Contact Information

**The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley**

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**The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley**

**College of Engineering & Computer Science**

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**Lower Rio Grande Valley-TPDES Storm Water Task Force**

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*The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 33033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.*



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*Lower Rio Grande Valley*

20th Annual Water Quality Management & Planning Conference

**Program**

**May 15 - 19, 2018**

**Schlitterbahn Resort**

**South Padre Island, Texas**

[**www.schlitterbahn.com**](http://www.schlitterbahn.com)



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*Civil Engineering*

*1201 W. University Dr.*

*Edinburg, Texas 78539*

*Office: (956)665-3830*

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May 16, 2018

Greetings,

On behalf of The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), along with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Storm Water Task Force and our partners, welcome to the 20th Annual *Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Quality Management & Planning Conference.* UTRGV is pleased to lead the planning and delivery of the annual event.

UTRGV focuses on research topics germane to South Texas and the U.S.-Mexico border region. It is our goal to develop team-based and research inspired programs to train and educate our future engineers. Working with our partners, we have brought together representatives from academia, private industries, environmental groups, research communities and state and federal agencies to be a part of a team exchanging ideas concerning environmental and engineering issues impacting coastal and semi-arid regions and the Rio Grande Valley, and transferring that information to the decision makers and stakeholders who influence the economic, social and physical infrastructure along the border region.

It is our hope that this conference serves as a platform for discussing sustainability issues that are both important and relevant to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. This year the conference includes topics on the Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program, the Lower Laguna Madre & Port of Brownsville Watershed Protection Plan, low impact development, stormwater runoff flow reduction strategies, RESTORE, academia research topics, and many other interesting themes. **Our 2018 conference is pleased to announce that event topics will highlight planning, updates and working sessions associated with the recently formed Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program.** We hope you consider participating in this event and hope you have an enjoyable and stimulating time at the conference.

Sincerely, Sincerely,



**Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE Javier Guerrero, E.I.T., MS**  
Civil Engineering Department Civil Engineering Department

Professor Director of Water Studies

**Chair – Planning Committee** **Co-chair – Planning Committee**   
[Andrew.ernest@utrgv.edu](mailto:Andrew.ernest@utrgv.edu) [Javier.guerrero@utrgv.edu](mailto:Javier.guerrero@utrgv.edu)



**Conference Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tuesday, May 15, 2018**  *Grant Workshop, TFMA Course and Exam Separate registration required. Must join TFMA to sit in during Exam.* | | | | | |
| 7:30 AM | | **Course**  **I**  **Course**  **II**  **Keynote**  **Speaker** | **Registration in Hibiscus Entrance** | | |
| 8:00 – 5:00 | | **HIBISCUS ENTRANCE** | | |
| **Exhibitor setup** | | |
| 8:00 –12:00 | | **HIBISCUS A** | | |
| **“Federal and State Funding Grant Workshop”**  facilitated by  **Adele Cardenas-Malott, P.E.**  Senior Policy Advisor  &  **Curry Jones**  Chief, State and Tribal Programs Section  EPA, Region 6, Dallas, TX | | |
| 8:00 –12:00 | | **HIBISCUS B** | | |
| **Floodplain Management Review Course**  Thomas W. Mountz, PE, D.WRE, CFM  Project Manager **-** Water Resources  Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA)  6 CECs/6 PDUs | | |
| Lunch  12:00–1:00 | | **HIBISCUS A & B** | | |
| **MC: Joe Hinojosa**  General Manager  Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15 | | |
| **Kathleen Jackson, Board Member**  **Texas Water Development Board** | | |
| 1:00-1:30 | | **Roundtable I** | **BASTROP ROOM (3rd Floor)** | | |
| TASK FORCE/UTRGV ROUNDTABLE  With Kathleen Jackson, Board Member  (by invitation only) | | |
| 1:00-4:00 | | **Course**  **I**  **Course**  **II** | **HIBISCUS A** | | |
| “Public Private Partnership Opportunities”  **Grants and Philanthropic Workshop**  facilitated by  **Adele Cardenas-Malott, P.E.**  Senior Policy Advisor  &  **Curry Jones**  Chief, State and Tribal Programs Section  EPA, Region 6, Dallas, TX | | |
| 1:00-4:30 | | **HIBISCUS B** | | |
| **Floodplain Management Review Course**  Thomas W. Mountz, PE, D.WRE, CFM  Project Manager **-** Water Resources  Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA)  6 CECs/6 PDUs | | |
| 5:30-8:00 | | **CFM Exam**  **Register at** [**www.tfma.org**](http://www.tfma.org) | | |
| 4:00-5:00 | | **HIBISCUS B** | | |
| **Networking/Fellowship with Federal Agencies and Foundations** | | |
| **Tuesday, May 15, 2018**  *Pre-Conference Activities* | | | | | |
| 6:00 PM-7:00 PM  6:00 PM  7:30PM | **Registration** | | | **HIBISCUS ENTRANCE** | |
| **Early Registration** | |
| **Meeting** | | | UP AND OUT | |
| High School Track – Volunteer Meeting | |
| **Dinner** | | | SHRIMP HAUS – HOTEL RESTAURANT | |
| **EPA/UTRGV FACULTY/STAFF/TASK FORCE DINNER** | |
| ***Conference begins.*** | | | | | |
| **Wednesday, May 16, 2018**  *Plenary – Conference Themes*  *Welcome, Guest Speakers, Key Topics and Plenary Keynote* | | | | | |
| 7:00-8:30 | **HIBISCUS C** | | | | |
| **Breakfast** | | | | |
| Group  Session 0  8:00-10:15  Plenary  Welcome  8:00-8:10  Plenary  Theme  Speaker  8:10-8:20  Plenary  Guest  8:20-8:30  Plenary  Guest  8:30-8:40  Plenary  Guest  8:40-8:50  Plenary  Conference  Theme  Speaker  8:50-9:15  Special Topic  Guest  Speaker  9:15-9:30 | **HIBISCUS A** | | | | |
| **Stormwater 0 – Plenary, Welcome, and Keynote**  Chair: Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Vice-Chair: Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15, Chairperson  Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Storm Water Task Force | | | | |
| *“Welcome”*  **Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE**  Civil Engineering Department  College of Engineering & Computer Science  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX/Brownsville, TX  *“The LRGV Stormwater TPDES Task Force – History and Beyond”*  **José Hinojosa, REM**  General Manager  Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15  &  Chairperson LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force  *“ASCE RGV Branch - Welcome”*  **Héctor J. López, P.E.**  Project Manager  S&B Infrastructure, Ltd.  American Society of Civil Engineers  Secretary, ASCE RGV Branch  *“ASCE’s Grand Challenge”*  **Craig B. Thompson, P.E.**  ASCE Texas Section Past President  Vice President/Principal, Hanson Professional Services  Naismith | Hanson  Corpus Christi, TX  *“NPDES Municipal Stormwater Program Update”*  **Nelly Smith**  Municipal Stormwater Coordinator  EPA Region 6, Permits and Technical Assistance Section  NPDES Permits & TMDLs Branch  *“Region 6 Water Priorities at EPA”*  **David Garcia, P.E.**  Acting Director, Water Division  Water Quality Protection Division  EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX  “Roma-Miguel Aleman Bridge”  **Eduardo Gracia, P.E.**  Roma Area Engineer  Texas Department of Transportation  Pharr, TX | | | | |
| Plenary  Keynote  9:30-10:00 | **MC: Robert Jones, Ph.D.**  Interim Chair  Civil Engineering Department  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley | | | | |
| **Eddie Lucio III**  Representative, District #38  Austin, TX | | | | |
| Break  10:00-10:15 | **HIBISCUS C** | | | | |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** | | | | |
| 10:15–10:45  Roundtable II | **BASTROP ROOM (3rd Floor)** | | | | |
| **TASK FORCE/UTRGV ROUNDTABLE**  **Eddie Lucio III**  State Representative, District #38  **(by invitation only)** | | | | |
| Group  Session I  10:15-12:30 | **HIBISCUS A** | | | | |
| **Stormwater Ia – Stormwater Topics**  Chair: Ernesto Solis  Stormwater Specialist  City of Alamo  Vice Chair: Juan De La Garza  Stormwater Manager  City of Mission | | | | **Stormwater Ib – General and Funding Topics**  Chair: Xavier Cervantes, AICP  City Planner, City of San Juan  Vice Chair: Mardoqueo Hinojosa, P.E., City Engineer  City of Weslaco |
| *“Dehumidification Water Quality Analysis of the South Texas Gulf of Mexico”*  **Erik Castillo**  Student  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  *“City of Corpus Christi Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4): Phase I Management and Innovation”*  **Kori Ellien**  Project Manager - Environmental Quality  City of Corpus Christi | | | | *“Developing a Stormwater Fee”*  ***Ivan Santoyo***  *Engineering Associate I*  *City of Laredo*  *Environmental Engineering Department*  *Laredo, TX*  *“Water Quality Improvement Through Implementation on WPP in the Leon River Watershed”*  ***Brian Koch***  *Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board*  *Regional Watershed Coordinator*  *Wharton, TX*  *“Municipal Funding of Stormwater Projects, Including Public Improvement District Bonds”*  ***Gregory Miller, Associate***  *Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP*  *Austin, TX* |
| Lunch  12:00-1:15  12:30-1:00 Keynote  Speaker | **HIBISCUS A** | | | | |
| **MC: Joe Hinojosa**  General Manager  Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15 | | | | |
| **Jose Nunez, P.E.**  Principal Engineer  International Boundary & Water Commission | | | | |
| 1:30–2:30  Roundtable III | **BASTROP ROOM (3rd Floor)** | | | | |
| **TASK FORCE/UTRGV ROUNDTABLE**  **Jose Nunez, P.E.**  Principal Engineer  International Boundary & Water Commission  **(by invitation only)** | | | | |
| Group  Session II  1:30-3:00 | **HIBISCUS A** | | | | |
| **Stormwater II – General Topics**  Chair: Martino Trevino, Project Manager  City of Brownsville  Vice Chair: Robert Escobar, City Planner  City of La Feria | | | | |
| *“Converting Irrigation Rights to Industrial Rights”*  **Kimberly Grinnan Kelley**  Associate  Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP  Austin, TX  *“Sustainable Infrastructure”*  **Marianella Franklin**  Associate AIA, LEEP AP  Chief Sustainability Officer  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX  *“Water Topics”*  **Mireya Loewe**  Team Manager, South Region  Regional Water Project Development  Austin, TX | | | | |
| Break  3:00-3:15 | **HIBISCUS B** | | | | |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** | | | | |
| Group  Session III 3:15-5:30 | **HIBISCUS A** | | | | |
| **Stormwater III – General and Funding Topics**  Chair: Augusto Sanchez-Gonzalez, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX/Brownsville, TX  Vice Chair: Bernard Rodriguez, Planner  City of San Benito | | | | |
| *“Discussion of Methods and Evaluations Used in Determining Applicable Permeable Pavement Design”*  **Raul Palma, P.E. and Amos Emerson, E.I.T**  Millennium Engineering  Pharr, TX  *“Field and Laboratory Evaluation of Bioretention Bacterial Removal from Urban Stormwater Runoff in South Texas”*  **Ahmed Mahmoud, Ph.D.**  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX/Brownsville, TX  &  **Javier Guerrero, E.I.T., REM**  Ph.D. Candidate (TAMUK)  Director of Water Studies  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  *Universities’ Role on Green Infrastructure applications*  *for Turkey in terms of Sustainability”*  **Mert Tolon**  Civil Engineering  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX | | | | |
| Social  6:00-7:00 | **BASTROP ROOM (3rd Floor)** | | | | |
| **Networking/Fellowship**  **Sponsored by UTRGV** | | | | |
| Dinner  7:00-8:00  7:30-8:00  Keynote Speaker  Roundtable IV  8:00–8:30 | **HISBISCUS A** | | | | |
| **MC: Ala Qubbaj, Ph.D.**  Interim Dean  College of Engineering & Computer Science  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX | | | | |
| “From Disaster Recovery to Community Development and Revitalization”  **Pete Phillips**  Sr. Deputy Director of the Community Development and Revitalization Division  Texas General Land Office  Austin, TX | | | | |
| **BASTROP ROOM (3rd Floor)** | | | | |
| **TASK FORCE/UTRGV ROUNDTABLE**  **Pete Phillips**  Texas General Land Office  **(by invitation only)** | | | | |
| **Thursday, May 17, 2018**  *Stormwater, Non-Point Source Pollution, and Watersheds* | | | | | |
| 7:00 - 8:00 | | **HIBISCUS C** | | | |
| **Breakfast** | | | |
| Group Session IV 8:00-10:00 | | **HIBISCUS A** | | | |
| **Stormwater IV – Water Topics**  Chair: Melisa Gonzales, Project Manager  City of Alamo  Vice Chair: Ahmed Mahmoud, PhD, Lecturer  UTRGV | | | |
| *“Whiskey and Water with Carrot and Sticks: The Recipe for a Texas Program to Manage Nonpoint (NPS) Pollution in the Coastal Zone”*  **Jason Pinchback**  Manager, Water Quality Program  Texas General Land Office  Austin, TX  *“The TCEQ’s Total Maximum Program: An Overview”*  **Roger M. Miranda**  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  Office of Water, Water Quality Planning Division  Total Maximum Daily Load Program (TMDL)  Austin, Texas  *“Using Satellite Data to Monitor the Impacts of CyanoHAB Events on Drinking Water: A Texas Case Study”*  **Megan Amanatides**  ORISE Fellow  EPA Office of Research and Development, Durham, NC | | | |
| Break  10:00-10:15 | | **HIBISCUS B** | | | |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** | | | |
| Group Session V 10:15-12:00 | | **HIBISCUS A** | | | |
| **Stormwater V– Public Works**  Chair: Paolina Vega, P.E., County Engineer  Cameron County  Vice Chair: Robert Valenzuela, Stormwater Manager  City of Edinburg | | | |
| *“IDD&E Management at the City of Laredo”*  **Ivan Santoyo**  Engineering Associate I  City of Laredo  Environmental Engineering Department  Laredo, TX    *“City of Corpus Christi Coordinated Spill Response Program”*  **Kori Ellien**  Project Manager - Environmental Quality  City of Corpus Christi  *“Our Ethical Responsibility in the Public Infrastructure Industry”*  **Lamberto “Bobby” Balli**  **Member, Texas Board of Professional Engineers**  Vice President/Director of Client Services  CP&Y | | | |
| Lunch  12:00-  1:15 pm  12:15-  12:45 pm  Keynote Speaker | | **HIBISCUS A** | | | |
| **MC: Robert Jones, Ph.D.**  Interim Chair  Civil Engineering  College of Engineering & Computer Science  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX | | | |
| **Stephen Lyle Tatum, Jr.** Former Deputy Commissioner  to Commissioner Toby Baker Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  Austin, TX | | | |
| Group Session VI  1:15-3:00 pm | | **HIBISCUS A** | | | |
| **Stormwater VI – Non Point Source Pollution**  Chair: Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Vice Chair: Carol Vasquez, Stormwater Manager  City of Brownsville | | | |
| *“Construction General Permit”*  **Lindsay Garza**  Environmental Permit Specialist III  Stormwater & Pretreatment Team  Water Quality Division  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)/Austin, TX  *“Surface Water Quality Monitoring in Texas and the Clean Rivers Program”*  **Kyle Girten**  Monitoring and Assessment Section Manager  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  Water Quality Planning Division  Austin, Texas  *“Lower Laguna Madre Watershed-Based Planning”*  **Tim Cawthon**  NPS Project Manager  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  NPS Program, Austin, TX | | | |
| Break  3:00-3:15 | | **HIBISCUS B** | | | |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** | | | |
| 3:00-3:30 | | **BASTROP ROOM (3RD Floor)** | | | |
| **POSTER WINNER ANNOUNCEMENTS** | | | |
| Group Session VII  3:30-5:00 | | **HIBISCUS A** | | | |
| **Stormwater VII – Stormwater Topics**  Chair: Jose Figueroa, Public Works Director  City of Mercedes  Vice Chair: Roy Jimenez, Stormwater Manager  City of Donna | | | |
| *“MS4 Permit – 2018-2024 Renewal Update”*  **Lindsay Garza**  Environmental Permit Specialist III  Stormwater & Pretreatment Team  Water Quality Division  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)/Austin, TX  *“Lower Rio Grande Valley – Are we ready for Hurricane Harbie?”*  **Jungseok Ho, P.E., Ph.D.**  Associate Chairperson  Civil Engineering Department  The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX  &  **Jose Gonzalez, MSE, CFM, EIT**  Hydrology & Hydraulic Engineer  Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1  *“Workshop for Implementation of a Decision Management Tool for Low Impact Development BMP’s for the LRGV”*  **Taufiqul Alam**  Environmental Engineering  Texas A&M University-Kingsville  &  **Javier Guerrero, E.I.T., REM**  Ph.D. Candidate (TAMUK)  Director of Water Studies  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley | | | |
| Social  6:00-6:45 | | **SEA4EVER** | | | |
| **Networking/Fellowship**  **Sponsored by Hollis Rutledge & Associates** | | | |
| Dinner  7:00 –  8:00 pm  7:30-8:00  Keynote Speaker | | **HIBISCUS A** | | | |
| **MC: Joe E. Vega**  Cameron County Parks and Rec Department Director  Former Mayor, City of Port Isabel | | | |
| **Lance Robinson**  Deputy of Coastal Fisheries  Texas Parks and Wildlife  Austin, TX | | | |
| **Friday, May 18, 2018**  *Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Strategic Planning* | | | | | |
| 8:30 -10:00 am | | **Estuary Program I – TBD**  Chair: Augusto Sanchez-Gonzales, MS, CFM  Director of Estuary, Environmental and Special Projects  UTRGV/Cameron County  Vice Chair: Iris Cantu, Assistant County Engineer  Cameron County | | | |
| *“The Lower Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Water Quality Initiative: Binational Efforts to Improve and Protect Water Quality in a Transboundary Watershed”*  **Roger M. Miranda**  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  Office of Water, Water Quality Planning Division  Total Maximum Daily Load Program (TMDL)  Austin, Texas  *“Evidence-based Guidelines for Microbial Source Tracking Projects”*  **Mauricio Laurenas**  Source Molecular Corporation  Miami, FL  *“Hydrologic Impact of Resacas on the Brownsville Ship Channel Water Quality”*  **Jessica Barrera and Melissa Vasquez**  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX | | | |
| BREAK  10:00 – 10:15 | | **HIBISCUS B** | | | |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** | | | |
| 10:15 – 12:30 | | **HIBISCUS A** | | | |
| *“Promoting Livability through Community Planning Activities”*  **Adele Cardenas Malott, P.E.**  Senior Policy Advisor  EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX  “Coastal Parks Improvements and County Universities Partnerships”  **Joe E. Vega**  Cameron County Parks and Rec Department Director  *“A Beginners Guide to Merging Science Communication and Phone Apps”*  **Phillip Lee**  NAS Gulf Research Program Policy Fellow  The Gulf of Mexico Program  U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  Atlanta, GA  *“The Five Major Resaca’s in Cameron County”*  **Herman Ramsden**  Research Assistant  College of Sciences  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX  *“Green Infrastructures Applicability for Turkey in the Context*  *of Climate Change and Urbanization”*  **Mert Tolon, PhD**  Civil Engineering  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX  &  **Enda Tolon**  College of Business  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX | | | |
| 12:30 pm | | **End of Conference** | | | |
| **Saturday, May 19, 2018**  *21st Annual WQ Management and Planning Conference* | | | | | |
| **SHRIMP HAUS – HOTEL RESTAURANT** | | | | | |
| ***Breakfast Workshop – Planning next year’s conference.*** | | | | | |

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**Office of the Dean**

**Ala Qubbaj, Ph.D., Interim Dean**

**College of Engineering & Computer Science**

**The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**

Dr. Qubbaj is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering who has been serving as the inaugural

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs & Diversity at UTRGV, before then he served in the same role at the legacy institution UTPA since 2009. He is currently the PI and Project Director for the UTRGV’s ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant funded by the National Science Foundation; which focuses on increasing the representation and advancement of women in STEM fields. In his capacity as Vice Provost, Dr. Qubbaj has established and cultivated several university-wide initiatives/programs to promote faculty recruitment, retention and success at all levels of their careers.

**Office of the Chair**

**Robert Jones, Ph.D., Interim Chair**

**Civil Engineering Department**

**College of Engineering & Computer Science**

**The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**

Born to El Paso natives serving overseas,  Bob became a permanent Texan when he came home to get his BS in Mechanical Engineering at Rice and MS and PhD at Texas A&M College Station.   After five years as a research engineer at Dow Chemical in Freeport and as a visiting professor at UT-San Antonio,  he and his wife Sheri made their way to the Valley in 1994 as he joined the newly formed engineering program at UTPA.  He was involved in the start up of the Civil Engineering program,  co-authoring the initial program proposal and curriculum and directing it until the first chair was recruited.    His research interests include most anything related to polymers and composites and has included everything from dental materials to railroad components.   He is the proud father of two college aged sons,  a junior mechanical engineer and an entering freshman biology/pre-med.

**David F. Garcia, P.E., Deputy Director**

Water Quality Protection Division

EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX

David Garcia serves as the Deputy Director for the Water Quality Protection Division at EPA's Region 6

office in Dallas, Texas. His responsibility includes protecting and preserving the aquatic ecosystems and water

resources of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, as well as the tribal lands located within

our Region. Prior to this position, David served as Acting Director for the Multimedia, Planning and Permitting

Division and Acting Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator in the Region’s Management Division. David

has 25 years of work experience in various environmental programs with the EPA where the majority of his

experience resides implementing the Clean Air Act in the air permitting and enforcement programs. He has a

degree in Civil Engineering and graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington. David enjoys his job and

is a strong proponent of the environment who promotes compliance with Federal environmental regulations.

**Nelly Smith**

Municipal Stormwater Coordinator

Permits and Technical Assistance Section

NPDES Permits and TMDLs Branch, EPA Region 6

Nelly Smithhas a master’s degree in Chemical Engineering from the *University of South Alabama*.  Nelly worked for the *Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)* as a Remedial Project Manager for both the Superfund and the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) programs for five years.  Since 2006, she has worked for the *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6* in the Water Quality Standard, Non-point Source, and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/Stormwater management programs. She is leading a watershed based permit project in the Middle Rio Grande, New Mexico initiated by the EPA Head Quarter - Office of Water. She is currently the Municipal Stormwater Coordinator for EPA Region 6.

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**Adele Cardenas Malott, P.E., Chemical Engineer**

Senior Policy Advisor, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX

Senior Policy Advisor to Water Quality Protection Division Director, specializing in US/Mexico activities along the Rio Grande. Providing support for the Regional Administrator’s Healthy Urban Water Initiative (HUWI), Urban Waters Federal Partnership and Strong Cities Strong Communities initiatives under the White House Commission for Environmental Quality and the Domestic Policy Council as the Region 6 lead coordinating in the Water Quality Division. I am the EPA representative for the Federal Coordinating Committee for the Rio Grande coordinated by former Congressman Reyes. Provide support to Deputy Regional Administrator in identifying and researching potential new innovative technologies and potential applications for use in Region 6 programs. Was the Regional representative for the Collaboration Practioners Network and liaison for the Regional Innovations Committee. I have over 27 years with the Environmental Protection Agency and approximately 3 years of Industrial experience.

Always pursuing opportunities to manage and provide scientific and engineering support to the Agency in more innovative manners with cross media application and energy savings where possible. Continue to provide input in new policy which impacts not only federal implementation but transferability to States and neighboring countries that benefit everyone impacted by environmental regulation. Continue to provide input toward community outreach in more innovation manners as well as incorporate University and local community leaders in developing site-specific creative centers available in multiple languages if necessary. Continue to coordinate with outside parties’ available resources not utilized by EPA in an innovative fashion. I possess a non-traditional use of my engineering skills to share science and new technologies in a creative means that involves all persons who may be touched by EPA programs across the country. I believe that I have the necessary qualifications and experience to successfully meet the new challenges brought about by the revolutionary changes in the field of science and engineering to fulfill the many opportunity at EPA. Graduate from Texas A&I University with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering 1986. A registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. A Life Member of the Society of Women Engineers and Past National Board Member of SWE.



**Curry Jones**

Chief of the State and Tribal Program Section

EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX

Mr. Curry Jones is Chief of the State and Tribal Program Section for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas. In this capacity, Mr. Jones provides funding to states and tribes to fund water quality planning, monitoring, modeling and implementation necessary to restore water quality. Over the past 20 years, Mr. Jones has served as both a water quality modeler, and a regional TMDL program manager for EPA’s Southeastern Regional Office (Atlanta, Georgia) and EPA’s Pacific Northwestern Office (Seattle, Washington). Mr. Jones received his Bachelors of Science degree in Biology from Wiley College, and his Masters of Science Degree in Public Health from the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

**Megan Amanatides**

ORISE Fellow

EPA Office of Research and Development

Megan Amanatides is an ORISE fellow with the Office of Research and Development at the U.S. EPA's RTP campus in Durham, NC. Her research primarily uses remote sensing technologies to study water quality. More specifically, Megan is part of the Cyanobacteria Assessment Network (CyAN) which is a multi-agency project that aims to use historical and current satellite data to detect and monitor algal blooms in U.S. freshwater systems. Megan completed her B.S. in Mathematics and Statistics from Meredith College in 2015 and her M.S. in Atmospheric Science from North Carolina State University in 2017. She began as an ORISE fellow in September of last year and will continue her fellowship as she begins her PhD in Geospatial Analytics at North Carolina State University this fall.

**Philip Lee**

NAS Gulf Research Program Policy Fellow

The Gulf of Mexico Program

Dr. Philip O. Lee is a current National Academy of Sciences policy fellow being hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Program. Prior to his fellowship, he recently graduated with his Ph.D. from the University of Alabama, Department of Biological Sciences. As a trained environmental microbiologist, he has explored topics that include excess nitrogen, extracellular enzymes, invasive species, and spatial and temporal patterns. During his free time he enjoys kayaking, hiking, cycling, fishing, gardening, and other activities that allow him to enjoy the outdoors. He additionally has a M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and a B.S.E from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh.



**Lindsay Garza**

Environmental Permit Specialist III

Stormwater & Pretreatment Team

Water Quality Division

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Lindsay has been working with TCEQ’s Stormwater and Pretreatment Team since November 2011, as an intern and then full-time team member since September 2012. As an Environmental Permit Specialist III, she is responsible for various tasks including reviewing municipal annual reports, providing customer service, and drafting individual stormwater discharge permits under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES). Lindsay earned a BS in Environmental Science and Policy, with a concentration in Biology, from St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas. She is currently pursuing her MAG in Resources and Environmental Studies from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. As an intern with TCEQ, both through the Mickey Leland Program and Texas State’s Graduate Partnership Program, Lindsay gained knowledge and experience in Texas law and policy, as well as TPDES permit processes and regulations.



**Kyle Girten**

Monitoring and Assessment Section Manager

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Kyle Girten has served as the Section Manager for the Monitoring and Assessment Section since December 2016. This section includes the Clean Rivers, Surface Water Quality Monitoring, Water Quality Standards, and Data Management and Analysis teams. These programs are responsible for the development of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (30 Texas Administrative Code §307) and the Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality as required by Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Mr. Girten has a Master of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas-Austin. He has a BS in Chemistry and a BA in Anthropology from Indiana University. He formerly managed the Nonpoint Source Team at TCEQ, and prior to that he worked as a quality assurance specialist and laboratory auditor.

**Tim Cawthon**

Natural Resources Specialist

NPS Program, Austin, TX

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Tim works for the TCEQ Nonpoint Source Program (NPS) and has been managing Clean Water Act Section 319(h) projects in the Lower Rio Grande Valley for over 7 years. He was Project Manager for the development of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) Update published in 2017 and is currently managing the development of additional WPPs within the Lower Laguna Madre Estuary including the Brownsville Ship Channel. Tim also serves as the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist for the NPS Program and has provided GIS technical support for multiple projects.

**Roger Miranda**

Water Quality Division

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Roger Miranda is a Geoscientist with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and a project manager in the TCEQ’s Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program. He has over 20 years of experience in water quality modeling and water quality planning. During his tenure with the TCEQ, Mr. Miranda led the development of over 32 TMDLs and 4 watershed-based plans for water bodies in Texas.  Much of Roger’s work has been on water bodies located in the US-Mexico Border Region.  Mr. Miranda is a licensed professional geoscientist in the State of Texas. He holds a Master of Science degree in Geosciences from the University of Texas at Dallas and a Bachelor of Science in Geology from the University of Texas at Arlington.



**Brian Koch**

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Regional Watershed Coordinator

Brian Koch received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Range and Wildlife Management from Texas A&M University Kingsville in 2003. After a short stint in the commercial nursery business, Brian joined the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board in 2005 as the Regional Watershed Coordinator serving TSSWCBs Wharton Regional Office service area covering 47 counties in Southeast and South Central Texas. As Regional Watershed Coordinator, Brian has aided in the development and implementation of several WPPs and TMDL I-plans, including; Plum Creek, Geronimo Creek, Mill Creek, Cedar Bayou, Double Bayou, Bacteria Implementation Group, Mission and Aransas Rivers, and Upper San Antonio River, and is currently assisting and has assisted in development and implementation of several more. Brian also represents the agency on the Coastal Coordination Advisory Council, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, and Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, and assists with the TSSWCB’s Water Quality Management Plan Program.

C:\Users\MEvans\Downloads\twdb-logo-w1_5in-4c.tif**Mireya Loewe**

Team Manager, South Region

Regional Water Project Development

Mireya Fernandez Loewe is the Manager of the South Region Team of the Regional Water Planning and Development Division at the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).  Prior to joining the TWDB, she was a public finance ratings analyst for the Moody’s Corporation. She came to the Moody’s Corporation after serving as program and project manager at the North American Development Bank.  Mireya received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso, an M.S. in Environmental Science and an M.S. in Management of Technology from the University Texas at San Antonio.mireya

**Kathleen Jackson,**

**Texas Water Development Board**

Kathleen Jackson was appointed to the Texas Water Development Board by Governor Rick Perry effective March 18, 2014, and appointed to a new term by Governor Greg Abbott effective December 15, 2015. Jackson has a diverse background representing agricultural, environmental, industrial, and wholesale-supply interests, which includes developing and implementing water management strategies for Southeast Texas. As a registered professional engineer, Jackson served as public affairs manager for one of the world's largest petroleum and petrochemical producers.

Additionally, she was involved in production agriculture with her late husband, who ran a cattle operation and farmed rice. She served as a past member of the Lower Neches Valley Authority Board of Directors, the Texas Water Conservation Association, and participated on the Sabine and Neches Rivers Bay and Estuary Environmental Flows Assessment Program Stakeholders Committee. She is also a board member and past president of the Lamar Institute of Technology Foundation, a sustaining member of the Junior League of Beaumont, a member of the Texas Farm Bureau, past president of the American Cancer Society of North Jefferson County, and a past board member of Junior Achievement of the Golden Triangle. Jackson received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from North Carolina State University. Jackson has three children, sixth-generation Texans, who all reside and work in Texas.

**Eddie Lucio III**

**State Representative, District # 38**



State Representative Eddie Lucio, III has served five terms representing Texas House District 38, covering the southwestern portion of Cameron County in the Texas Legislature. Before coming to the Texas House, he worked for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. He serves as Chair of the Rules and Resolutions Committee, and is a member of the Natural Resources Committee and Government Transparency and Operations Committee in the Texas House of Representatives. Rep. Lucio attended Texas Tech University on an athletic scholarship before receiving his BBA and law degree from the University of Texas. During his service in the Legislature, Representative Lucio has worked on legislation that is essential to the development and long-term interests of South Texas. He was instrumental in the creation of the University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley. He authored legislation to empower foster children by giving them a voice in their placement. He fought to secure passage and funding of the State Water Plan. Rep. Lucio has also authored and passed legislation creating cost-neutral pre-kindergarten for Cameron County school districts and has continued his work in keeping families and victims of domestic violence safe. During the 84th Legislative Session, Rep. Lucio passed legislation creating a regulatory system for the desalination of seawater to aide in securing Texas’ water future and secured the passage of his bill which banned shark finning in the state of Texas.

**Lance Robinson**

**Texas Parks & Wildlife – Coastal Fisheries Division**

Lance Robinson has worked for Texas Parks & Wildlife Department’s Coastal Fisheries Division for twenty-six years, first as the Galveston Bay Ecosystem Leader, then Regional Director for the upper Texas coast and currently as Deputy Division Director in Austin. During his career with the Coastal Fisheries Division he has been involved with fisheries independent and fisheries dependent monitoring programs for Texas’ marine resources and as Principal Investigator on several projects ranging from evaluating bycatch reduction devices on commercial shrimp vessels, synoptic surveys of non-indigenous aquatic species in tidal bayous of Houston, to framework development for oyster aquaculture programs in Texas. He established the Habitat Mapping and Oyster Restoration Program for TPWD (now the Habitat Assessment Team) which utilizes state-of-the-art side scan and habitat mapping sonar technology to map submerged bottoms of Texas inshore and offshore waters and coordinates oyster habitat restoration projects in Texas’ coastal bays. At present he is responsible for the operational management of the Division’s eight ecosystem field stations as well as three marine fish hatcheries located along the Texas coast and works on policy related issues for the Division. Prior to his employment with Texas Parks & Wildlife, Lance worked as research faculty at Auburn University’s Marine Research and Extension Center (Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquaculture) and was involved in several research efforts including pond and open-bay oyster mariculture projects, shrimp habitat assessment, and artificial reef monitoring. He holds a B.S. degree from Auburn University and a M.S. degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University/West Indies Laboratory, USVI.

**Jose Nunez, PE, Principal Engineer**

**International Boundary and Water Commission**

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Mr. Jose A. Nuñez was selected as one of two Principal Engineers for the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) in May 2014. He almost has 33 years of federal experience in design, construction, and program and project management. Approximately, 27 ½ of those years has been with the USIBWC and the rest with other federal agencies: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, and Fort Bliss, Texas. He has been a Lead Engineer or Supervisor since 2005. Mr. Nuñez holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. He is an active member of Chi Epsilon which is an honors society for Civil Engineers.

** Pete Phillips**

**Texas General Land Office, Sr. Deputy Director**

Pete is the son of an Air Force service member having spent his childhood in Europe, graduating from high school in England. He has a Bachelor’s Degree from Eastern New Mexico University and a Master’s Degree from the University of Texas’ McCombs School of Business in Technology Commercialization and currently enrolled at Harvard Business School’s General Management Program. In college, he served in several leadership positions, including president of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Pete currently serves as the Senior Deputy Director of Texas General Land Office’s “Community Development and Revitalization” Program Area. Pete leads the State of Texas’ Hurricane Harvey Short-Term Housing Program and the State’s Long-Term Disaster Recovery Program. His day-to-day duties include oversight of $9 Billion in Supplemental Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds that the State of Texas has received from the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to recover from major federally declared disasters such as Hurricane Rita, Ike, Dolly and Harvey, 2011 Wildfires, 2015/2016 Floods, and 2015 Resiliency Competition. These Federal Grants are used for housing, infrastructure and planning projects with a focus on resiliency; mitigating the severity of future disasters. Since January 2016, Pete has reviewed, analyzed, restructured, and renamed the “Disaster Recovery Program” to “Community Development and Revitalization” to more accurately represents the portfolio and missions performed and to eliminate public confusion statewide with the previous name “Disaster Recovery”. He continues the search for ways to build a more efficient and effective Community Development and Revitalization Program that best serves the cities, communities, counties, and people of the State of Texas.

**Stephen Tatum, Attorney**

**Former Deputy Commissioner to Commissioner Toby Baker, Texas Commission of Environmental Quality**

Stephen Tatum is former Deputy to Commissioner Toby Baker at the TCEQ.  For the past three and a half years, he has implemented along with Commissioner Baker the federal RESTORE Act in Texas.  Prior to that, he spent five years at the Texas Attorney General’s Office.

**Members of the LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force**

**Founded in 1998**



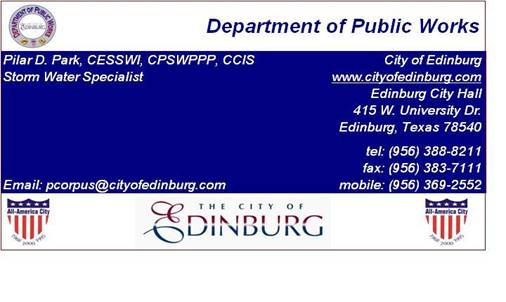
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**Cameron County**

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**THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY**

**TPDES STORMWATER TASK FORCE**

**The LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force.** In 1998, founded by Andrew Ernest and Javier Guerrero, a coalition of thirteen (13) Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) local governments joined to form the LRGV TPDES (Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Stormwater Task Force (TASK FORCE) in a joint effort to develop a proactive regional approach to comply with the TPDES Phase II Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) rules. The Task Force developed a regional stormwater management plan (SWMP) adopted by the membership. The SWMP includes Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are required as part of the six (6) Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) of the State’s TPDES program. **Today the TASK FORCE is comprised of seventeen (17) local governments sharing one regional SWMP.**

**Organization and Mission of the LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force**. The TASK FORCE project idea was born from a 1998 local stormwater brainstorming round table held in La Feria, Texas. Several preliminary meetings continued at various cities until the coalition was formally organized. Local government officials and qualified professionals representing various communities in the LRGV region attended these meetings. The group agreed to develop a way to achieve a regional SWMP to comply with the TPDES regulations. The group formalized the organization by contractually empowering TAMUK to facilitate the group and by developing a system of by-laws that included election of board members and officers.

The TASK FORCE uses a unique, collaborative regional approach to involve various levels of government, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in developing cost-effective solutions that will achieve compliance with the TPDES rules. The TASK FORCE project embodies the spirit of the mutually beneficial relationships between local governments and embellishes this relationship with academia and regulators. After nineteen (19) years, although the impact of this organization has translated into a regional collaboration movement not seen anywhere else in the State, the overall impact of this organization has yet to be fully realized. The primary goal of the TASK FORCE project in 1998 was to develop and implement a regional SWMP to comply with Phase II regulations. In 2002, TASK FORCE participants began entering into local government interlocal agreements with TAMUK, which outlined the desire to address stormwater quality issues on a regional basis and named TAMUK as its facilitator. In executing these interlocal agreements, emphasis was placed on developing programs that study existing successful programs, addressing community goals, providing technical assistance and training, and promoting regional approaches.

In 2006, the TASK FORCE modified its mission to include stormwater quality management approaches to address broader water quality and watershed issues, particularly those associated with the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership (ACWP), a local Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)-related organization. The TASK FORCE project has already enjoyed side benefits of increased communication and cooperation, and created a collaborative process for discussing water quality issues in the LRGV’s four-county region. In addition, this collaboration and others like it, has enabled the participating communities to successfully secure many grant funding opportunities since the TASK FORCE’s inception. Academic researchers and faculty provided facilitation and management assistance for the TASK FORCE project, initiating this effort through a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, other grants, and from annual membership fees collected from the member-local-governments. The funds provide resources for staff to facilitate the group’s efforts in formulating TASK FORCE project goals and developing TASK FORCE programs. Funds, in part, are also used to host workshops, expert panel discussions, conferences, seminars and training sessions.

In 2008, during a TASK FORCE meeting held in Mission, TX, the organization formed several committees: ordinance, grant, scholarship, outreach, training, housekeeping, construction, and others. The TASK FORCE worked closely with the committees in developing the SWMPs by responding to recommendations and suggestions posed by these committees. Recently, these committees have been replaced with work groups which now work with researchers in facilitating the organization and implementing the SWMPs. One key workgroup, responsiblefor luring millions of dollars worth of grant funding to the Valley, is the Low Impact Development (LID) workgroup. The LRGV LID Outreach, Education and Demonstration program is a highly regarded project in the region that resulted from collaboration efforts within this workgroup.

**New Paradigm.** The new stormwater paradigm presents many questions to local governments in the LRGV. What is a stormwater management program, what will it cost, who will fund the program, is it needed, and how much will it cost? The TASK FORCE realizes a regional program is a key part of a successful regional storm water program. But, regulators and academia do not have a firm grasp of the costs associated with developing and implementing such a program. Although the average citizen often takes for granted the services municipalities provide, the stormwater services are nonetheless expected. The region now requires that local governments provide a stormwater runoff pollution protection service. This new paradigm requires the development of infrastructure and funding strategies to support providing this service.

**Storm Water Quality is Now a Municipal Responsibility.** This is not the first time local governments have been confronted with environmental water quality regulations that affect the manner that cities allocate funds. TMDL regulations recently started developing new performance measures for local governments, and LRGV communities have become very familiar with the Arroyo Colorado TMDL studies. Based on these studies, the drafters of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan (ACWPP), which included members of the Task Force, concluded that urban stormwater runoff is contributing to the impairment of the Arroyo Colorado. Thus, the timing of the formation of the Task Force could not have been better. Local governments typically tend to procrastinate when it comes to addressing non- mandated environmental issues, usually because of lack of resources and lack of expertise and understanding rather than due to a non-proactive attitude. Still, finding funds to implement a regional SWMP program is a huge responsibility for any local government. Cost effectiveness and revenue potential were major considerations for our local governments when developing this Task Force.

In the LRGV, the communities share similar demographics and similar environmental concerns. Most residents live in low- or fixed-income households and cannot afford to pay fees to support the environmental-related requirements. Thus, there is a strong case for any type of collaboration that would keep costs down. In the LRGV, each community is contiguous to other communities, with some cities bordered by four (4) other cities. Thus, the LRGV appears as one urbanized metropolitan region. Although all these communities experience similar TPDES stormwater problems, none had in place a TPDES stormwater program or related ordinance. Since the creation of the TASK FORCE, stormwater tasks were generally viewed as “add-on” responsibilities for departments and staff that have other primary responsibilities. To varying degrees, with the exception of McAllen and Brownsville, the communities had existing staff (such as sanitary sewer, code enforcement, or road department personnel) handling stormwater operations, maintenance, regulation and enforcement. None of the communities could maintain a person, much less a department, to handle stormwater administration, planning, design, and engineering; water quality planning and monitoring; and capital improvements and expenditures. The regional approach taken by the TASK FORCE allows the LRGV communities to share these responsibilities, which results in a much more cost-effective program for addressing stormwater issues. Also realized in time, the TASK FORCE network provides a vitally important link to these small communities when new employees take on storm water related duties after key employee turnover. **The TASK FORCE project will recognize its twentieth (20th) year of existence in 2018, and the organization is determined to continue evolving and to continue strengthening its partnership in the future.**

**Transition from TAMUK to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV).** In September 2016, the TASK FORCE decided to move its operation from TAMUK to UTRGV, a move that will be complete by July 2017. Moving the operation to a more local venue assures daily availability of resources and support to the TASK FORCE from the College of Engineering & Computer Science, the Civil Engineering Department and the UT System. With locations in Brownsville and Edinburg, UTRGV is poised to assist the TASK FORCE to achieve higher levels of success.