that other guy can say Diiirk Nowotzkiiiiiiiiiiiiii.

What is going onnnnnnnnn?

I like a little excitement too, but this is embarrassing. Every P.A. guy shouts until he turns an unnatural shade of purple and then needs an IV solution to finish the game.

Please, guys — I'm begging you — show a little class. Announce the names like a professional, not like you're auditioning for the Jerry Springer show.

Someone long ago once said, "Act like you've been there before." Oh, and one more thing for you aspiring public address announcers — be original.

Classified Ads

LEGAL

NOTICE TO CUSTOMER

Texas Gas Service Company, a division of ONEOK, Inc. ("Company"), hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for approximately 191,564 residential, 12,311 commercial, 67 industrial, 825 public authority, 26 municipal water pumping and 51 standard transportation customers within the incorporated areas of El Paso, Anthony, Clint, Horizon City, Socorro and Vinton, Texas, in accordance with the Company's Statement of Intent filed with the Cities of El Paso, Anthony, Clint, Horizon City, Socorro and Vinton, Texas, on June 9, 2006. The proposed effective date is for meters read on and after August 30, 2006.

It is anticipated that the effect of the change in rates will be to increase the revenues of the Company within the El Paso Service Area by approxi-

UNTIL 2:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and on the Socorro ISD website: www.sisd.net. WTCC-06/22/06

COUNSELING SERVICES

D A M I A N MAUREIRA, LCSW - Professional Counseling/Therapy: Youth, Adults, Marital, Family. Health insurance and fee scale accepted. 657 Winn Rd. in Socorro, Texas. Call 858-3857 for appointment.

Two-story house on historic Mission Trail. Two acres, corner location. Commercial or residential. 851-9008. 7/6

SELF-HELP

Persons who have a problem with alcohol are offered a free source of help locally. Alcoholics Anonymous - call 562-4081 for information.

REAL ESTATE

SERVICES

"Windshield Ding — Gimme a Ring" JIFFY GLASS REPAIR
Windshield Repair Specialists
By appt. at your home or office:
R.V. Dick Harshberger
915-852-9082

BERT'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
Domestic and

Foreign
852-3523
1558 Oxbow, Horizon City

HORIZON CITY PLUMBING 852-1079

•Electric roofer service for sewers and drains
•Appliance installation
•Many other plumbing services
Licensed, bonded and insured for your protection.



CLASSIFIED AD FORM

15 words - \$5 per week; 35 words - \$10 per week

| | | | |
|----|----|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | (STOP HERE FOR \$5 AD.) |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 |

Please print. Send form and payment (no cash) to:

West Texas County Courier
14200 Ashford, Ste. C
Horizon City, TX 79928

Deadline: Mondays

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____



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