



Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department

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Teresa Patricia Feria, PhD
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
College of Sciences, Department of Biology
1201 West University Drive
Edinburg, TX 78539

Re: Development and application of a robust tick vector borne disease system detection platform for management and surveillance along the Texas Mexico border

Dear Dr. Feria,

I am writing to provide a letter of involvement in support of the vector-borne disease project proposed by The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. One of the many areas Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department is responsible for include epidemiology and surveillance for a county of nearly one million people. As a result, we have a public health staff that conducts case investigations for notifiable conditions; in addition to our established public health mosquito surveillance program. Thus, our department is pleased to see that this organization is applying for funding to assist our public health experts in improving population health in our region.

My understanding is that this program is proposed to support the surveillance and detection of tick-borne diseases, as well as to develop an educational campaign to raise awareness of such diseases within our community.

At Hidalgo County HHSD, we support your efforts to increase surveillance and awareness of tick-borne diseases in our area. We also support your collaboration and the discussion of targeted education for population health improvement, related to tick-borne diseases.

We look forward to continuing collaboration and wish you well with this important grant proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Eduardo Olivarez
Chief Administrative Officer