

STATE OF TEXAS

**INTERJURISDICTIONAL
MUTUAL AID
AGREEMENT**

COUNTY OF WEBB

COUNTY OF LA SALLE

COUNTY OF ZAPATA

COUNTY OF DIMMIT

COUNTY OF JIM HOGG

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This Mutual Aid Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by, between and among Webb and La Salle Counties, Texas ("Counties") and collectively, ("the Parties") pursuant to Chapter 791 of the Texas Local Government Code.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, The Parties recognize the vulnerability of the people and communities located within the jurisdiction of the entities who are the parties to this agreement to damage, injury, and loss of life and property resulting from Disasters and/or civil emergencies and recognize that Disasters and/or civil emergencies may present equipment and manpower requirements beyond the capacity of each individual Party; and

WHEREAS, The Parties must confront the threats to public health and safety posed by possible terrorist actions and weapons of mass destruction and other incidents of man-made origin, and the threats to public health and safety from natural Disasters, all capable of causing severe damage to property and danger to life; and

WHEREAS, The Parties to this Agreement recognize that Mutual Aid has been provided in the past and have determined that it is in the best interests of themselves and their citizens to create a plan to foster communications and the sharing of resources, personnel and equipment in the event of such calamities; and

WHEREAS, The governing officials of the Parties desire to secure for each Party the benefits of Mutual Aid for the protection of life and property in the event of a Disaster and/or Civil Emergency; and

WHEREAS, The Parties wish to make suitable arrangements for furnishing Mutual Aid in coping with Disasters and/or civil emergencies and are so authorized and make this Agreement pursuant to Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code (Interlocal Cooperation Act); Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code (Texas Disaster Act of 1975); and Chapter 362 of the Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, The Parties recognize that a formal agreement for Mutual Aid would allow for better coordination of effort, would provide that adequate equipment and manpower is available, and would help ensure that Mutual Aid is accomplished in the minimum time possible in the event of a Disaster or Civil Emergency and thus desire to enter into an agreement to provide Mutual Aid; and

WHEREAS, It is expressly understood that any Mutual Aid extended under this Agreement and the operational plans adopted pursuant thereto, is furnished in accordance with the "Texas Disaster Act" and other applicable provisions of law, and except as otherwise provided by law that the responsible local official in whose jurisdiction an incident requiring Mutual Aid has occurred shall remain in charge at such incident including the direction of such personnel and equipment provided him/her through the operation of such Mutual Aid plans in coordination and agreement with the highest ranking member of the Assisting Party who is present at the scene of the disaster or civil emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of all of the foregoing, the Parties agree as follows:

TERMS

1. **RECITALS.** The recitals set forth above are true and correct.
2. **DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this Agreement, the terms listed below will have the following meanings:
 - A. AGREEMENT- this Interjurisdictional Mutual Aid Agreement, duly executed.
 - B. ASSISTING PARTY - the Party furnishing equipment, supplies, facilities, services and/or Manpower to the Requesting Party.
 - C. CIVIL EMERGENCY -an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting consequences thereof within the geographical limits of a given jurisdiction for which there is an urgent need for assistance or relief to protect the general citizenry. If the presiding officer of the governing body of a Party is of the opinion that a state of civil emergency exists inclusive of a large scale incident which is beyond the resources of the jurisdiction affected, and exclusive of emergency response delegated to a jurisdiction's authority and responsibility exists which requires assistance from another Party, the presiding officer of the Party requesting mutual aid shall make the request directly to the Party from which assistance is sought. Before the emergency assistance is provided, the governing body of the Party whose assistance has been requested shall authorize such assistance by resolution or other official action, in accordance with Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code. In the event of a widespread civil emergency affecting more than one Party hereto, the Counties shall coordinate the call-up and assignment of resources to the affected area.
 - D. DISASTER - the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, oil spill or other water contamination, volcanic activity, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, riot, hostile military or paramilitary action, energy emergency (as that term is defined in Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code), acts of terrorism, and other public calamity requiring Emergency action.
 - E. EMERGENCY- any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether natural or caused by man, in war or in peace, which results in substantial injury or harm to the population, or substantial damage to or loss of property.
 - F. LOCAL DISASTER. In the event of a local disaster declaration, the Emergency Management Director or the designated Emergency Management Coordinator of a Party seeking mutual aid from another Party shall request such aid through the Counties. A Party from whom mutual aid is sought shall furnish mutual aid to cope with the disaster to the requesting Party, subject to the terms of this Agreement.
 - G. MUTUAL AID- includes, but is not limited to, such resources as facilities, equipment, services, supplies, and personnel.
 - H. REQUESTING PARTY - the Party requesting aid in the event of a Disaster or a Civil Emergency.

I. LOCAL GOVERNMENT - means a county, municipality, special district, or any corporate/political entity organized under the laws of the state of Texas.

J. POLITICAL SUBDIVISION -means county or incorporated city.

3. PARTY'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN. Each Party shall prepare and keep current an emergency management plan for its jurisdiction to provide for emergency and/or disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, in accordance with Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code. The emergency management plan shall incorporate the use of available resources, including personnel, equipment and supplies, necessary to provide and/or receive Mutual Aid. The emergency management plan shall be submitted to the Governor's Division of Emergency Management.

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR. The County Judge of the County requesting aid pursuant to this Agreement shall serve as the Emergency Management Director for his/her respective jurisdiction and shall take all steps necessary for the implementation of this Agreement. Each Emergency Management Director may designate an Emergency Management Coordinator who shall serve as an assistant to the presiding officer of the political subdivision for emergency management purposes. Each County shall be responsible to provide to the other Parties to this Agreement the contact information to their respective designated Emergency Management Coordinator.

5. ACTIVATION OF AGREEMENT. This Agreement may be activated by (a) the Emergency Management Director of the affected Party or the designee of the Emergency Management Director making a request for aid after he or she has made:

- (a) A declaration of a local state of Disaster pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code;
- (b) A finding of a state of Civil Emergency; or
- (c) The occurrence or imminent threat of an emergency such that local capabilities are or are predicted to be exceeded.

The activation of the Agreement shall continue whether or not the local Disaster declaration or state of Civil Emergency is still active, until the services of the Assisting Party are no longer required or when the officer in charge of the forces of the Party rendering assistance determines, in his sole discretion, that further assistance should not be provided.

6. PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTS AND PROVISION OF MUTUAL AID.

The Emergency Management Director or his or her designee may request Mutual Aid assistance by:

- (1) submitting a written Request for Assistance to an Assisting Party, or
- (2) orally communicating a request for Mutual Aid assistance to an Assisting Party, which shall be followed by a written request within 24 hours.

Mutual Aid shall not be requested by a Party unless it is directly related to the Disaster or Emergency and resources available from the normal responding agencies to the stricken area are deemed to be inadequate, or are predicted to be expended prior to resolution of the situation. All requests for Mutual Aid must be transmitted by the Emergency Management Director of the Requesting Party or by his or her designee.

A. **REQUESTS DIRECTLY TO ASSISTING PARTY:** The Requesting Party may directly contact the Emergency Management Director of the Assisting Party or his or her designee and provide the necessary information as prescribed in Section 6.B. hereto.

B. REQUIRED INFORMATION BY REQUESTING PARTY. Each request for assistance shall be accompanied by the following information, to the extent known:

- 1) A general description of the damage or injury sustained or threatened;
- 2) Identification of the emergency service function or functions for which assistance is needed (e.g. fire, law enforcement, emergency medical, search and rescue, transportation, communications, public works and engineering, building, inspection, planning and information assistance, mass care, resource support, health and other medical services, etc.), and the particular type of assistance needed;
- 3) The amount and type of personnel, equipment, materials, supplies, and/or facilities needed and a reasonable estimate of the length of time that each will be needed; and
- 4) The location or locations to which the resources are to be dispatched and the specific time by which the resources are needed; and
- 5) The name and contact information of a representative of the Requesting Party to meet the personnel and equipment of any Assisting Party at each location to which resources are dispatched.

This information may be provided on a form designed for this purpose or by any other available means.

C. ASSESSMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND ABILITY TO RENDER ASSISTANCE. When contacted by a Requesting Party, the Emergency Management Director of the Party from which aid is requested or his or her designee agrees to assess local resources to determine availability of personnel, equipment and other assistance based on current or anticipated needs. All Parties shall render assistance to the extent personnel, equipment and resources are deemed available; without depleting its resources and services to its own jurisdiction. No Party shall be required to provide Mutual Aid unless it determines that it has sufficient resources to do so based on current or anticipated events within its own jurisdiction.

D. INFORMATION REQUIRED OF THE ASSISTING PARTY. An Emergency Management Director or his or her designee who determines that the Assisting Party has available personnel, equipment, or other resources, shall so notify the Requesting Party and provide the following information, to the extent known:

- 1) A complete description of the personnel and their expertise and capabilities, equipment, and other resources to be furnished to the Requesting Party;
- 2) The estimated length of time that the personnel, equipment, and other resources will be available;
- 3) The name of the person or persons to be designated as supervisory personnel; and
- 4) The estimated time of arrival for the assistance to be provided to arrive at the designated location.

This information may be provided on a form designed for this purpose or by any other available means.

E. SUPERVISION AND CONTROL: When providing assistance under the terms of this agreement, the Requesting Party shall consider the availability of the Assisting Party's personnel and equipment; whereas, the highest ranking Officer of the Assisting Party shall have discretion for approval of same based on capability, specialty and readiness of units. If the Requesting Party does not possess the specialty in personnel, equipment or resources that is needed; then the first arriving Assisting Party that has the specialty and capability shall be given Operational command

of said function within an Incident Command System (ICS) or Unified Command System (UCS) format. The response effort SHALL be organized and functioning within an Incident Command System (ICS) or Unified Command System (UCS) format. Direct supervision and control of personnel, equipment and resources and personnel accountability shall remain with the designated supervisory personnel of the Assisting Party. The designated supervisory personnel of the Assisting Party shall: maintain daily personnel time records, material records, and a log of equipment hours; be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the equipment and other resources furnished by the Assisting Party; and shall report work progress to the Requesting Party. The Assisting Party's personnel and other resources shall remain subject to recall by the Assisting Party at any time, subject to reasonable notice to the Requesting Party.

F. **MUTUAL AID PLAN.** By their signatures below, each Party hereto certifies that it will provide Mutual Aid assistance under this Agreement in accordance with the South Texas Development Council Mutual Aid Plan. Additionally, each Party will develop a continuity of government plan which specifies those positions authorized to activate this Agreement.

G. **FOOD, HOUSING, AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY:** Unless specifically instructed otherwise, the Requesting Party shall have the responsibility of providing food and housing for the personnel of the Assisting Party from the time of their arrival at the designated location to the time of their departure. However, Assisting Party personnel and equipment should be, to the greatest extent possible, self-sufficient while working in the Emergency or Disaster area. The Requesting Party may specify only self-sufficient personnel and resources in its request for assistance.

H. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Unless specifically instructed otherwise, the Requesting Party shall have the responsibility for coordinating communications between the personnel of the Assisting Party and the Requesting Party. Assisting Party personnel should be prepared to furnish their own communications equipment sufficient only to maintain communications among their respective operating units, if such is practicable.

I. **RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES:** Personnel who are assigned, designated or ordered by their governing body to perform duties pursuant to this Agreement shall continue to receive the same wages, salary, pension, and other compensation and benefits for the performance of such duties, including injury or death benefits, disability payments, and workers' compensation benefits, as though the service had been rendered within the limits of the jurisdiction where the personnel are regularly employed.

J. **TERM OF DEPLOYMENT:** The initial duration of a request for assistance will be specified by the Requesting Party, to the extent possible by the situation, whereas such deployment shall be mutually agreed upon by both parties. In the event that the Parties cannot mutually agree, the final decision will be made by the Assisting Party.

K. **SUMMARY REPORT:** Within ten working days of the return of all personnel deployed under this Agreement, the Requesting Party will prepare a Summary Report of the event, and provide copies to each Assisting Party. The report shall, at a minimum, include a chronology of events and description of personnel, equipment and materials provided by one Party to the other.

7. **COSTS.** All costs associated with the provision of Mutual Aid, including but not limited to compensation for personnel; operation and maintenance of equipment; damage to equipment; medical expenses; and food, lodging and transportation expenses shall be borne by the Requesting Party the assistance that is provided. Requests for reimbursement must be submitted within forty-five (45)

working days; thereafter, payment shall be made within forty-five (45) days otherwise this Mutual Aid Agreement with the Requesting Party is null and void. Such request shall identify with specificity each service, labor, or equipment provided and the unit and total costs associated with each. Personnel who are assigned, designated or ordered by their governing body to perform duties pursuant to this Agreement shall continue to receive the same wages, salary, pension, and other compensation and benefits for the performance of such duties, including injury or death benefits, disability payments, and worker's compensation benefits, as though the service had been rendered within the limits of the jurisdiction where the personnel are regularly employed. The Assisting Party shall be responsible for creating and maintaining for a period of three years a record of all costs incurred, both reimbursed and unreimbursed costs, in providing aid under this Agreement. Such costs and reimbursements shall be paid from current funds of the respective Party. All Parties acknowledge that unreimbursable costs incurred during the initial 48-hour period may not be subject to reimbursement with any available federal funds.

The requesting local government entity shall pay the reimbursement from available funds. If federal money is available to pay costs associated with the provision of mutual aid assistance, the requesting local government entity shall make the claim for the eligible costs of the responding local government entity on the requesting entity's subgrant application and shall disburse the federal share of the money to the responding local government entity, with sufficient local funds to cover the actual costs of the responding local government entity in providing assistance.

8. INSURANCE

A. **WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE:** Each Party shall be responsible for its own actions and those of its employees and is responsible for complying with the Texas Workers' Compensation Act.

B. **AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY COVERAGE:** Each Party shall be responsible for its own actions and is responsible for complying with the Texas motor vehicle financial responsibility laws.

C. **GENERAL LIABILITY, PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIABILITY, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY:** To the extent permitted by law and without waiving sovereign immunity, each Party shall be responsible for any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, damages, and causes for action related to or arising out of or in any way connected with its own actions, and the actions of its personnel in providing Mutual Aid assistance rendered or performed pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Each Party agrees to obtain general liability, public official's liability and law enforcement liability, if applicable, or maintain a comparable self-insurance program.

D. **OTHER COVERAGE:** The Assisting Party shall provide and maintain their standard packages of medical and death benefit insurance coverage while their personnel are assisting the Requesting Party.

9. COORDINATING AGENCY FOR MUTUAL AID. The COUNTY shall act as the coordinating agency for mutual aid responses to disasters and to civil emergencies that affect more than one Party hereto. As part of its duties as coordinating agency, the Counties shall maintain a current listing of all Parties to this Agreement. Such listing shall include personnel to be contacted in each county, appropriate telephone and facsimile numbers, and other information that would be needed in order to contact each Party in the event of a disaster or civil emergency.

10. CONDITIONS. Any furnishing of resources under this Agreement is subject to the following conditions:

A. A request for aid shall specify the amount and type of resources being requested, the location to which the resources are to be dispatched, and the specific time by which such resources are needed;

- B. The Party rendering aid shall take such action as is necessary to provide and make available the resources requested, provided however, that the Party rendering aid, in its sole discretion, shall determine what resources are available to furnish the requested aid; and
- C. The Party rendering aid shall report to the officer in charge of the requesting Party's forces at the location to which the resources are dispatched.

11. **WAIVER OF CLAIMS AGAINST PARTIES: IMMUNITY RETAINED.** Each Party hereto waives all claims against the other Parties hereto for compensation for any loss, damage, personal injury, or death occurring as a consequence of the performance of this Agreement, except those caused in whole or in part by the negligence of an officer, employee, or agent of another Party. No Party waives or relinquishes any immunity or defense on behalf of itself, its officers, employees and agents as a result of the foregoing sentence or its execution of this Agreement and the performance of the covenants contained herein.
12. **EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL.** During the time mutual aid is being furnished, all equipment used by the Party rendering aid shall continue to be owned, leased, or rented by the Party rendering aid. At all times while equipment and personnel of a Party rendering aid are traveling to, from, or within the geographical limits of the requesting Party in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, such personnel and equipment shall be deemed to be employed or used, as the case may be, in the full line and cause of duty of the Party rendering aid. In addition, such personnel shall be deemed to be engaged in a governmental function of their entity.
13. **EXPENDING FUNDS.** Each Party that performs services or furnishes aid pursuant to this Agreement shall do so with funds available from current revenues of the Party. If there are no current revenues available to provide aid or services as requested, then the Assisting Party shall not have any obligation to respond to a request for assistance; and, no Party shall have any liability for the failure to provide service or aid, or to expend funds to provide aid hereunder.
14. **TERM.** This Agreement shall become effective as to each Party on [REDACTED] and shall continue in force and remain binding on each and every Party for twelve (12) months from the effective date. This Agreement shall renew automatically for a period of one year upon the completion of the initial term and each subsequent term unless and until such time as the governing body of a Party terminates its participation in this Agreement pursuant to Section 22 of this Agreement. Termination of participation in this Agreement by a Party or Parties shall not affect the continued operation of this Agreement between and among the remaining Parties.
15. **ENTIRETY.** This Agreement contains all commitments and agreements of the Parties with respect to the Mutual Aid to be rendered hereunder during or in connection with a Disaster and/or Civil Emergency. No other oral or written commitments of the Parties with respect to Mutual Aid under this Agreement shall have any force or effect if not contained herein, except as provided in Section 18 below.
16. **RATIFICATION.** Each Party hereby ratifies the actions of its personnel and the rendering and/or receiving of Mutual Aid taken prior to the date of this Agreement.
17. **OTHER MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS.** It is understood that certain Parties may have heretofore contracted or may hereafter contract with each other for Aid in Civil Emergency and/or Disaster situations, and it is agreed that, to the extent there is a conflict between this Agreement and any other such Aid agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall be superior to any such individual contract with the exception of Interlocal Agreements exercised through a legal contract which

Interlocal agreements shall be deemed to be continued in full force and effect and shall be deemed to supersede this agreement. To assist each other in the process of Mutual Aid response planning, each Party agrees to inform the other Parties of all Aid Agreements that each Party has with other municipalities, entities, counties, and state or federal agencies.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Parties acknowledge that Counties may be a party to Mutual Aid agreements similar to this Agreement with other counties, which counties have Mutual Aid agreements with municipalities within their respective jurisdictions. The Parties hereto agree to provide Mutual Aid to such other counties and municipalities upon request so long as there is a reciprocal agreement to provide Mutual Aid to the parties to this Agreement and so long as the requesting county or municipality agrees to the payment of all sums required by the terms of any existing agreement which shall be deemed to supersede this agreement.

18. INTERLOCAL COOPERATION ACT. The Parties agree that Mutual Aid in the context contemplated herein is a "governmental function and service" and that the Parties are "local governments" as that term is defined herein and in the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 791.

19. SEVERABILITY. If a provision contained in this Agreement is held invalid for any reason, the invalidity does not affect other provisions of the Agreement that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end the provisions of this Agreement are severable.

20. VALIDITY AND ENFORCEABILITY. If any current or future legal limitations affect the validity or enforceability of a provision of this Agreement, then the legal limitations are made a part of this Agreement and shall operate to amend this Agreement to the minimum extent necessary to bring this Agreement into conformity with the requirements of the limitations, and so modified, this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect.

21. AMENDMENT. This Agreement may be amended only by the mutual written consent of the Parties.

22. TERMINATION. Any Party may at any time by resolution or notice given to all the other Parties decline to participate in the provision of Mutual Aid. The governing body of a Party which is a signatory hereto shall, by resolution, give written notice of termination of participation in this Agreement and submit a certified copy of such resolution to all other Parties. Such termination shall become effective not later than 30 days after the filing of such notice. The termination by one or more of the Parties of its participation in this Agreement shall not affect the operation of this Agreement as between the other Parties hereto.

23. THIRD PARTIES. This Agreement is intended to inure only to the benefit of the Parties hereto. This Agreement is not intended to create, nor shall be deemed or construed to create any rights or causes of action in third parties.

24. NOTICE. Any notice required or permitted between the Parties must be in writing, addressed to the attention of each respective Chief Elected Official, and shall be delivered in person, or mailed certified mail, return receipt requested, or may be transmitted by facsimile transmission as follows:

25. WARRANTY. The Agreement has been officially authorized by the governing or controlling body or agency of each Party hereto by order, ordinance or resolution and each signatory to this Agreement guarantees and warrants that the signatory has full authority to execute this Agreement and to legally bind the respective Party to this Agreement.

26. GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE. The laws of the State of Texas shall govern this Agreement. Venue for any cause of action shall be determined by the Laws of the State of Texas.

27. HEADINGS. The headings at the beginning of the various provisions of this Agreement have been included only in order to make it easier to locate the subject covered by each provision and are not to be used in construing this Agreement.

EXECUTED by the Parties hereto, each respective entity acting by and through its duly authorized official as required by law, on multiple counterparts each of which shall be deemed to be an original, on the date specified on the multiple counterpart executed by such entity.

WEBB County, Texas:
NAME: Judge Tano E. Tijerina

Signature: _____
Date: _____

LA SALLE County, Texas:
NAME:

Signature: _____
Date: _____

ZAPATA County, Texas:
NAME:

Signature: _____
Date: _____

Attest:

Margie Ramirez Ibarra
Webb County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jorge L. Trevino, Jr.
Assistant General Counsel
Webb County Civil Legal Division

*The General Counsel, Civil Legal Division's office, may only advise or approve contracts or legal documents on behalf of its clients. It may not advise or approve a contract or legal document on behalf of other parties. Our review of this document was conducted solely from the legal perspective of our client. Our approval of this document was offered solely for the benefit of our client. Other parties should not rely on this approval, and should seek review and approval of their own respective attorney(s).

Dimmit County, Texas
NAME:

Signature: _____
Date: _____

Jim Hogg County, Texas
NAME:

Signature: _____
Date: _____