

**Research, Applied Technology, Education and Services (RATES) – Research and Education Institute**

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| Rio Grande Valley  P.O. Box 697  Edinburg TX 78540  (956) 609-9060  [conference@ratesrgv.org](mailto:conference@ratesrgv.org) | New York State  P.O. Box 843  Potsdam, NY 13676  315-261-4369 |

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

Headquarters:

1390 West Expressway 77 San Benito, TX 78586

(956) 609-9060

conference@ratesrgv.org

**LRGV-TPDES Storm Water Task Force Board of Directors**

**Jose Hinojosa, REM, Chair**

General Manager

Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15

**Jose Figueroa, Vice-Chair**

Public Works Director

City of Mercedes

**Zenaida Guerrero, BSAE, MS, Secretary**

Graduate Engineer

City of Weslaco

*RATES and RATES/RGV are 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profits chartered in Texas and formed to promote and coordinate the collaborative and cooperative use of technology by and among colleges, high schools, community school districts, public and school libraries, health care facilities, government offices, businesses, health and educational professionals other educational and community services organizations and community residents for the benefit of the collaborating organizations, their clients, and community residents of the Rio Grande Valley.*





*Lower Rio Grande Valley*

21st Annual Water Quality Management &

Planning Conference

**Program**

**May 19 - 25, 2019**

## Pearl Hotel and Resort South Padre Island, Texas

###### [www.pearlsouthpadre.com](http://www.pearlsouthpadre.com)



| **research, applied technology, education and service, inc. (RATES)** | **our founder** |
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| ***RATES BOARD MEMBERS***      ***Andrew Ernest Dave Bonner Javier Guerrero Talissa Altes***  ***RATES OFFICERS AND STAFF***  **A person smiling for the camera  Description automatically generated**  ***Patrick O’Brien Jodi Lees, CFO Amber La Fountain Chris Fuller***  ***COO CFO Project Manager CR&DO***    A picture containing wall, clothing  Description automatically generated  ***Dr. William Kirkey Peter Kirkey, Samantha Robert***  ***Lead research Engineer Research Technician Communications Specialist***  ***LRGV TPDES STORMWATER TASK FORCE STAFF***        ***Deanna M. LeVrier Augusto Sanchez Gonzalez, MS, CFM Ahmed Mahmoud, Ph.D.***  ***Program Manager Researcher Researcher*** | James S. Bonner  The Late President and CEO of RATES  August 26,1955 – March 27, 2019  Jim Bonner incorporated RATES in Texas on February 8th, 2005. The non-profit was formed to promote and coordinate the collaborative and cooperative use of technology by and among colleges, highschools, community school districts, public and school libraries, health care facilities, government offices, businesses, health and educational professionals other educational and community services organizations and community residents. Jim returned to his home state of New York and ran RATES from Potsdam, N.Y. for over a dozen years. In 2018, Jim and two of his fellow Board Members, Javier Guerrero and Andrew Ernest, created the RATES dba RATES/RGV to provide these services to the Rio Grande Valley. The Stormwater Task Force began at Texas A&M Kingsville, then moved to UTRGV, is now is part of RATES/RGV and will continue to serve the Rio Grande Valley for many years to come.    Jim started his career in academics at SUNY Plattsburg before accepting a position at Texas A&M University in College Station, where he would eventually become a Full Professor. Jim served as the Director of the Conrad Blucher Institute at Texas A&M, Director of SERF (Shoreline Environmental Research Facility) in Corpus Christi, Director of Research at the Clarkson University's Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries in New York State, and as the late President/CEO of RATES (Research Applied Technology Education and Service, Inc.).    Jim lost a long battle with cancer which he fought valiantly for at least six years.  Jim’s vision, drive and charm will be sorely missed by his fellow Board Members, colleagues’, staff, friends, current and former students and of course his family, as well as by the many entities he has worked with over the years. May our brother, friend and mentor rest in peace. |



May 19, 2019

Greetings,

*LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force*

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| **Sunday, May 19, 2019 – Pre-Conference Activities**  *United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – HEC-RAS Modeling Course* | | | | | |
| 7:30 AM | **Course I**  **Course I**  **Course I**  **Course I** | **FOYER** | | | |
| **Registration** | | | |
| 8:00 – 5:00 | **SAND DUNES A** | | | |
| **HEC – RAS Course**  **Brian Hall – Instructor**  **USACE** | | | |
| **Monday, May 20, 2019 – Pre-Conference Activities**  *United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – HEC-RAS Modeling Course and NPDES Stormwater Municipal Inspection Certification Course.* | | | | | |
| 7:30-8:00 | **Course I**  **and**  **Course II** | **FOYER** | | | |
| **Registration** | | | |
| 8:00-5:00 | **SAND DUNES A** | | **SAND DUNES C** | |
| **HEC-RAS Course**  **Brian Hall – Instructor**  **USACE** | | **NPDES Course**  **Paul E. Davis – Instructor**  **NPDES** | |
| **Tuesday, May 21, 2019 – Pre-Conference Activities**  *United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – HEC-RAS Modeling Course, NPDES Stormwater Municipal Inspection Certification Course, and Grants Workshop* | | | | | |
| 7:30-8:00 | **Course I,**  **Course II**  **and**  **Course III** | **FOYER** | | | |
| **Registration** | | | |
| 8:00-12:00 | **SAND DUNES D** | **SAND DUNES A** | | **SAND DUNES C** |
| **“Where to Find Funding for your Project -**  **Grants Workshop”**  facilitated by  **Adele Cardenas-Malott, P.E.**  USEPA, Dallas, TX  Senior Policy Advisor &  **Zuleika K. Morales-Romero**  San Antonio Field Office Director  U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development | **HEC-RAS Course**  **Brian Hall – Instructor**  **USACE** | | **NPDES Course**  **Paul E. Davis – Instructor**  **NPDES** |

*P.O. Box 697*

*Edinburg TX 78540*

*(956) 609-9060*

On behalf of the LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force, along with RATES/RGV and our partners, welcome to the 21st Annual *Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Quality Management & Planning Conference.* The Task Force is pleased to lead the planning and delivery of this annual event.

Our conference 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 2019 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,



Jose Hinojosa, Chair

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| **Wednesday, May 22, 2019 (cont.)**  *Plenary – Welcome, Conference Themes, Technical Sessions* | | |
| Group (cont.)  Session 0  8:30-8:40  8:40-9:10    9:10-9:30  **Plenary Keynot**e  **9:30 am** | *“Overview of ASCE Activities”*  **Humberto Lopez, P.E.**  ASCE RGV Chapter  Lower Rio Grande Valley, TX  *“Overview of the 2019 Small MS4 General Permit (TXR040000) and Stormwater Management Program Preparation”*  **Rebecca L. Villalba**  Stormwater Team Leader  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  Austin, TX  *“USEPA Region 6 Water Division Updates”*  **Adele Cardenas**  USEPA Region 6  Senior Policy Advisor  Dallas, TX  **KATHLEEN JACKSON**  Texas Water Development Board  Board Member  Austin, TX | |
| Break  10:00-10:15 | **FOYER** | |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** | |
| 10:15–11:00  Focus Group  ***(separate registration required)*** | **SAIL FISH** | **White Marlin** |
| **STORMWATER 101 –**  **Decision-Making for Executives and Elected Officials**  **Workshop by NPDES Inc.** | **Roundtable**  **KATHLEEN JACKSON**  **Texas Water Development Board**  **Board Member**  **Austin, TX**  **(by invitation only)** |
| Group  Session I 10:15-12:00 | **SAND DUNES A, B, C, D** | |
| **Stormwater I – Stormwater Management**  Chair: David Salinas, Utility Manager, City of San Juan  Vice Chair: Robert Valenzuela, Stormwater Specialist, City of Edinburg | |
| *“Texas Department of Transportation’s Role in Stormwater Management”*  **Pedro Alvarez, P.E., District Engineer**  Texas Department of Transportation  Pharr, TX  *“The Pervious Concrete Pavements: An Innovative and Sustainable Stormwater Management Strategy”*  **Liv Haselbach, Ph.D., P.E., LEED**  Professor and Chair – Civil Engineering  Lamar University  Beaumont, TX  *“Overview of the Stormwater Construction General Permit (TXR150000)”*  **Macayla Coleman**  Environmental Permit Specialist  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  Austin, TX | |

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| **Tuesday, May 21, 2019 – Pre-Conference Activities (cont.)**  *United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – HEC-RAS Modeling Course, NPDES Stormwater Municipal Inspection Certification Course* | | | |
| 12:00-1:00 | **Lunch**  **Keynote**  **Speaker** | **SAND DUNES A, B, C, D** | |
| *“Welcome”*  **José Hinojosa, REM**  General Manager, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15 &  Chairperson LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force | |
| **Andrew Ernest, P.E., Ph.D.**  Board Member  Research, Applied Technology, Education and Service, Inc. (RATES)  Potsdam, NY/Edinburg, TX | |
| 1:00-5:00 | **Course 1**  **and**  **Course 2** | **SAND DUNES B** | **SAND DUNES C** |
| **HEC-RAS Course**  **Brian Hall – Instructor**  **USACE** | **NPDES Course**  **Paul E. Davis – Instructor**  **NPDES** |
| 6:00-7:00 | **Evening**  **Events** | **FOYER** | |
| Conference Early Registration | |
| 5:30-7:30 | **SAIL FISH** | |
| **RATES, INC. PLANNING MEETING** | |
| 6:30-7:30 |  | **EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM** | |
| High School Track Volunteer Meeting | |
| 7:30-9:00 | **Dinner** | **BEACHSIDE BAR AND GRILL – THE PEARL RESTAURANT** | |
| **EPA/Task Force/RATES Networking Event** | |
| ***Conference begins.*** | | | | **FOYER** |
| **Wednesday, May 22, 2019**  *Plenary – Welcome, Conference Themes, Technical Sessions* | | | | **Registration** |
| 7:00-8:30am | **SAND DUNES A, B, C, D** | | |
| **Breakfast** | | |
| Plenary  Group  Session 0  8:00-10:00 am  8:00-8:05  8:05-8:10  8:10-8:25 | **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”*  **José Hinojosa, REM**  General Manager  Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15  Chairperson LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force  *“Welcome”*  ***Jungseok Ho, P.E., Ph.D.***  Incoming Chair  Civil Engineering Department  University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX/Brownsville, TX  *“The LRGV Stormwater TPDES Task Force – History and Beyond”*  **Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE**  Board Member  Research, Applied Technology, Education and Service, Inc. (RATES)  Potsdam, NY/Edinburg, TX | | |

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| **Wednesday, May 22, 2019 (cont.)**  *Lunch, Keynote Speaker, Technical Sessions* | | |
| Lunch  12:00-1:00  **Keynote Speaker** | **SAND DUNES A, B, C, D** | |
| **MC: Name**  **Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15**  General Manager  Chairperson LRGV TPDES Storm Water Task Force | |
| **SID MILLER**  Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner  Austin, TX | |
| Group  Session II  1:00-3:00 | | **SAND DUNES A, B, C, D** |
| **Stormwater II-Stormwater Topics**  Chair: Megan Meidel, Stormwater Manager, Town of Combes  Vice Chair: Robert Escobar, City Planner, City of San Juan |
| *“A Call to Arms – Responding to Flooding in the Rio Grande Valley (June 2018)”*  **Alan Stanton, P.E. – Halff Associates**  **Josh Logan P.E. – Halff Associates**  **Jeff Underwood – City Manager, City of Alton**  *“Creative Consulting – Common Sense Solutions to the Most*  *Common Stormwater Issues”*  **Charles “Dude” Hall**  Regional Environmental Manager  Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc.  McAllen, TX  *“NPS Program in Coastal Texas”*  **Jason Pinchback**  Manager, Water Resources Program  Texas General Land Office  Austin, TX |
| Break  3:00-3:15 | | **FOYER** |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** |
| Group  Session III 3:15-500 | | **SAND DUNES A, B, C, D** |
| **Stormwater III – General and Funding Topics**  Chair: Velinda Reyes, Office of Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County  Vice Chair: Zenaida Guerrero, AEBS, MS, Engineer I, City of Weslaco |
| *“Watershed Based Resource Planning and Barriers to Effective Implementation of Watershed Protection Plans”*  **Mike Bira**  NPS Program Manager  U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  Dallas, TX  *“Opportunity Zones - New White House Initiative”*  **Adele Cardenas-Malott, P.E.**  USEPA Region 6  Senior Policy Advisor  Dallas, TX |

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| **Wednesday, May 22, 2019 (cont.)**  *Dinner, Networking and Technical Sessions* | | |
| Group (cont.)  Session III 3:15-500 | *“The First ‘One Water’ School in Texas”*  **Nick Dornak**  Director of Watershed Services  The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University  San Marcos, TX | |
| Social  5:00-6:00 | **BEACHSIDE BAR AND GRILL – THE PEARL RESTAURANT** | |
| **Networking/Fellowship**  **Sponsored by Hollis Rutledge & Associates, Inc.** | |
| Dinner  6:00-8:30  Keynote Speaker | **MC: Deanna Gomez LeVrier**  Program Manager  LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force | |
| **HONORABLE ERNEST ALISEDA**  Former Board of Regents  The University of Texas System | |
| **Thursday, May 23, 2019**  *Conference Themes, Technical Sessions, Keynote Speaker* | | |
| 7:00-noon | | **FOYER** |
| **Registration** |
| 7:00-830am | | **SAND DUNES A, B, C, D** |
| **Breakfast** |
| Group  Session IV  8:00-10:00 | | **SAND DUNES C** |
| **Stormwater IV – Stormwater Regulatory Topics**  Chair: Patrick O’Brien, COO, RATES, Inc., Potsdam, NY  Vice Chair: Bernard Rodriguez, Director, Planning & Development, City of San Benito |
| *“EPA Ag Initiatives and Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Update”*  **Randall Rush**  USEPA Region 6  Agriculture Policy Advisor  Dallas, TX  *“TCEQ TPDES Multi Sector Permit Program”*  **Rebecca L. Villalba**  Stormwater Team Leader  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  Austin, TX  *“New Designs for Low-Cost Submersible Optical Water – Quality Sensors”*  **Bill Kirkey**  Research Engineer  Research, Applied Technology, Education and Service, Inc. (RATES)  Colton, NY |
| Break  10:00-10:15 | | **FOYER** |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** |

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| **Thursday, May 23, 2019 (cont.)**  *Conference Themes, Technical Sessions, Keynote Speaker* | | |
| Break  3:00-3:15 | **FOYER** | |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** | |
| 3:15-5:00 pm | **SAND DUNES C** | |
| **Stormwater V– Public Works**  Chair: Paolina Vega, P.E., County Engineer Cameron County  Vice Chair: Honorable Eduardo Gonzales, Willacy County Commissioner | |
| *“Remediation of Urban compacted Soils to Improve Turfgrass Establishment and Infiltration”*  **Jihoon Kang, Ph.D.**  Assistant Professor  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX  *“Texas Coastal Zone and Lower Rio Grande Valley On-Site Sewage Facility Geodatabase”*  **Gabriele Bonaiti, Ph.D.**  Extension Program Specialist  TAMU  College Station, TX  *“Funding Non-Traditional Projects Utilizing Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Other Federal Regulation’s Eligibilities”*  **Salvador Gandara**  Community Infrastructure Section  U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  Dallas, TX | |
| Social  7:00-10:00 pm | **THE PEARL RESORT OUTDOOR PATIO** | |
| LUAU – Networking and Social  **Sponsored by Hollis Rutledge and Associates, Inc.**  **Music by Pearl Resort DJ** | |
| **Friday, May 24, 2019 (cont.)**  *Conference Final Activities* | | |
| Lunch  12:00-1:00  **HE PEARL RESORT OUTDOOR PATIO**  **MC: Name**  Title  Organization | | **SAND DUNES A, B, C, D** |
| **Undergraduate Poster Awards**  **Graduate Poster Awards**  **High School Awards**  **Scholarship Presentations** |
| Focus Group  1:30 – 2:30 | | Planning Meeting  (by invitation only)  **“Lower Rio Grande Valley Water and Wastewater Laboratory and Training Facility”**  TSTC, EEDC, Cameron County, RATES/RGV and TWC |
| **2 Day Weekend Giveaway – Pearl Hotel and Resort (3 pm)** | | |
| **END OF TECHNICAL SESSIONS** | | |

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| **Thursday, May 23, 2019 (cont.)**  *Conference Themes, Technical Sessions, Keynote Speaker* | | |
| Group  Session V  10:15-12:00 | | **SAND DUNES C** |
| **Stormwater V – Watershed Protection Topics**  Chair: Velinda Reyes, Office of Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County  Vice Chair: Zenaida Guerrero, AEBS, MS, Engineer I, City of Weslaco |
|  | | *“Watershed Protection Plans in the Lower Rio Grande Valley”*  **Tim Cawthon**  NPS Project Manager  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Austin, TX  *“Feral Hogs: History of Introduction in US, and Challenges to*  *Watershed and Water Quality Management”*  **Adrian Chavarria**  Environmental Engineer/Project Manager  U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Dallas, TX  *“Texas Stream Team Ripirian Bull’s Eye*  *Evaluation Citizen Scientist Training Program”*  **Alexander Neal**  Water Resource Specialist  The Meadows Center for Water and The Environment at Texas State University  San Marcos, TX |
| Lunch  12:00-1:00  **Keynote Speaker** | | **SAND DUNES A, B, C, D** |
| **MC: Name**  **Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15**  General Manager  Chairperson LRGV TPDES Storm Water Task Force |
| **GLENN HEGAR**  Comptroller of Public Accounts  Austin, TX |
| Group  Session VI  1:00-3:00 | **SAND DUNES C** | |
| **Stormwater VI – Water Topics**  Chair: Melisa Gonzales, Project Manager City of Alamo  Vice Chair: Miriam Cepeda, Governmental Affairs, City of Edinburg | |
| *“Dune Development on the Mississippi Gulf Coast:*  *Planning Challenges & Resilience Benefits”*  **Michelle Culver**  Natural Resource Specialist, Texas General Land Office  Austin, Texas  *“Utilizing Geographic Information Systems for Regional Watershed-Based Planning”*  **Tim Cawthon**  NPS Program Manager  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  Austin, TX  *“Update on Hidalgo County Northern &Central Watershed Protection Plan Project funded by the TCEQ NPS Clean Water Act Chapter 319 Program”*  **Ahmed Mahmoud, Ph.D.**  Watershed Coordinator  University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX | |

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| **Thursday, May 23, 2019 (Separate Registration required)**  *United States Army Corps of Engineers Science and Engineering Collaborative 2019: Symposium Themes, Technical Sessions*  *Welcome, Guest Speakers, Key Topics and Keynote Speakers* | |
| USACE (cont.)  Group  Session II  10:15-12:00 | Texas General Land Office  **Jet Hay**  Deputy Director of Integration  Community Development and Revitalization  Texas General Land Office  **Tyler Payne**  Research, Training and Development.  United States Environmental Protection Agency  **Adele Cardenas-Malott**  Senior Policy Advisor |
| Lunch  12:00-1:00  Keynote Speaker | **SAND DUNES A, B, C, D** |
| **MC: Name**  **Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15**  General Manager, Chairperson LRGV TPDES Storm Water Task Force |
| **GLENN HEGAR**  Comptroller of Public Accounts  Austin, TX |
| USACE  Group  Session III  1:00-3:00 pm | **SAND DUNES A, B** |
| **USACE Symposium III – LRGV Hydrology, Drainage & Flood Management**  Chair: Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE UTRGV  Vice-Chair: Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15, Chairperson Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Storm Water Task Force |
| **Jungseok Ho**, Ph.D., P.E.  Associate Professor, UTRGV  **Augusto Sanchez-Gonzalez**,  Director of Estuary Program, Cameron County  **Abdoul Oubeidillah,**  Assistant Professor, UTRGV  Hidalgo County Drainage District #1. **Raul E. Sesin**. P.E., General Manager  Cameron County Drainage District #1. **Albert Barreda**, Chief of Operations General Manager  Willacy County Drainage District #1. **Paul Greenhill**, District Manager; **Anna Aldridge**, Hanson Engineering  River & Estuary Observation Network. **Christopher Fuller**, Ph.D., Research, Applied, Technology, Education and Service, Inc.  Opportunities for Leveraging Private Sector Investments. General Introduction to  LNG and the Annova Project  **Maribel Guerrero**, MPA  Alderwoman, Town of Rancho Viejo & President Bermudez & Associates, LLC  Public Relations Specialist, ANNOVA LNG |
| Break  3:00-3:15 | **FOYER** |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** |

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| **Thursday, May 23, 2019 (Separate Registration required)**  *United States Army Corps of Engineers Science and Engineering Collaborative 2019: Symposium Themes, Technical Sessions*  *Welcome, Guest Speakers, Key Topics and Keynote Speakers* | |
| 7:00-9:00am | **FOYER** |
| **Registration** |
| 7:00-8:30am | **SAND DUNES A, B** |
| **Breakfast** |
| USACE  Group  Session I  9:00 – 10:00 | **SAND DUNES A, B** |
| **USACE Symposium I – Plenary: Intros, Overview & Landscape Assessment**  Chair: Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE UTRGV  Vice-Chair: Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15, Chairperson Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Storm Water Task Force |
| **Welcome & Introductions**.  Andrew Ernest, Ph.D., P.E.  Professor of Civil Engineering, UTRGV  *“USACE Watershed Assessments: Objectives. Process & Example”*  **Dr. Edmond J. Russo Jr.**  Deputy District Engineer, Programs and Project Management  Galveston District, USACE  *“Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014, Currently open through August 16. Report to*  *Congress on Future Water Resources Development. Identifying large, regional projects for potential congressional authorization”*  **Lisa Mairs**  Program Manager for planning assistance to the States (PAS) and Continuing Authority Program (CAP)  Galveston District, USACE  *“Synopsis of LRGV Water Roles, Responsibilities, Issues & Opportunities”*  (Presentation by LRGVDC and Discussion)  Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. **Ron Garza**, Executive Director  Cameron County, **David A. Garza**, Commissioner, Precinct 3  Hidalgo County, **David L. Fuentes**, Commissioner, Precinct 1  Hidalgo County, **Ellie Torres**, Commissioner, Precinct 4  Willacy County, **Eduardo Gonzales**, Commissioner, Precinct 4 |
| Break  10:00-10:15 | **FOYER** |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** |
| USACE  Group  Session II  10:15-12:00 | **SAND DUNES A, B** |
| **USACE Symposium II – Overview & Technical Sessions**  Chair: Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE UTRGV  Vice-Chair: Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15, Chairperson Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Storm Water Task Force |
| *“State Water Resource Management Programs, Examples & Opportunities for the*  *LRGV Agency Leadership. (Program Staff from relevant Agencies to participate in Day 2 Local Issues Breakouts & Bringing It Together Regionally Brainstorming Sessions to connect need with Opportunities)”*  Texas Water Development Board  **Kathleen Jackson**  Board Member  Austin, TX |

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| **Thursday, May 23, 2019 (Separate Registration required)**  *United States Army Corps of Engineers Science and Engineering Collaborative 2019: Symposium Themes, Technical Sessions*  *Welcome, Guest Speakers, Key Topics and Keynote Speakers* | |
| USACE  Group  Session IV  3:15-5:00 | **SAND DUNES A, B** |
| **USACE Symposium IV – Federal Water Resource Management Programs, Tools & Technology Available for Addressing Issues**  Chair: Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE UTRGV  Vice-Chair: Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15, Chairperson Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Storm Water Task Force |
| U.S. Housing and Urban Development - **Zuleika Morales Ramos**  USHUD Field Office Director, San Antonio, TX  U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center (ERDC) Tools -**Elissa Yeates**,  USACE, Galveston, TX  Federal Emergency Management Agency -**Michael Ku**  Long Term Mitigation Advisor, Austin, TX  Federal Emergency Management Agency - **Tesse Kofahl**  Group Supervisor Integrated Recovery Coordination,Austin, TX  US Geological Survey (USGS) - **Kristine Blickenstaff**, P.E.,  Branch Chief-North Texas Program, Fort Worth, TX  National Weather Service (NWS) - **Barry Goldsmith**  Warning Coordination Hydrologist, Brownsville, Lower Rio Grande Valley, TX |
| Social  7:00-10:00 pm | **THE PEARL RESORT OUTDOOR PATIO** |
| LUAU – Networking and Social  **Sponsored by Hollis Rutledge and Associates, Inc.**  **Music by Pearl Resort DJ** |
| **Friday, May 24, 2019 (Separate Registration required)**  *United States Army Corps of Engineers Science and Engineering Collaborative 2019: Symposium Themes, Technical Sessions*  *Welcome, Guest Speakers, Key Topics and Keynote Speakers* | |
| 7:00-9:00am | **FOYER** |
| **Registration** |
| 7:00-8:30am | **SAND DUNES A, B** |
| **Breakfast** |
| USACE  Group  Session V  9:00 – 10:00  9:30 | **SAND DUNES A, B** |
| **USACE Symposium V – Plenary II: Overview**  Chair: Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE UTRGV  Vice-Chair: Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15, Chairperson Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Storm Water Task Force |
| USACE **Projects & Programs**: Process for Identifying & Applying for Federal Support, **Lisa Mairs**, Program Manager for planning assistance to the States (PAS) and Continuing Authority Program (CAP), Galveston District, USACE.  **Introduction of Plenary Speaker** Office of Senator John Cornyn, **Ana-Maria Garcia**, Regional Director  **Keynote Speaker –**  **Jayne Harkins, P.E., USIBWC Commissioner** |

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| **Friday, May 24, 2019 (Separate Registration required)**  *United States Army Corps of Engineers Science and Engineering Collaborative 2019: Symposium Themes, Technical Sessions*  *Welcome, Guest Speakers, Key Topics and Keynote Speakers* | |
| Break  10:00-10:15 | **FOYER** |
| **Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters** |
| USACE  Group  Session VI  10:15-12:00 | **SAND DUNES A, B** |
| **USACE Symposium VI – Issue Prioritization, Formulation & Steps Forward**  Chair: Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE UTRGV  Vice-Chair: Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15, Chairperson Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Storm Water Task Force |
| **Local Issues Breakouts**: Synopsis of Issues, Projects, Needs at an Urban-Level  that can be Integrated to Refine the Regional Need, Connections with State &  Federal Opportunities Are There Local Projects/Needs That Can Be Addressed  Short-Term? Are There Local Projects/Needs That Are Best Rolled into a  Larger, Regional Initiative?   * 1. Hidalgo County (USACE facilitator)      1. HCDD#1      2. Edinburg      3. Mercedes      4. Pharr      5. Weslaco   2. Cameron County (USACE facilitator)      1. CCDD#1      2. Brownsville      3. Harlingen      4. South Padre Island   3. Willacy County (USACE facilitator and USIBWC Commissioner)      1. WCDD#1      2. Port Mansfield      3. Raymondville      4. San Perlita   **Bringing it Together Regionally**: Brainstorming (Post-It)   * 1. Local-to-Regional Issue Correlation: Are there Local Issues Best Managed Regionally?   2. Regional Gap Analysis: What are the Knowledge/Data Gaps?   3. Issue Identification/Prioritization: Are there Regional Issues that can be Addressed Short Term? Which ones Need a Long-Term Strategy?   4. Action Item Identification/Prioritization   5. Open Discussion   6. Next Steps |
| Lunch  12:00-1:00  **Keynote Speaker** | **SAND DUNES A, B, C, D** |
| **MC: Name**  **Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15**  General Manager  Chairperson LRGV TPDES Storm Water Task Force |
| **Julian Alvarez III**  Commissioner Representing Labor  Austin, TX |

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| **Friday, May 24, 2019 (Separate Registration required)**  Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Partnership: Board of Directors Meeting  Welcome, Guest Speakers | |
| LLMEP  Group  Session I  7:30: 9:00 am | **SAND DUNES C** |
| Chair: Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley |
|  | ***Call Meeting to Order***  ***Introduction of Board of Directors/Guests***  ***Presentations:***  *Lower Laguna Madre Watershed-Based Planning Efforts”*  **Tim Cawthon**  NPS Project Manager  **&**  **Emily Fort**  NPS Project Manager  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  Austin, TX  *“What’s Going On In the LLM Estuary”*  **Douglas Jacobson**  Gulf of Mexico Program Regional Program Manager  National Estuary Program Regional Program Manager  EPA Region 6  Dallas, TX  *“Lower Laguna Madre/Brownsville Ship Channel Watershed Protection Plan”*  **Augusto Sanchez Gonzalez**  Director of Estuary, Environmental and Special Projects  Cameron County  San Benito, TX  **Adjourn** |
| **2 Day Weekend Giveaway – Pearl Hotel and Resort (3 pm)** | |
| **END OF SESSION – LAGUNA MADRE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP** | |

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

**Founded in 1998**

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**City of Edcouch**

Taskforce Representatives

Victor Hugo De La Cruz

**City of Elsa**

Taskforce Representatives

J.J. Ybarra

Delmira Yanez

***www.cityofelsa.net***

**City of Edinburg**

Taskforce Representatives

Robert Valenzuela

***www.cityofedinburg.com***

**Hidalgo County Pct. 1**

Taskforce Representatives

Saul Garcia

***www.hidalgocounty.us***

**Hidalgo County Pct. 4**

Taskforce Representatives

Velinda Reyes

***www.hidalgocounty.us***

**City of La Feria**

Taskforce Representatives

Jaime Sandoval

Juan Ortiz

***www.cityoflaferia.com***

**City of La Joya**

Taskforce Representatives

Isidro Venecia

***www.cityoflajoya.com***

**City of La Villa**

Taskforce Representatives

David Alaniz

Arnie Almaro

***www.cityoflavilla.org***

**City of Alamo**

Taskforce Representatives

Melissa Gonzales

Ernesto Solis

***www.alamotexas.org***

**City of Alton**

Taskforce Representatives

Jeff Underwood

***www.alton-tx.gov***

**City of Brownsville**

Taskforce Representatives

TBA

***www.cob.us***

**Town of Combes**

Taskforce Representatives

Megan Meidel

Lonnie Bearden

***www.townofcombes.com***

**Cameron County**

Taskforce Representatives

Paolina Vega, P.E.

Iris Cantu

Raul Gomez

***www.co.cameron.tx.us***

**Cameron County DD#1**

Taskforce Representatives

Albert Barreda

Hector Lerma

Veronica Martinez

***www.ccdd1.org***

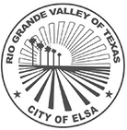
**City of Donna**

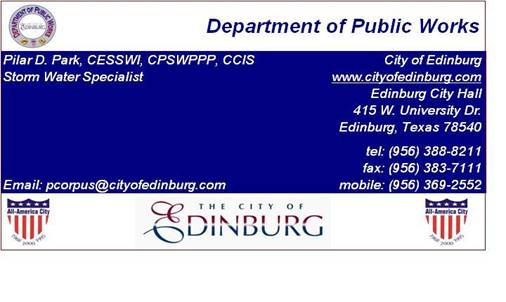
Taskforce Representatives

Roy Jimenez

Daniel Ramirez

***www.cityofdonna.org***





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**Cameron County**

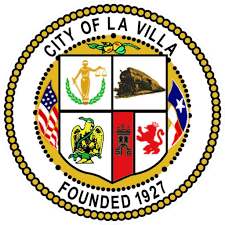
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**City of Los Fresnos**

Taskforce Representatives

Raul Garcia

Augustin Lopez

***www.cityoflosfresnos.com***

**City of Mission**

Taskforce Representatives

Juan De La Garza

***www.missiontexas.us***

**City of Mercedes**

Taskforce Representatives

Sergio Zavala

Jose Figueroa

***www.cityofmercedes.com***

**City of Palmview**

Taskforce Representatives

Rudy Flores

***www.cityofpalmview.com***

**City of Palmhurst**

Taskforce Representatives

Lori Lopez

Lupe Garcia

***www.cityofpalmhursttx.com***

**City of Primera**

Taskforce Representatives

Veronica Flores

***www.cityofprimera.com***

**City of San Juan**

Taskforce Representatives

David Salinas

***www.cityofsanjuantexas.com***

**City of San Benito**

Taskforce Representatives

Bernard Rodriguez

Cleo Longoria

***www.cityofsanbenito.com***

**Santa Cruz Irrigation**

**District # 15**

Taskforce Representatives

Jose Hinojosa

***www.scid15.com***

**City of Weslaco**

Taskforce Representatives

Zenaida Guerrero

***www.weslacotx.gov***

**Willacy County**

Taskforce Representatives

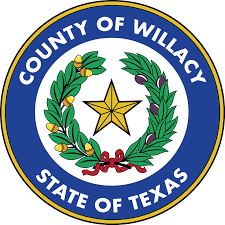
Honorable Eduardo Gonzalez

***www.co.willacy.tx.us***











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**City of Los Fresnos**

The area which is now home to present day Los Fresnos is not unknown to history. In fact, this area along the Rio Grande River and the Gulf of Mexico played a significant role in both the US-Mexican War and the American Civil War. The plain of Palo Alto (tall timber) just five miles south of town was the site of the opening battle of the war between the U.S. and Mexico in 1846. In 1907 Lon C. Hill, Jr. bought 14,232 acres and parceled them into lots. This eventually evolved into the layout of the original town site of "modern" Los Fresnos which was finally developed in 1915.

***www.cityoflosfresnos.com***

**City of Palmhurst**

Palmhurst is located in southern Hidalgo County at [26°15′3″N 98°18′27″W](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Palmhurst,_Texas&params=26_15_3_N_98_18_27_W_type:city) (26.250924, -98.307607).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palmhurst,_Texas#cite_note-GR1-4) It is bordered to the north by [Alton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alton,_Texas), to the west by [West Sharyland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Sharyland,_Texas), to the south by [Mission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission,_Texas), and to the east by [McAllen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McAllen,_Texas). Downtown McAllen is 8 miles (13 km) to the southeast, and the [Rio Grande](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rio_Grande), the international border with [Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico), is 7 miles (11 km) to the south. [Texas State Highway 107](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_State_Highway_107) is the main road through the city.

***www.cityofpalmhursttx.com***

**Urban Infrastructure Group, Inc.**

Urban Infrastructure Group, Inc. (UIG) is a Rio Grande Valley based engineering consulting firm focused on meeting the goals of improving failing infrastructure and planning future development. We work with county and municipal planners, utility providers, as well as residential and commercial developers for the design and construction of infrastructure projects. Our engineers use the latest technology and best management practices to provide sustainable engineering solutions.

***www.iugtexas.com***

**HALFF Associates**

Halff Associates is a unique regional consulting firm that has provided full-service engineering, architecture, and related services for decades. We are committed to continually investing in our employees, fostering a culture of collaboration, and delivering unwaveringly high-quality results for our clients. Our passion is providing smarter solutions with a distinctly human touch for everyone we serve.

***www.halff.com***

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**Cruz + Hogan Consultants, Inc.**

During the past 20 years, the personnel of CRUZ-HOGAN *Consultants, Inc.* have been involved in many comprehensive development studies that have included various planning and design elements such as population projections, land-use, thoroughfares, landfills, waterworks and sanitary sewerage systems, storm drainage, central business district, parks and recreation, zoning, subdivision regulations, and reviews, and others. We have completed planning and design projects for many cities in Texas including Alamo, Alton, Brownsville, Raymondville, San Benito, San Juan, Port Isabel, Lyford, Pharr, Mercedes, Harlingen, McAllen, Laguna Vista, Indian Lake, South Padre Island, Cameron County, Willacy County, Hidalgo County and others.

***www.cruzhogan.net***

**Forged Technology Solutions**

Technology and equipment is ever-changing and growing. Nowhere is that more apparent than in today’s business environment. Forged Technology Solutions (FTS) understands that you have choices when it comes to a technology provider. For that reason, we stay at the forefront of technology by being knowledgeable and keeping our finger on the pulse of the industry. We work hard daily to meet and exceed our clients’ expectations, growing the reputation and relationships we have built.

***www.Fts-tx.com***

**Saenz Brothers Construction**

Our attention to service and quality of 15 years has made us an industry leader. At Saenz Utility Contractors, the customer always comes first, and we constantly strive to exceed your expectations. We are a TxDot DBE and TX HUB approved contractors.

***www.saenzutility.com***

**SAMES, Inc.**

Since 2008, SAMES has succeeded in providing exceptional services in Engineering, Surveying, Project Management, and Construction. Our transformation from startup to a complete and knowledgeable professional firm is nothing short of the American Dream. Our history has made us who we are and SAMES is proud of serving clients throughout Texas and neighboring states.

***www.samesincweb.com***

**Melden & Hunt, Inc.**

Melden & Hunt, Inc. was founded in Edinburg, Texas in 1947 as a full-service consulting, engineering and surveying firm. Melden & Hunt, Inc. has become the engineering and surveying firm in the Rio Grande Valley and South Texas, offering the most diverse array of services available to anyone in the region.

***www.meldenandhunt.com***



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**Exhibitors**



**Advance Drainage Systems**:

Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS) is focused on drainage products and services that deliver solutions for the most persistent and challenging water management problems. From safely pre-treating and managing stormwater runoff, to helping developers and property owners harvest rainwater, we focus on the development of water solutions that make land more arable, cities more livable, and the world a greener place to live

***www.ads-pipe.com***

**CloudCompli:**

CloudCompli makes it easy for Phase I and II MS4’s to remain ahead of the curve. Our platform turns raw data, such as inspections, sampling and investigations, into comprehensible dashboards, analytics and reports. We replace redundant  
paper-based forms with streamlined, intuitive and automated processes. At the cutting-edge of stormwater management, CloudCompli handles all aspects of compliance requirements, including inspections, illicit discharge detection & elimination, outfall monitoring, water sampling, public education tracking and annual reporting. CloudCompli offers you an intuitive and elegant compliance solution that saves time and money, reduces risk and provides visibility to affect real environmental change

***www.cloudcompli.com***

**TYMCO Sweepers**:

The positive environmental impact of clean streets continues to create interest in air sweeping. TYMCO, with its unique ability to pick up the fine dust particles and retain them in the hopper, is the air sweeper of choice. Our Research and Development department continues to explore new design features to make TYMCO the most productive sweeper built. The success of our airport Alternative Fuel Powered and Dustless models, along with AQMD Rule 1186 PM10 certification and ETV Canada verification is proof positive that meeting our customer’s needs is and always will be the backbone and success of TYMCO. TYMCO has also remained an industry leader by offering over 30 scheduled two-day comprehensive service and operator training schools each year for TYMCO Regenerative Air Sweepers in a modern, climate controlled, 3,500 square foot facility

***www.tymco.com***

**Raba Kistner Consultants, Inc.**

Founded in 1968, Raba Kistner, Inc., is a premier engineering consulting and program management firm. Our purpose is to provide professional consulting services with passion and integrity, to help build a better world for our employees, their families, our clients, and the communities we serve. Raba Kistner has grown over our 50-year history, expanding from our headquarters in San Antonio, Texas, to an Engineering News-Record “Top 500 Firm” of more than 500 employees operating in ten different markets in Texas, Utah, Nebraska, Arizona, New York, California and Mexico. Today we are a company of engineers, geologists, scientists and technologists providing project management and oversight services; building sciences; construction materials engineering, testing and observation; geotechnical engineering, testing and pavement consulting; building envelope consulting; and infrastructure oversight and quality management.

***www.rkci.com***

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https://rgvstormwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Cloud-Compli-logo-300x66.png

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**Industrial Disposal Supply Co., Inc.**

Industrial Disposal Supply founded in 1963, Industrial Disposal was created with the philosophy of total service to the emerging solid waste industry. Today the firm continues to embrace this same philosophy of service, but the scope has expanded to include all facets of the waste industry: Solid, Liquid, Hazardous, Street Sweeping, Sludge and Recycling. From this modest San Antonio start, IDS has expanded to Houston and Dallas (Plano). Our staff of professionals represent more than 150 years of combined experience. Experience that assures you, the customer, of the best and most economical system for your need.

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

**R.A.T.E.S.**  
RATES, Research, Applied Technology, Education, and Service is a 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit formed to promote and coordinate the collaborative and cooperative use of technology by and among colleges, high schools, public schools, community school districts, public and school libraries, health care facilities, government offices, businesses, health and educational professionals, other educational and community service organizations and community residents for the benefit of the collaborating organizations, their clients, and community residents.

***www.ratesresearch.org***

**Hollis Rutledge & Associates Inc.**  
Over the years, HRA has served local cities, school districts, county governments, EDC’s and special purpose districts with management and marketing services. Today HRA puts to practice its almost 25-year experience in helping local governments and entities with grant management and administration, strategic planning and budgeting, governmental issue management, and program development along with many more services. Together the HRA team has over 150 years of experience in all areas of services the company provides. The company continues to explore positive solutions through strategic insights with the growing challenges of the 21st Century.

***www.rutledge-associates.net***

**C.C. Lynch & Associates, INC**.

C.C. Lynch is a sales and service agency specializing in water monitoring devices and services. Founded in 1966, employee owned CCLA has been under current management team since 1993. From a basic composite sampler, to the most sophisticated water monitoring instrument or quality analyzer, our sales and service teams get your environmental instrumentation up and running and keep it online and maintained with precision. Our professional sales team serve the Gulf States region of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Panhandle of Florida. Beyond sales, routine flow meter calibration and instrument maintenance are a big part of our service team’s business. We keep you in compliance and assist with operator training and record keeping services. We provide temporary studies from meter validation, plant flow balance, all the way to load characterization; and our environmental instrument rental pool is often a more convenient option for owners, agencies and their engineers. Turn-key monitoring stations are a good option when your team is spread thin.

***www.cclynch.com***







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**Southern Trenchless Solutions**

We employ and implement a team of highly trained and experienced personnel focusing on wastewater infrastructure rehabilitation. Southern Trenchless is now proudly offering trenchless rehabilitation services through BuyBoard Cooperative purchasing.

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**City of Palmhurst**  
Palmhurst is located in southern Hidalgo County at [26°15′3″N 98°18′27″W](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Palmhurst,_Texas&params=26_15_3_N_98_18_27_W_type:city) (26.250924, -98.307607).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palmhurst,_Texas#cite_note-GR1-4) It is bordered to the north by [Alton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alton,_Texas), to the west by [West Sharyland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Sharyland,_Texas), to the south by [Mission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission,_Texas), and to the east by [McAllen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McAllen,_Texas). Downtown McAllen is 8 miles (13 km) to the southeast, and the [Rio Grande](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rio_Grande), the international border with [Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico), is 7 miles (11 km) to the south. [Texas State Highway 107](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_State_Highway_107) is the main road through the city.

***www.cityofpalmhursttx.com***

**Kinloch Equipment**  
Kinloch Equipment & Supply, Inc. is an award-winning distributor of quality new and used sewer cleaning equipment, municipal equipment and accessories. The products help cities, counties, municipalities, school districts, and private entities ensure the health and safety of their residents through infrastructural maintenance, cleaning, and optimization.

***www.kinlochequip.com***

**Millennium Engineering**

Millennium Engineers Group, Inc. (MEG) provides complete geotechnical engineering and consulting services, construction material engineering and testing, forensic testing and consulting services to its client base of government and municipal agencies, educational institutions, architects, engineers, real estate developers, constructors, and private sector clients.

***www.megengineers.com***

**ms4web.com**

MS4web can effectively manage all of your construction & post-construction inspections, outfall screenings, illicit discharge investigations & citizen reports.  Newly designated MS4 permitee? Don't have your forms created yet?  No problem!  Default forms for each inspection type are included in the MS4web application.  Already have your own forms?  Perfect!  You can customize and create your own forms with MS4web.  In fact you can create as many forms as you need!

***www.ms4web.com***

**Civil Engineering Department - UTRGV**

Civil Engineer’s design, build, and maintain the foundations for our Civilization. Civil Engineering is essential to everything we do throughout the day, from roads and bridges, drinking water and energy systems.

***www.utrgv.edu/cive***

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**Keynote Speakers**



**Kathleen Jackson (May 22 and May 23)**

***Texas Water Development Board***

Kathleen Jackson was reappointed to the Texas Water Development Board by Governor Greg Abbott on March 9, 2017. She was appointed to the Board by Governor Rick Perry on March 18, 2014. 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.

**Sid Miller (May 22)**

***Texas Agriculture Commissioner***

An eighth generation Texas farmer and rancher, Sid Miller is the 12th Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). He has devoted his life to promoting Texas agriculture, rural communities and the great state of Texas. Born in De Leon, Texas, in September 1955, Sid Miller graduated with honors from Tarleton State University in Stephenville with a Bachelor of Science in Vocational Ag Education. A recognized community leader, Miller was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2000. He quickly earned a reputation as a staunch defender of Texas agriculture, constitutional freedoms and individual liberties for all Texans.

**Ernest Aliseda (May 22)**

***Former Regent for UT System***

Ernest Aliseda, McAllen, Texas, was appointed to a six-year term on The

University of Texas System Board of Regents by Governor Rick Perry in February

201 3 and was confirmed by the Texas Senate on May 24, 201 3. Regent

Aliseda was Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee. He served on the Audit, Compliance, and Risk Management Committee; the Facilities Planning and Construction Committee; and the Health Affairs Committee. He also served on the Board for Lease of University Lands and as the Board’s Special Liaison on South Texas Projects.

**Glenn Hegar (May 23)**

***Texas State Comptroller***

Glenn Hegar was elected as the 36th Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts in November 2014. Hegar is Texas’ chief financial officer — the state’s treasurer, check writer, tax collector, procurement officer and revenue estimator. Upon taking office, he reorganized the Comptroller’s office for quicker and more effective decision-making and reduced its administrative footprint by working with the Legislature to repeal eight taxes formerly administered by his agency, eliminate some inefficient programs and transfer others that didn’t fit its core missions.







**Keynote Speakers**

**Jayne Harkins, P.E. (May 24)**

***USIBWC Commissioner***

Jayne Harkins was appointed U.S. Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, by President Donald J. Trump in 2018. As Commissioner, she serves as head of the U.S. Section of the Commission, overseeing personnel in twelve offices along the U.S.-Mexico border and in Washington, DC. The Commission is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries. It operates and maintains various infrastructure projects along the U.S.-Mexico border, including international storage dams, hydroelectric power plants, flood control levees, wastewater treatment plants.

**Julian Alvarez III (May 24)**

***Commissioner Representing Labor***

Julian Alvarez III is the Commissioner Representing Labor of the Texas Workforce Commission. Gov. Greg Abbott reappointed him to the three-member Commission on March 7, 2017. His Commission appointment expires February 1, 2023. As Labor Commissioner, Julian Alvarez represents the interests of more than 13 million Texas workers with respect to TWC services and ensures that their concerns are considered in all Commission actions.





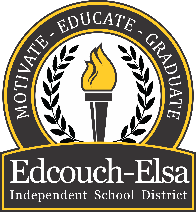
**PARTNERS**

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**Regulatory Speakers**

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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.

**J. Douglas Jacobson**

Gulf of Mexico Program Coordinator

National Estuary Programs Coordinator

EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX

J. Douglas Jacobson has a B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio. He works for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 in Dallas as the Gulf of Mexico Program Coordinator, representative to the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, and Regional Program Manager for the three National Estuary Programs located in Region 6. Mr. Jacobson works on many other coastal policy issues, including the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill recovery. He is EPA’s representative on the Texas’s NRDA Trustee Implementation Group and is a member of EPA’s RESTORE team. He co-led FEMA’s Long-Term Disaster Recovery Planning Team for Hurricane Ike. Prior to joining EPA, Mr. Jacobson worked for the cattle industry and was as a Legislative Assistant in the U.S. Senate.

**Salvador Gandara**

Gulf of Mexico Program Coordinator

National Estuary Programs Coordinator

EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX

Salvador Gandara is a Project Officer with over 12 years of experience in the position with the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6. Mr. Gandara works with water and wastewater infrastructure grantees, New Mexico and Texas State agency representatives as well as being involved with the North American Development Bank (NADB) on the U.S./Mexico Border Program. Prior to being Project Officer, Mr. Gandara worked as Environmental Engineer in the National Pollution Elimination Discharge System (NPDES) and the U.S./Mexico Border Infrastructure Programs. Mr. Gandara has over 25 years of experience with the U.S. Federal Government. Mr. Gandara received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas in El Paso (UTEP) in 1993.

**Regulatory Speakers**

**Randy Rush**

Agriculture Policy Advisor

U.S. EPA - Region 6

Dallas, TX

Analysis of EPA policy in conjunction with agro-environmental issues facing states and commodity organizations. Water quality, nonpoint source.

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**Rebecca L. Villalba**

**Water Quality Division**

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

Since July 2011, Rebecca L. Villalba is the Team Leader for the Stormwater & Pretreatment Team. She has been working at the TCEQ since August 1996 in the Wastewater Permitting Section of the Water Quality Division. In her current position, she is responsible for supervising pretreatment coordinators and permit writers that implement the pretreatment, stormwater (construction, industrial, and municipal), and quarry programs and their associated permitting activities and overseeing the stormwater processing center.

Ms. Villalba’s prior position was Sr. Pretreatment Coordinator in the Stormwater & Pretreatment Team providing oversight for numerous Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) pretreatment programs. Her oversight activities included performing pretreatment program audits, industrial user categorical determinations, reviewing publicly owned treatment works (POTW) permit applications for appropriate pretreatment requirements, reviewing pretreatment program modifications to include technically based local limits calculations, and drafting POTW permits. She is a TCEQ Aspiring Leaders Program alumni (class of 2010-2012) and has participated in the TCEQ’s Border Initiative and partnership efforts with the Mexican government related to the pretreatment program providing training and technical assistance. In 2001, Ms. Villalba completed the five-day Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Lead Auditor Training Course and for over 10 years represented the Water Quality Division in the EMS team involved in developing and implementing the TCEQ’s EMS program. Ms. Villalba has a B.S. degree in Chemistry with Chemical Engineering and Spanish minors from the University of Houston. Prior to joining the TCEQ; she worked at an international chemical company in the area of industrial solid and hazardous waste management and at NASA-Johnson Space Center in the water laboratory conducting experiments and research to support the Space Shuttle and Space Station water disinfection projects.



**Tim Cawthon**

Natural Resources Specialist

NPS Program, Austin, TX

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Graduated from Baylor University in 2004 with degree in Geography and minor in Environmental Studies. Graduated from Texas State University with Master of Science in Geography with a focus on Fluvial Geomorphology. Thesis was studying channel change and large woody debris on the San Antonio River. Have worked as a project manager for TCEQ NPS Team for over 4 years and have managed projects in the Lower Rio Grande Valley for over four years.



**Jason Pinchback**

Water Resource Program Manager

Texas General Land Office

Jason Pinchback is the Water Resources Program manager at the Texas General Land Office. His main duties focus on the Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution program, Texas Beach Watch, and the Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network. Jason’s career in water resources began as a volunteer water quality monitor while still in high school. Since then, his work on watershed characterization, stakeholder processes, water policy, and surface/groundwater interactions aims to identify real-world solutions for natural resource management challenges. Jason earned a BS and Masters of Applied Geography from Texas State

University. Besides his amazing wife and family, Jason's other passions focus on permaculture, aquaponics, rainwater harvesting, camping, water fun, and playing

**RATES Board Members**

**Andrew Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE, Edinburg, TX**

***Professor – Civil Engineering, UTRGV***

Dr. Andrew Ernest has accumulated over 20 years of professional experience in Environmental and Water Resource Engineering and awarded over $20 million in grants and contracts throughout his career. Ernest has more than 100 publications in his name, including more than 40 masters’ theses he has supervised. His research focuses at the nexus of environmental informatics and water resource capacity development. Ernest bases his research efforts around his interest in investigating the role of innovation, entrepreneurship and engineering service in stimulating effort-based economies as a mechanism for promoting capacity development and sustainability.

**Javier Guerrero, MS., E.I.T., Edinburg, TX**

***Director of Water Studies – Civil Engineering, UTRGV***

Founded, Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) TPDES Stormwater Task Force – Facilitates the organization of a coalition of 25 local governments. Project topics: Stormwater management, non-point source pollution, watershed protection, estuary program initiatives, and flood drainage initiatives; 1998 Founded, LRGV Sports Complex and Municipal Parks Environmental Council – Coalition of 16 local governments represented by Parks and Rec Directors. Project topics: Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure planning and implementation; 2014 Founded, Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program Partnership. Project is in the planning stages, strategic fund development funded by the Texas General Land Office, encompasses 6 counties; 2015 Developed of a Regional Watershed based Stormwater Management Plan pursuant to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s (TCEQ’s) TPDES MS4 program. The plan was adopted by 21 MS4s in the LRGV; 2010 Founded, LRGV Low Impact Development Outreach, Education and Research Demonstration Site program. Comprised of over thirty (30) Best Management Practice (BMP) demonstration facilities located at 11 sites throughout the Lower Laguna Madre Watershed. B.S. Engineering Technology, Structural Analysis and Design, University of Houston-Downtown; M.S. Environmental Engineering, Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

**Dave Bonner. Ph.D., Potsdam, NY**

Dave Bonner received a B.A. in Physics and B.S. in Mathematics from Statue University of New York at Pittsburgh. He then pursued an M.A. in Mathematics from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. and a M.S. in Mathematics from State University of New York Albany. He received his Doctorate from State University of New York at Albany. He currently the President and CEO of Adirondack Area Network.

**Talissa Altes, MD**

**Radiologist – Columbia, MO**

Dr. Talissa Altes is a radiologist in Columbia, Missouri and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including [Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital](https://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals/area/mo/harry-s-truman-memorial-veterans-hospital-6630165) and [University of Missouri Health Care-Columbia](https://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals/area/mo/university-of-missouri-health-care-6630150). She received her medical degree from University of Washington School of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years.



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**RATES Staff**



**Patrick M. O’Brien, P.M.P**

***Chief Operating Officer – R.A.T.E.S.***

Patrick M. O’Brien graduated with his Bachelor of Technology in Civil and Environmental Engineering Technology from the State University of New York at Canton. He later received his Master of Professional Studies in Geospatial Science from the State University of New York at Potsdam. He currently serves as Chief Operating Officer for Research, Applied Technology, Education and Service, Inc.

**Jodi E. Lees**

***Chief Financial Officer – R.A.T.E.S.***

Jodi E. Lees received her B.B.A. in Accounting from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Since 2018, she serves as Chief Financial Officer for Research, Applied Technology, Education and Service.

**Amber LaFountain**

***New York States Projects Coordinator – R.A.T.E.S.***

Amber Rae La Fountain graduated from the State University of New York at Potsdam with a B.S. in Business Administration. She later received her Master of Business Administration in Accounting from the American Military University. Since this year, she serves as the New York State Projects Coordinator for Research, Applied Technology, Education and Service, Inc.

**Chris Fuller**

***Chief of Research – R.A.T.E.S.***

Dr. Fuller first obtained his B.S. in Biology at Texas A&M University-College Station. He then continued his education, graduating from Texas A&M University-Kingsville with a M.S. in Environmental Engineering. Lastly, receiving his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University-College Station. Since this year, he is serving as Chief of Research for Research, Applied Technology, Education and Service, Inc.

**William D. Kirkey, Ph.D.**

***Research Engineer – R.A.T.E.S.***

Dr. Kirkey received his B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering from The State University of New York Buffalo State. He then obtained his Ph.D. in Engineering Science from Clarkson University. Since 2018, he is currently a Research Engineer for Research, Applied Technology, Education and Service, Inc.

**Pete Kirkey**

***Research Technician– R.A.T.E.S.***

Pete Kirkey earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science SUNY Buffalo. Pete Kirkey is currently the Research Technician for Research, Applied Technology, Education and Service, Inc.

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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.

**Transition from UTRGV to RATES/RGV.** In January 2019, at its annual retreat, the TASK FORCE opted to pursue becoming a non-profit agency promoting not only its compliance requirements, but education, research and community engagement. RATES, Inc., an existing research institute, founded in 2005, and the TASK FORCE agreed to merge and become RATES, Inc. dba RATES/RGV. Today, RATES/RGV is becoming a rapidly growing research institute in the Lower Rio Grande Valley that looks forward to promoting educational events, awarding scholarships and providing much needed professional training.