



# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

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 Kenneth N. Jones, Jr.

July 6, 2012

Honorable Ramon Garcia  
 Hidalgo County  
 1615 S. Closner, Suite J  
 Edinburg, Texas 78539

Dear Judge Garcia,

Recently, we were contacted by the office of Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. requesting the LRGVDC's assistance to coordinate the implementation of a Spanish Language Public Safety Early Weather Warning System for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. This effort would expand the current English only early warning messages activated through the National Weather Service regarding impending severe weather and other applicable weather and emergency information. The Spanish All-Hazards radio transmitter(s) project in this Region would be only the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) site in the nation providing this service. Existing site locations include El Paso, TX, San Diego, CA, and Miami Dade, FL.

The LRGVDC Board of Directors considered this item, presented by Senator Lucio, on May 24, 2012 and unanimously supported the concept and authorized staff to move forward to implement this important and much needed project. Through the efforts of Senator Lucio and the support of Chief Nim Kidd of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) funding for this regional system is available. The LRGVDC is also coordinating efforts with all 46 cities to include the three counties, Rio Grande Valley Partnership and the National Weather Service Brownsville.

Although funding is available, the LRGVDC is not identified as an eligible applicant. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) parameters only allow local city and county governments to directly apply. However, those entities as the LRGVDC that are not specifically identified in a Hazard Mitigation Plan may identify a "pass-through" eligible applicant and request that an application be submitted on our behalf. With the City of Weslaco being an eligible applicant, our agency was on the City Commission agenda (June 19<sup>th</sup>) for the Commission to consider action as the "pass-through" applicant for this regional project, approval was unanimous.

The HMGP application was submitted to the TDEM, the State Agency in charge of this funding. The source of these funds is federal which require a 25% local cash match. The LRGVDC would be considered the sub-grantee and, with City Commission approval, would enter into the necessary Interlocal agreement outlining our responsibilities for implementation of the project. LRGVDC's responsibilities is to prepare the application, be responsible for meeting the match commitment with the cooperation and funding assistance by the 46 local jurisdictions and other private sector agencies, and fully implementing the project. I anticipate having additional information on all components of the project as we move further along the grant process and performance period.

Due to our vast coverage area, it has been determined that two (2) transmitters are required in order to provide adequate coverage for the LRGVDC Region. Recurring costs involved will be dependent on tower location(s). If possible, we are seeking to minimize cost by securing public tower sites, however, due to the height requirements needed for these transmitters, our choices will be limited.

Since the announcement of this project we have been actively collaborating with our local members of the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) and Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) in an effort to secure the two sites required. One of the two sites has tentatively been identified and will be located in the City of Pharr and the second site which will be in the Cameron County area is currently being reviewed.

At our regularly scheduled HSAC meetings, (June 07, 2012), our members reviewed and recommended that the LRGVDC seek local match support from our local governments. This recommendation was subsequently approved by the LRGVDC Board of Directors at the June 27, 2012 regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

July 06, 2012

For your convenience, I have attached a list of each jurisdictions requested contribution amount and an invoice noting your jurisdictions contribution towards the 25% match.

In advance, I want to thank you for your consideration and attention to this most important request and for being a part of this collaborative regional effort in saving lives and property. In order to be successful in the implementation of this extremely important project we need your participation, therefore, should you have any questions or if additional information is needed for processing this request please feel free to contact me or Manuel Cruz, Director of Homeland Security at (956) 682-3481.

Sincerely,



Kenneth N. Jones  
Executive Director

cc: Oscar Montoya, EMC

**Attachment A - LRGVDC NSAC Recommendation for the 25% Match**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Match Requirement</b>
City of Brownsville	175,023	Large	\$2,000.00
City of Harlingen	64,849	Large	\$2,000.00
City of Edinburg	77,100	Large	\$2,000.00
City of McAllen	129,877	Large	\$2,000.00
City of Mission	77,058	Large	\$2,000.00
City of Pharr	70,400	Large	\$2,000.00
City of San Juan	33,856	Large	\$2,000.00
City of Weslaco	35,670	Large	\$2,000.00
City of San Benito	24,250	Medium	\$1,000.00
City of Alamo	19,102	Medium	\$1,000.00
City of Alton	10,934	Medium	\$1,000.00
City of Donna	18,299	Medium	\$1,000.00
City of Hidalgo	11,866	Medium	\$1,000.00
City of Mercedes	16,472	Medium	\$1,000.00
City of La Feria	8,098	Small	\$500.00
City of Los Fresnos	5,804	Small	\$500.00
City of Port Isabel	5,311	Small	\$500.00
City of Rio Hondo	2,278	Small	\$500.00
City of South Padre Island	3,177	Small	\$500.00
Town of Bayview	434	Small	\$500.00
Town of Combes	2,875	Small	\$500.00
Town of Indian Lake	605	Small	\$500.00
Town of Laguna Vista	4,150	Small	\$500.00
Town of Los Indios	1,353	Small	\$500.00
Town of Palm Valley	1,336	Small	\$500.00
Town of Primera	4,228	Small	\$500.00
Town of Rancho Viejo	2,437	Small	\$500.00
Town of Santa Rosa	3,197	Small	\$500.00
City of Edcouch	4,390	Small	\$500.00
City of Elsa	6,885	Small	\$500.00
City of Granjeno	332	Small	\$500.00
City of La Joya	4,396	Small	\$500.00
City of La Villa	1,428	Small	\$500.00
City of Palmhurst	6,376	Small	\$500.00
City of Palmview	5,652	Small	\$500.00
City of Penitas	2,439	Small	\$500.00
City of Progreso	6,138	Small	\$500.00
City of Progreso Lakes	277	Small	\$500.00
City of Sullivan City	4,002	Small	\$500.00
City of Lyford	2,897	Small	\$500.00
City of Raymondville	9,772	Small	\$500.00
City of San Perlita	722	Small	\$500.00
Cameron County	406,220		\$2,000.00
Hidalgo County	774,769		\$2,000.00
Willacy County	22,134		\$1,000.00
<b>Total Funds:</b>			<b>\$41,000.00</b>