

*Frio County*

"A Community in the Eagle Ford Region"



*Commissioners Court*

Pearsall, Texas 78061

830/334-2154

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October 23, 2014

Austin, Texas

**Senate Committee Intergovernmental Relations**

*Juan Hinojosa, Chairman,*

*Study the structure of county government and report on ways to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of county government operations.*

**The Honorable Members of the Committee**

Robert Nichols, Vice-Chair

Sylvia Garcia

Ken Paxton

Larry Taylor

**Testimony By:**

*Sally Velasquez, representing*

*Carlos Garcia, Frio County Judge – Commissioners Court*

*Dale Stein, Frio County Engineer*

**Good Afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee.**

**My name is Sally Velasquez, a Governmental Affairs Consultant representing Frio County, Judge Garcia whom expresses his gratitude for your leadership. Unfortunately, Judge Garcia was unable to attend today's session.**

On behalf of Judge Garcia and Commissioners Court, they wish to express their appreciation and willingness to seek methods to maximize, maintain and re-invest funds counties collect to govern according to state procedures.

Frio County is located 50 miles south of San Antonio and is in the Eagle Ford region.

This county as others in South Texas will be tremendously impacted with continued growth patterns relating to the development of oil/gas energy. Expanding governing tools for county government and cities with applicable state policies are critical. This region faces enhanced challenges and major economic impact in all areas of community development and population growth.

The South Texas region is expeditiously transforming with an unprecedented economic impact, positive revenues gains in state budget and global market trade.

Governing tools for county government are essential tools to allow efficiency in county government operations, local budgeting, need feasibility to generate new revenue streams, funding mechanisms to offset growth pattern costs and policies aimed to help them shape as sustainable communities for their future generations.

The communities most in dire need are located in the Eagle Ford region and the Lower Rio Grande Valley. At any rate, counties need assistance from the state by enabling state policies to leverage community economic shifts and new fee structures to mitigate increases evident in basic public service costs.

In general, these tools will allow county leaders to improve management of unincorporated areas demonstrating unprecedented growth patterns with efficiency and design.

Thank you for your time and attention.

**Recommendations to the Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee**  
**10/23/2014 - Austin, Tx ....Sally Velasquez on behalf of Frio County**

- Consider modifications and/or initiate innovative infrastructure planning with funding.
- Consider strengthening or expand the Special Districts and establish transportation road tax boundaries/planning transportation infrastructure fund (TIF).
- Establish new state policies for county government to allow collection of select surcharges for new infrastructure.
- Set standards for roadway setbacks... county roadways and state highway system.
- Allow zoning rules or select design standards to maintain development with order in unincorporated areas.
- Allow collections for waste or discharges in waterways and growth and management of land-use.

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*End of Testimony*