



Hidalgo County Purchasing Department

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION "Privatized Waste Collection in Hidalgo County"

RFI: 2013-287-10-17-MEG

Physical Address:

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Hidalgo Purchasing Department
Administration Business
2818 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas, 78539

Date of Release: September 30, 2013

**RESPONSES DUE DATE:
Thursday October 17, 2013 @10:00 A.M.**

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**Request for Information (RFI)
“Privatized Waste Collection in Hidalgo County”**

Section I

Purpose of the RFI

Hidalgo County is seeking information to assist us in the advancement of a strategy to develop a privatized waste collection program. The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to inform potential respondents of this opportunity and solicit private sector interest and innovation in the delivery of the proposed privatized waste collection program. The RFI seeks responses from individual sanitation service vendors with experience in waste collection that may be interested in operating a privatized waste collection program in Hidalgo County.

This request for information (RFI) is issued solely to obtain information to assist Hidalgo County on an administrative level.

Specifically, the RFI seeks to:

- Communicate to all interested parties, Hidalgo County’s interest in developing a privatized waste collection program.
- Provide general background information related to the project.
- Communicate to potential private sector partners the objectives for the development of a privatized waste collection program.
- Solicit input from industry service providers on a variety of issues, including project scope and the delivery method that would have the greatest potential to satisfy project objectives.

The information gathered from the RFI will be used to assist Hidalgo County, in cooperation with other stakeholders, with the preparation of any resulting Request for Proposal (RFP) amendments and agreement for the proposed project. **Please note that this RFI does not commit The County of Hidalgo in anyway and is strictly for informational purposes and will not result in any award of contract.**

Hidalgo County intends to hold one-on-one meetings with companies capable of meeting our privatized waste collection program objectives. Hidalgo County will notify interested vendors of the assigned timeslot for the one-on-one meeting in advance. The one-on-one meetings will be held at Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. Vendors interested in attending a one on one meeting regarding the proposed project must indicate their interest in their responses to the RFI.

Section II

Scope of Services

The Hidalgo County has assessed two alternatives for Privatized Waste Collection.

- 1) Per District: For this purpose, Hidalgo County has divided its territory into six zones:

DISTRICT	SCHOOL DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
A	Edinburg	13,902

B	La Joya	16,789
C	Mission, Sharyland, McAllen, Valley View and Hidalgo	3,298
D	PSJA	2,042
E	Donna	8,385
F	La Villa, Edcouch-Elsa, Lyford, Monte Alto, Progreso, Mercedes, Weslaco	12,383
TOTAL		56,799

- 2) Countywide: It implies just one company handling all solid waste management for residents of these six zones.

Section III

Tentative Calendar of Events (subject to change)

<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1. 1 st Advertisement	General Circulation	September 28, 2013
2. 2 nd Advertisement	General Circulation	October 05, 2013
3. Deadline for Questions	Potential Respondents	October 09, 2013
4. Response to Questions	Purchasing Department	October 11, 2013
5. Submission Deadline	Respondents	October 17, 2013
6. One-on –One Meetings	Respondents will be notified of interviews at a later date to be determined by either via-email and/or telephone.	

RFI Format

All proposals must contain the following sections:

1. **Cover Page** which must state the full name and contact information of vendor’s representative submitting the information.
2. **Table of contents** must outline the major areas of the proposal including attachments and any other information important to support the responses.
3. **Executive Summary** must contain a detail description of the services offered, experience and qualifications of the vendor and its key staff.
4. **Responses to Questions** requested in a section below in this document.

Section IV

RFI Submittals

RFI Submittals must be received by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department no later than **October 17, 2013 @ 10:00 A.M.**

One (1) original and two (2) copies of the RFI are required, with the bidders name and address clearly typed/printed on upper left hand corner and the proper notation clearly typed/printed on the lower left hand corner of the envelope and/or package, **“Privatized Waste Collection Program for Hidalgo County”** and delivered to:

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
 New Administrative Building
 2802 So. Business Hwy 281
 Edinburg, Tx. 78539

On or before 10:00 a.m. Thursday October 17, 2013. **No facsimiles or late arrivals will be accepted. Any RFI received after that time will not be opened and will be returned. Overnight mail must also be properly labeled on the outside of express envelope or package with reference to “Privatized Waste Collection for Hidalgo County”**

Hidalgo County reserves the right to change the dates in the schedules of events above upon notice to prospective respondents through an addendum. Upon issuance of this RFI, other employees and representatives of Hidalgo County will not answer questions or otherwise discuss the contents of the RFI with any potential Respondent or its representatives. Failure to observe this restriction may result in disqualification of any subsequent response. This restriction does not preclude discussions unrelated to this RFI.

Section V

General Questions Requested

Respondents must submit their responses to the following questions in narrative form and any additional supporting information related to them may be added as attachments. Additional information is welcome as respondents deem appropriate. We recognized that respondents may have different areas of expertise and interest; thus, it is not necessary to respond to each item. Please identify by number/letter, each requested response you are addressing.

- 1 What are the key components of a comprehensive Privatized Solid Waste Collection Program that Hidalgo County should be considering? And why is each part important?

- 2 How do you think that the solid waste collection industry will be moving forward in 10 years?

- 3 One possible approach to solid waste collection that Hidalgo County has assessed is to select a single company to serve countywide (all unincorporated areas). In each question, try to support your position by attaching hard data of your reference and financial benefits if possible. Responses based on hard data will be given much more consideration.

a. What do you see as the benefits to this approach? If you are in favor of this concept:

i. What would be the benefits to the citizens of Hidalgo County?

ii. How will this approach make the operation of county government more efficient?

b. To what extent, do you consider the county government must be involved in overall solid waste management?

c. What do you see as the drawbacks to this approach?

ii. How will this approach affect the citizens of Hidalgo County?

4 As second possible approach to solid waste collection in Hidalgo County would be to contract out multiple independent companies to service the six unincorporated areas.). In each question, try to support your position by attaching hard data of your reference and financial benefits if possible.

a What do you see as the benefits to this approach?

i. What would be the benefits to the citizens of Hidalgo County?

ii. How will this approach make the operation of county government more efficient?

b. To what extent, do you consider the county government must be involved in overall solid waste management?

c. What do you see as the drawbacks to this approach?

iii. How will this approach affect the citizens of Hidalgo County?

5 Is there an approach to solid waste collection that Hidalgo County must consider besides the two mentioned above? If yes, please describe

6 Are there any official, or unofficial, industry standards that we should be aware of that have a bearing on our solid waste management efforts? Are there any proposed standards we should be aware of?

7 Are you aware of any public/private waste management partnerships in the United States that have proven to be successful? Can you provide names, locations or contact information? Do you think this model would be a candidate for application in Hidalgo County? Why or why not?

8 What revenue generating models are available? (That will pay back to the County.)

9 What operational model would minimize County involvement and liability?

10 How can the quality of the services and products provided by existing vendors be fairly measured and compared?

11 What is your experience with waste transfer stations? In your experience, how far are users willing to drive to a waste transfer station before the drive becomes unduly burdensome and they seek alternative disposal methods (legal or otherwise)?

12 Hidalgo County presently has 11 waste collection transfer stations that presently provide free disposal services to its rural residents. How can these transfer stations be best utilized after the implementation of the rural waste collection program?

13 After the franchise contract is awarded, some individuals may be reluctant and chose to self haul their trash. How can we service these types of requests?

14 If you were given the opportunity to compete for a contract, would you prefer the contract be for rural residential collection only? If so, why?

15 While we are not seeking your pricing, what waste management model do you feel would be the most cost effective for Hidalgo County? Why?

16 Are there value added services that we should expect or ask for? What are they? What are they worth and why?

17 Are you aware of any programs or models that have successfully reduced or eliminated illegal dumping?

18 What methodologies exist to assist Hidalgo County in mandating all countywide rural residents subscribe to this service?

19 On average, once the contract is awarded, how long will it take to your company begin the solid waste collection service to the rural residents?

20 What would be the minimum contract award period?

21 Please, describe your procedures for taking corrective action when customers express dissatisfaction with deliverables and service?

22 Please describe any other methods/technologies that you feel would be beneficial for Hidalgo County that other customers or industries are using. Please describe and list here

23 Are there other topics or issues not addressed by this RFI that you believe are important to address in any future RFP? If so, please offer your input on those topics or issues.

24 Final Considerations

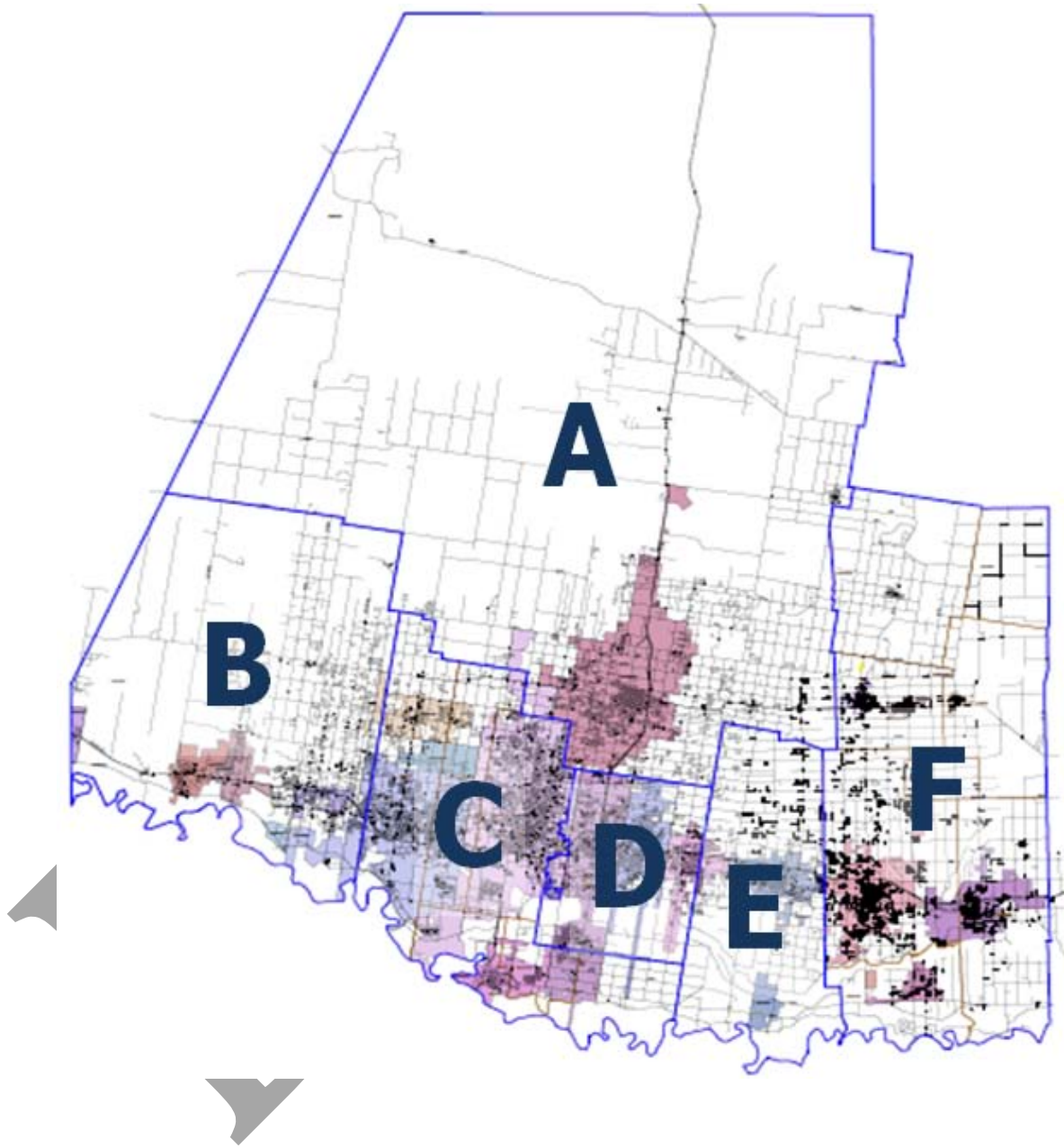
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hidalgo County is requesting that any and all questions, inquiries, and clarifications regarding the RFI be addressed to, Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, 2802 S. Bus. Hwy. 281, New Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas 78539. **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

All written inquiries will be accepted via facsimile or e-mail at elena.gomez@co.hidalgo.tx.us no later than, Wednesday October 09, 2013 by 5:00 P.M. Responses will be sent to all applicants by no later than, 5:00 P.M., Friday, October 11, 2013.

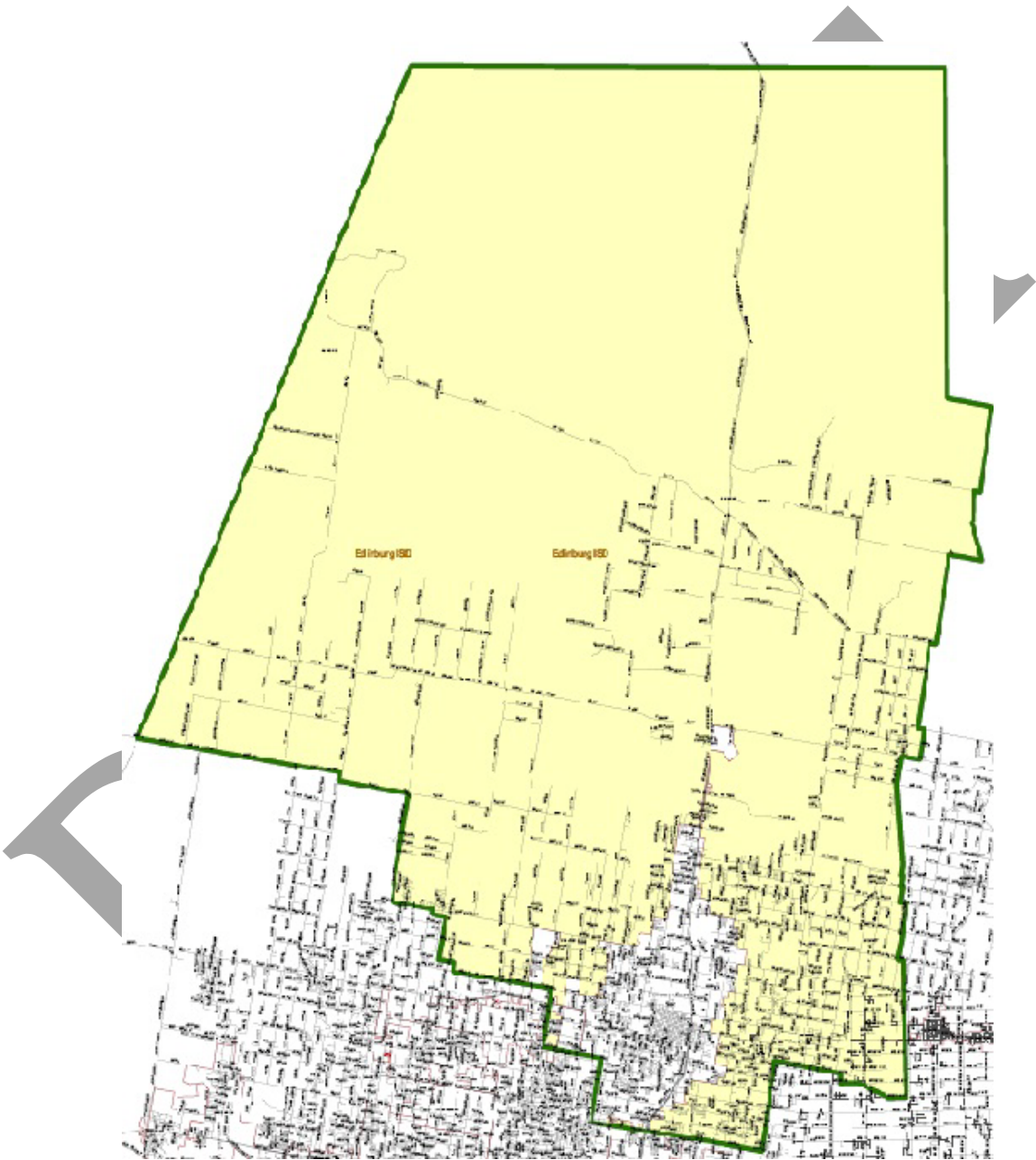
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Proposed Districts



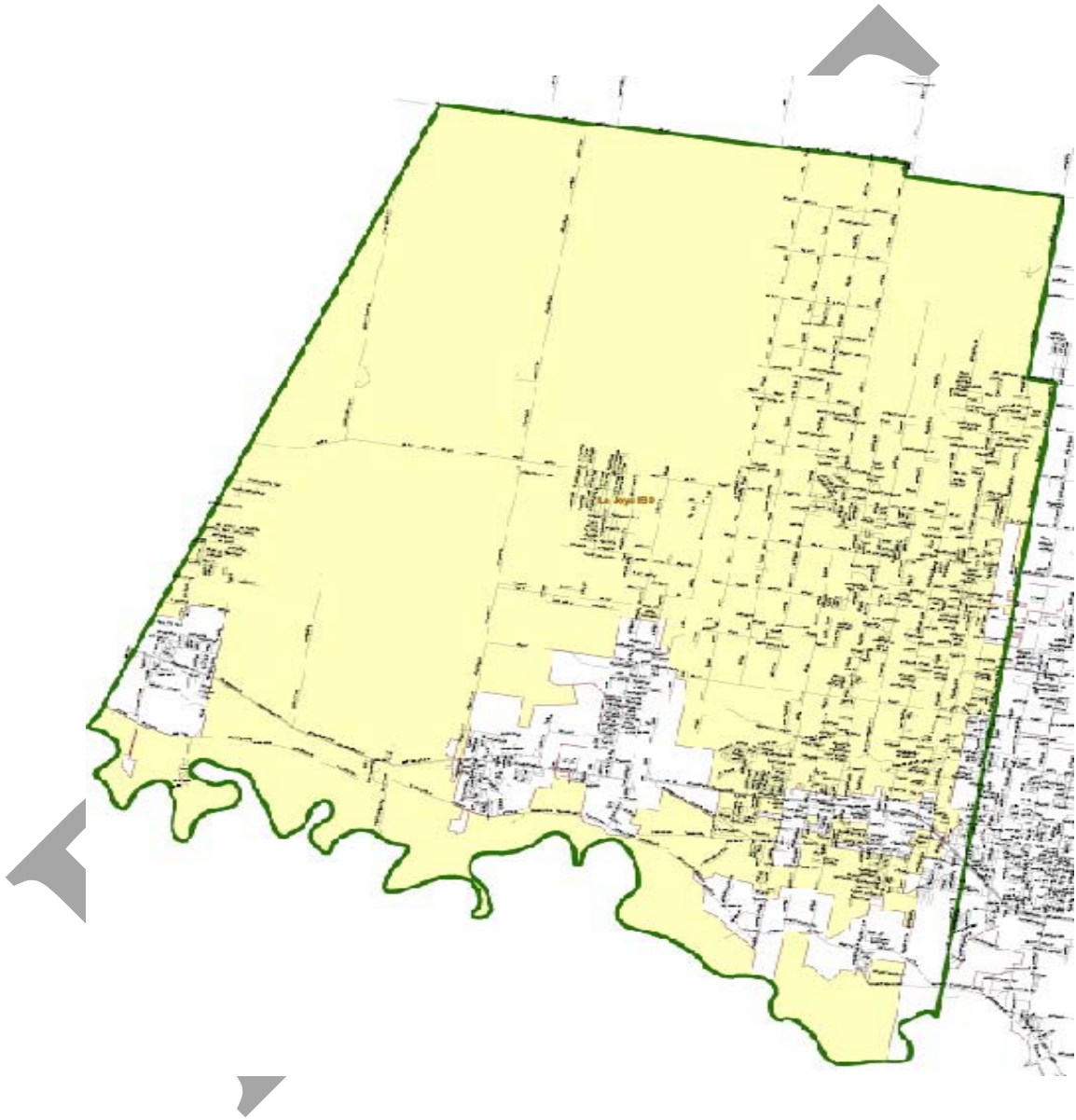
District A

DISTRICT	SCHOOL DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
A	Edinburg Area	13,902



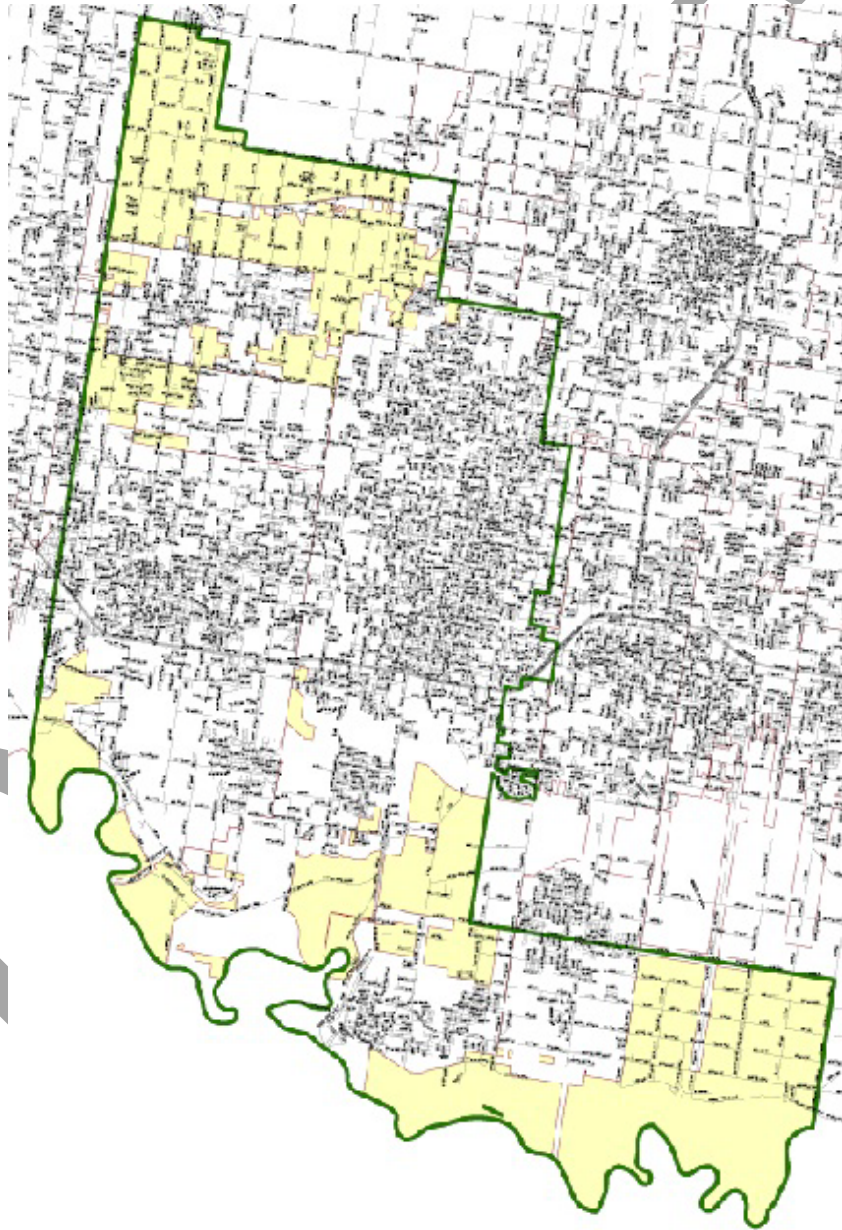
District B

DISTRICT	SCHOOL DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
B	La Joya Area	16,789



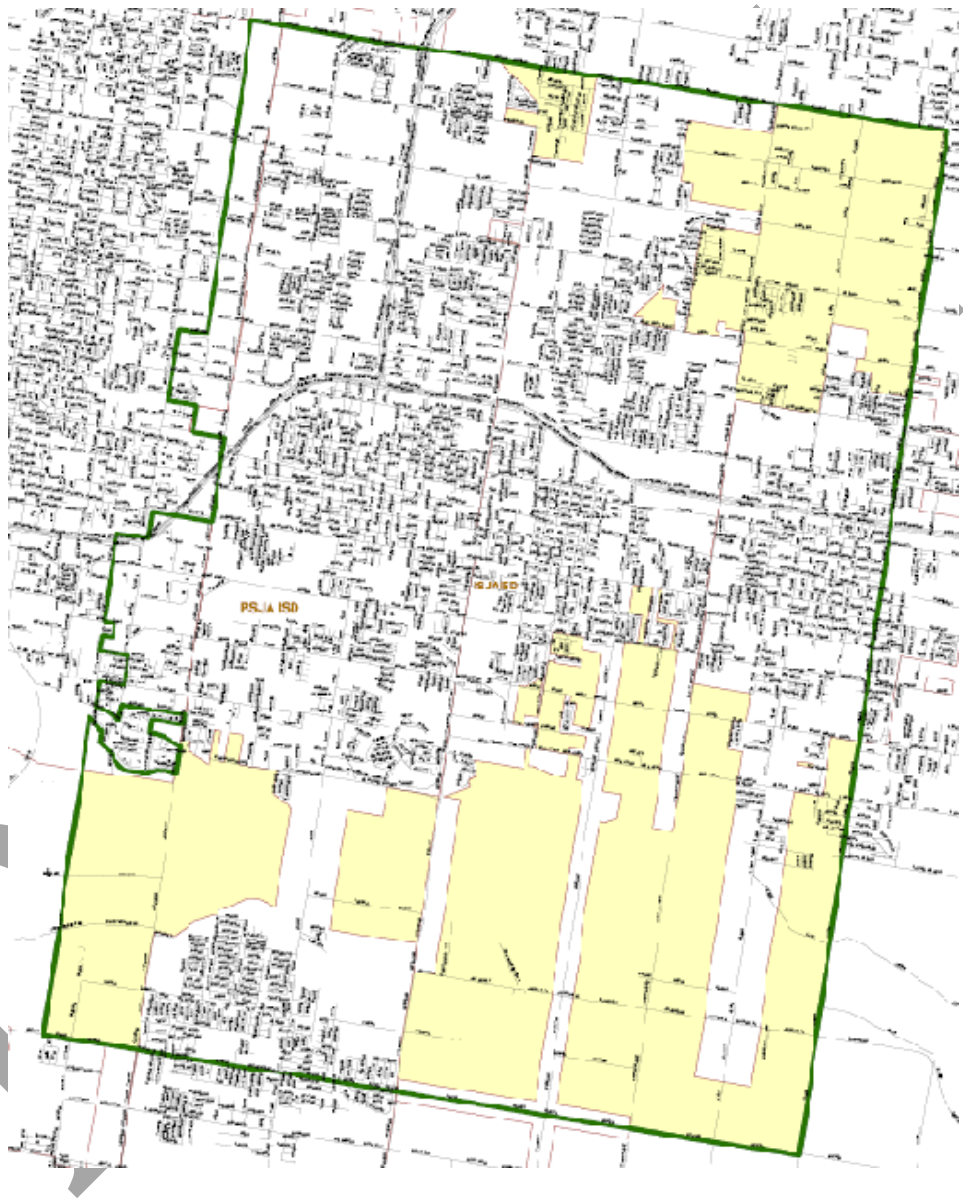
District C

DISTRICT	SCHOOL DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
C	Mission, Sharyland, McAllen, Valley View and Hidalgo Areas	3,298



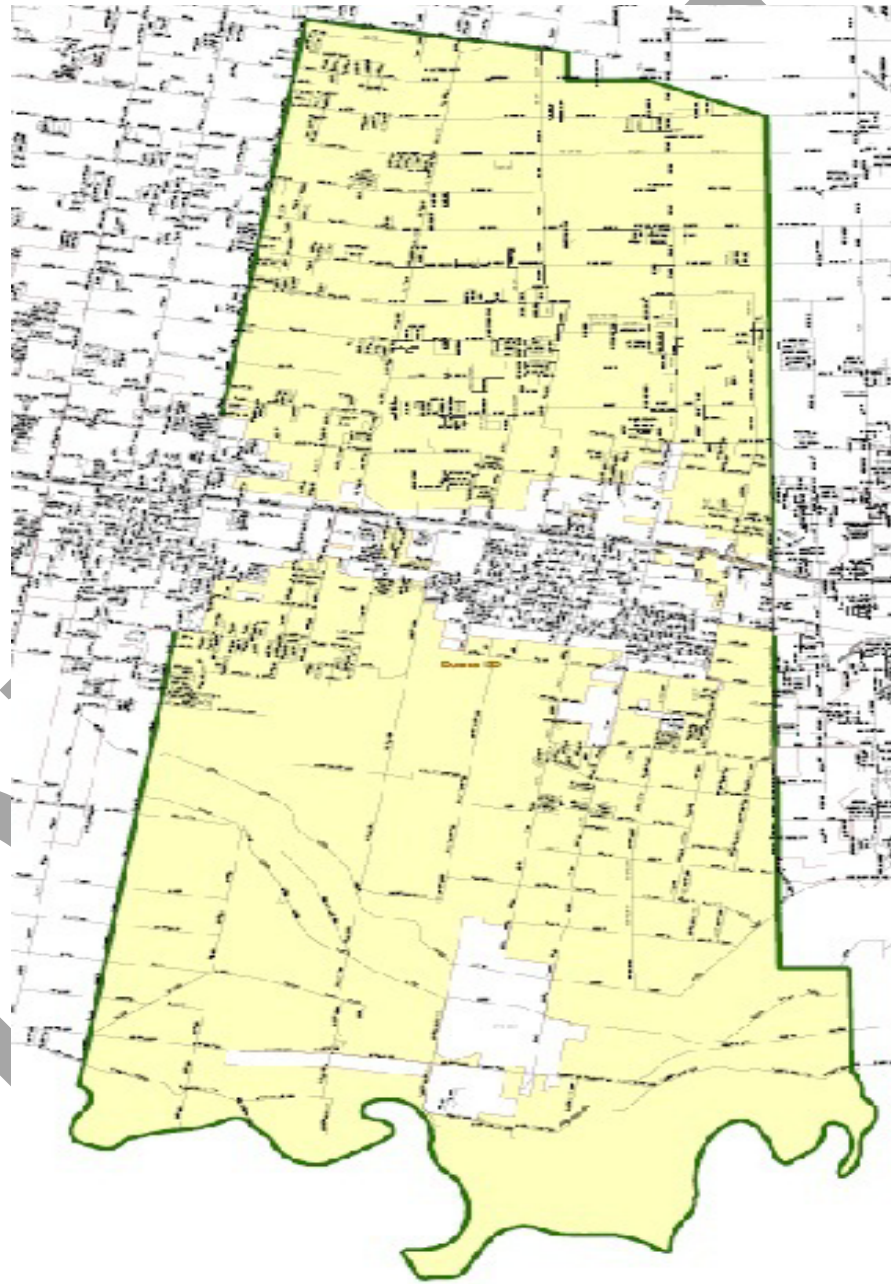
District D

DISTRICT	SCHOOL DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
D	PSJA	2,042



District E

DISTRICT	SCHOOL DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
E	Donna	8,385



District F

DISTRICT	SCHOOL DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
F	La Villa, Edcouch-Elsa, Lyford, Monte Alto, Progreso, Mercedes, Weslaco	12,383

