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August 22, 2006

COUNTY JUDGES, MAYORS, CITY MANAGERS, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS, FIRE CHIEFS, and FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATORS in Brooks, Jim Hogg, Kenedy and Starr Counties

SUBJECT: September 12, 2006 Mitigation Workshop and Public Meeting, *Cover the Border* Hazard Mitigation Planning Project

Thank you to all of you we worked with this summer to kick off the *Cover the Border* Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for the Texas-Mexico Border Region. As we discussed, the Plan will help to reduce future damage from natural and human-caused disasters, streamline the disaster recovery process, and ensure that participating cities and counties are eligible for certain Federal grants.

Our next meeting for this project will be a Mitigation Workshop and Public Meeting (see attached agenda) scheduled for the following time and location:

September 12, 2006 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Rio Grande City, City Council Chamber Room, 101 South Washington Street

From 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., we will conduct the Mitigation Workshop. During this working session, we will review the results of our consultant's assessment of natural and human-caused hazards that might affect residents of the border region, and develop recommendations for steps that participating jurisdictions can take to reduce risks from those hazards. **At 11:45 a.m., we will serve a light lunch.**

From 12:30 to 1:00 p.m., we will provide an opportunity for the public to present recommendations on the hazards of concern and ways to reduce risks. In addition, a hazard survey has been posted on the project website at www.CoverTheBorder.net to gather additional information from the public about these hazards.

In preparation for the Workshop, please make the attached Public Notice widely available by posting it at City Hall or County Courthouse, making an announcement at the next City Council or Commissioners' Court meeting, and advising the local media. We also suggest that you become generally familiar with the documents on our project website at www.CoverTheBorder.net. During the meeting, we will prioritize the mitigation actions that your city or county can take to reduce the risks you face.

We look forward to working with you at the Mitigation Workshop and Public Meeting to develop an action plan to make the border region more disaster resistant. Your participation in this effort is very important. For parking and other information, please call Leti Martinez at 956-744-1139 or Len Materman at 650-867-7768.

Sincerely,

Tyrus G. Fain
President, Rio Grande Institute

Attachments: Agenda and Public Meeting Notice

Mitigation Workshop and Public Meeting

September 12, 2006 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Rio Grande City, City Council Chamber Room, 101 South Washington Street

Draft Agenda

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| 10:00 a.m. | Welcome and Introductions
Tyrus Fain and Len Materman, Rio Grande Institute
Dr. Ken Tobin, Texas A&M International University |
| 10:15 a.m. | Briefing on results of the hazard identification and risk assessment
Laurel Lacy, H2O Partners |
| 10:45 a.m. | Review of draft Plan's vision, goals and objectives. |
| 11:00 a.m. | Discussion of possible regional mitigation actions |
| 11:15 a.m. | Development of mitigation action plans by individual jurisdictions. |
| 11:45 a.m. | Light lunch served |
| 12:30 p.m. | PUBLIC MEETING for 30 minutes if public present |
| 1:00 p.m. | Continued development of mitigation action plans by individual jurisdictions |
| 1:45 p.m. | Closing Remarks and discussion of next steps. |



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PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Brooks, Jim Hogg, Kenedy and Starr Counties

“Cover the Border” Hazard Mitigation Action Plan

Texas A&M International University, the Rio Grande Institute, and local governments in thirteen border counties are holding a series of meetings to secure public input for the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan. The goals of this plan are to reduce future damage from natural and human-caused disasters, streamline the disaster recovery process, and ensure that participating cities and counties are eligible for certain Federal grants. Local residents are encouraged to attend one of these public meetings to help identify natural and man-made hazards that affect or could affect their communities and suggest actions that can be taken to reduce those hazards.

Funded by the State of Texas Division of Emergency Management, the “Cover the Border” Hazard Mitigation Action Plan extends from West Texas to the Gulf of Mexico. Local officials are working with the project’s pre-disaster planning experts to assess risks and recommend actions to reduce the loss of life and property from disasters. The range of hazards on which the project team is seeking input includes flooding, hurricane, fire, heat, drought, dam/levee failure, terrorism, hazardous materials, fuel pipeline accidents, and any other hazards of concern to border residents. **The public meeting for the four counties listed above is scheduled for:**

September 12, 2006 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Rio Grande City, City Council Chamber Room

101 South Washington Street

At these public meetings, the project partners will brief participants on the planning process and hazards identified to date and will seek their recommendations on hazards and ways to reduce risks. If you cannot attend the public meeting, information about the plan and a hazard survey can be found at www.CoverTheBorder.net.

Questions about the plan should be sent to the Rio Grande Institute at: PO Box 183, Marathon, Texas 79842, by email at: info@riogrande.org or by calling Leti Martinez at 956-744-1139.