

**REGIONAL SOLID WASTE GRANTS PROGRAM**

*Rio Grande Council of Governments*

**VOLUME II:**  
Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guidelines  
**2002-2022**

Adopted by the Rio Grande Council of Governments Board of Directors on  
August 19, 2003

*This plan was funded through a solid waste management grant provided by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to the Rio Grande Council of Governments. This funding does not necessarily indicate endorsement or support of the plan findings and recommendations by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.*



# **RIO GRANDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

## **Regional Solid Waste Management Plan For Far West Texas 2002 – 2020**

**Adopted by the  
Rio Grande Council of Governments  
Board of Directors  
On August 15, 2003**

**This plan was funded through a solid waste management grant provided by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality through the Rio Grande Council of Governments. This funding does not necessarily indicate endorsement or support of the plan findings and recommendations.**

# ADOPTION RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the Rio Grande Council of Governments, (RGCOG) is a voluntary association of governments established under state law to promote coordination and cooperation in the delivery of governmental services within the Upper Rio Grande State Planning Region in accordance with the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 391;

**WHEREAS**, the RGCOG is the designated regional planning organization for solid waste planning as established by the Texas Legislature;

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (TCEQ) has directed the RGCOG to amend their regional solid waste management plan;

**WHEREAS**, the amended regional municipal solid waste management plan supports the policies embodied in the 2000 State solid waste strategic plan, and has been prepared in compliance with applicable federal and state statutes and regulations;

**WHEREAS**, the inventory of closed and abandoned landfills which is included as part of this amendment has been compiled with the assistance of the RGCOG Solid Waste Advisory Committee and local governments in the planning region, and has been prepared in accordance with applicable state statutes and regulations;

**WHEREAS**, the advisory committee appointed by the Board of Directors has reviewed and recommended the adoption of an amendment to the regional municipal solid waste management plan, including the closed and abandoned landfill inventory;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the RGCOG Board of Directors endorses and supports the amendment to the regional solid waste management plan, and authorizes the Executive Director to forward the amended regional municipal solid waste management plan to the TCEQ.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this the fifteenth day of August, 2003.

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Jake Brisbin, Jr.  
Executive Director

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Steve C. Trowbridge  
RGCOG President



GRAPHIC MADE POSSIBLE BY THE OFFICE OF CAROLE KEETON STRAYHORN, TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS:  
[HTTP://WWW.WINDOW.STATE.TX.US/ECODATA/REGIONAL/UPRIO/MAP.HTML](http://www.window.state.tx.us/ecodata/regional/uprio/map.html)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ADOPTION RESOLUTION.....</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>RIO GRANDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PLANNING REGION.....</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>REGIONAL ANALYSIS</b>	
1. Population and Growth Patterns.....	4
2. Economic Activity.....	5
3. Waste Generation and Characterization.....	6
a. Waste Generation.....	6
b. Waste Characterization.....	10
4. Waste Management System.....	12
a. Roles, Responsibilities and Institutional Arrangements.....	12
b. Waste Disposal and Capacity.....	13
c. Waste Transfer, Storage, Treatment, and Processing.....	16
d. Waste Collection and Transportation Services.....	17
e. Recycling Services.....	18
f. Household Hazardous Waste Services.....	22
g. Other Solid Waste Services.....	22
h. Litter and Illegal Dumping.....	22
i. Facility Siting.....	24
j. Closed MSW Landfill Inventory.....	24
k. Local Solid Waste Management Plans.....	30
<b>REGIONAL GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLAN</b>	
1. Summary of Needs and Problems.....	31
2. Goals and Objectives.....	32
3. Action Plan.....	37
a. Plan Conformance/Permit Review.....	37
b. Grants Funding Plan.....	41
1. Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Priorities.....	41
2. Specific Projects.....	42
3. Project Categories.....	42
4. Allocation and Priorities.....	44
5. Project Selection Process.....	44

c. Local Solid Waste Management Plans.....	44
d. Regional Coordination and Planning.....	45
e. Local and Subregional Recommendations.....	45
f. Recommendations for State-Level Action.....	45
g. Other.....	45

**APPENDICES**

1. Status and Location of Permitted MSW Facilities.....	46
2. Other Solid Waste Services.....	49
3. Inventory of Closed MSW Landfills.....	Separate Volume

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This amendment of the *Municipal Solid Waste Plan for Far West Texas* (1996) is required by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission in their *Solid Waste Management in Texas -- Strategic Plan 2001-2005*. In 2002, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's name was changed to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), as a result of the passage of House Bill 2912, 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature. The Texas Solid Waste Disposal Act (Texas Health & Safety Code, Chapter 361) requires that the state's strategic plan be updated every four years. The State plan provides information on the status of solid waste management in Texas, including municipal solid waste. It also outlines broad policy goals, objectives, and recommended actions to be taken at the state, regional, and local level. The TCEQ is the state agency responsible for implementing solid waste management policy and permitting in Texas. Under Texas Health & Safety Code §363.062(a) each of the state's 24 Councils of Governments is required to develop a regional solid waste management plan that conforms to the state plan. The state regulations (30 TAC §330, Subchapter O) contain the standards for the content of the regional plans.

The Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) is designated as the responsible municipal solid waste planning agency for the Upper Rio Grande State Planning Region, which is comprised of the six westernmost counties of Texas shown in Figure 1. The plan amendment includes revisions to the entire original regional plan, including goals, objectives and action recommendations. These amendments are to be made through the formal TCEQ rule adoption process including public hearings and notification in the Texas Register.

The purpose of the plan is to provide broad but comprehensive guidelines for the long-range management of municipal solid waste in the RGCOG region. The plan has four main roles in regional planning:

- **Role of the Plan in Permitting Decisions.** The plan outlines the factors and priorities which will be used by the RGCOG to determine whether a proposed permit application conforms with the regional plan.
- **Role of the Plan in Establishing Grant Funding Priorities.** Funding provided under the TCEQ's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program must be used in a manner consistent with the regional plan, and must directly serve to implement the goals and objectives of the plan.
- **Role of the Plan in Local and Subregional Planning.** The RGCOG has primary responsibility to coordinate local solid waste management planning efforts in the region. The regional plan should identify the local solid waste management plans which have been adopted and determine whether these plans are still valid. Since there currently are no local plans in the RGCOG region, the regional plan identifies local and subregional areas where a local plan is needed, and includes that local planning work in the priorities for the use of the regional solid waste grant funds.
- **Role of the Plan in Directing Regional Activities.** The regional plan also provides direction

for future RGCOG regional planning, implementation, and coordination activities. These activities are part of a statewide solid waste management system, as directed in the state plan. This plan guides the ongoing solid waste management activities conducted by the RGCOG, including public education, technical assistance, and intergovernmental coordination.

The first half of this plan amendment provides revised planning data, including population estimates, economic trends, waste disposal rates and remaining landfill capacity and solid waste services available in the region. The regional population projections were revised using the Texas State Data Center's Zero Migration Scenario. The estimates, using the Zero Migration Scenario, are lower than the estimates used in the original *Municipal Solid Waste Plan for Far West Texas*. Those estimates were generally high, when compared with the 2000 U.S. Census. These revised estimates, reflecting a slower population growth trend than projected in the original plan, may have significant implications for solid waste planning assumptions in the region. Economic activity in the planning region has not changed significantly since the 2000 update of the original plan.

The per capita waste disposal rates for the region have increased since the 1998 plan update. In 2000, the per capita landfill disposal rate in this region increased to 2.51 pounds/person/day up from the 2.33 pounds/person/day disposal rate reported in 1998. The remaining landfill capacity remained the same at 8.5 million tons. Also covered in this section is a summary of regional solid waste service providers, community recycling facilities, commercial recyclers, and recycling markets. The informational table included in Appendix 2, providing data on regional recyclers and other solid waste service providers, has been brought up to date with information on services provided, service area, contact information, and types of materials accepted. Current regional solid waste disposal service providers are also discussed in this section, noting changes that have occurred since the original plan was submitted.

Another difference since the 2000 update is in the change of focus. Solid waste management in the region was previously focused on recycling efforts. While recycling and waste reduction are still important objectives of regional solid waste planning efforts, in line with the State's 2000 strategic plan, *Solid Waste Management in Texas, Strategic Plan 2001 -- 2005*, the focus has now shifted toward controlling illegal dumping by emphasizing four critical and interrelated elements: 1) public awareness and education; 2) enforcement; 3) cleanup of existing dumpsites; and 4) provision of basic services.

The second half of this plan amendment includes revisions to the goals, objectives and action recommendations. In this plan amendment, the goals in the original plan were streamlined into three new, broadly stated goals for the management of municipal solid waste in the Rio Grande Council of Governments' planning region. While there are only three goals, they follow from the goals of the State's 2000 strategic plan, and will serve to implement the State's policies on the regional and local level. Objectives are outlined for each of the goals, which serve to focus attention on more specific end results to be achieved through the regional solid waste management planning process. Specific implementation strategies, or suggestions for actions to be taken to achieve specific, desired results, are also outlined for each goal.

The TCEQ requires that each Council of Governments, through its Solid Waste Advisory



Committee, review applications for municipal solid waste facility permits within its region. Each application must be reviewed for conformance with the regional solid waste management plan. In previous years, these reviews focused on recommendations for regional or local facility needs or the assurance of adequate capacity as stated in the regional plan. Capacity needs can no longer be the sole criterion for conformance. This amendment outlines procedures for permit application conformance review which are specific to the plan's goals, objectives, and action plan. These procedures take factors other than capacity needs into account during permit application review.

A new feature included in the regional solid waste management plan amendment is the inclusion of the inventory of closed and abandoned landfills in the planning region. The 24 Councils of Governments in Texas were required to conduct an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfills within their respective planning regions, under §363.064(a)(10) of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended by Senate Bill 1446, 76<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature. The landfill inventory includes TCEQ permit records, other state agency records, old maps, deed records, city and county departmental records, appraisal records, and personal recollection of residents in the planning region. The complete RGCOG closed landfill inventory is included as Appendix 3 of this plan. Efforts will continue to locate and record additional information for closed landfill sites in the inventory for which only partial or minimal information is available, and the inventory will be regularly updated to reflect the most current information available on closed landfills within the planning region.

# REGIONAL ANALYSIS

## 1. POPULATION AND GROWTH PATTERNS

Regional population is concentrated in El Paso County, the only heavily urbanized county in the planning region (see Table 1). El Paso County accounts for 96% of the regional population, with the five counties of the rural subregion comprising only 4% of the regional total. Population in El Paso County is concentrated in the City of El Paso, and the communities of Socorro, Horizon City, Anthony, Canutillo, Fort Bliss, Fabens, and San Elizario. Population in the rural counties is concentrated in the communities of Presidio, Alpine, Marfa, Fort Davis, and Van Horn.

Population data were obtained from the Texas State Data Center (TSDC) at Texas A & M University. Population projections were taken from the TSDC “Projections of the Population of Texas and Counties in Texas by Age, Sex and Race/Ethnicity for 1990 – 2030 (May 2000)”, for each county in the planning region. The “Zero Migration Scenario (0.0)” was chosen as the best estimate of future population growth trend because the year 2000 projections using this method had the closest fit with the actual 2000 U. S. Census of Population totals for each county, with the exception of Jeff Davis County, where the 2000 census was underestimated by 5% using this scenario. The Zero Migration Scenario assumes that immigration and outmigration are equal, resulting in growth only through natural increase (the excess of births over deaths).

**Table 1. Population Projections**

Subregion/ County	Planning Year				
	2000 Base Yr*	2005**	2010**	2015**	2020**
<b><i>El Paso Subregion</i></b>	<b><i>679,622</i></b>	<b><i>742,576</i></b>	<b><i>785,305</i></b>	<b><i>829,474</i></b>	<b><i>876,064</i></b>
El Paso County	679,622	742,576	785,305	829,474	876,064
<b><i>Rural Subregion</i></b>	<b><i>24,696</i></b>	<b><i>28,004</i></b>	<b><i>29,225</i></b>	<b><i>30,353</i></b>	<b><i>31,403</i></b>
Brewster	8,866	10,151	10,498	10,799	11,036
Culberson	2,975	4,187	4,421	4,646	4,847
Hudspeth	3,344	3,625	3,848	4,059	4,263
Jeff Davis	2,207	2,122	2,155	2,179	2,203
Presidio	7,304	7,919	8,303	8,670	9,054
<b><i>Regional Total</i></b>	<b><i>704,318</i></b>	<b><i>770,580</i></b>	<b><i>814,530</i></b>	<b><i>859,827</i></b>	<b><i>907,467</i></b>

\*2000 population based on U. S. Census.

\*\*2005 – 2020 population estimates from the Texas State Data Center, Texas A & M University, May 2000. The Zero Migration Scenario was used to estimate population projections in the region.

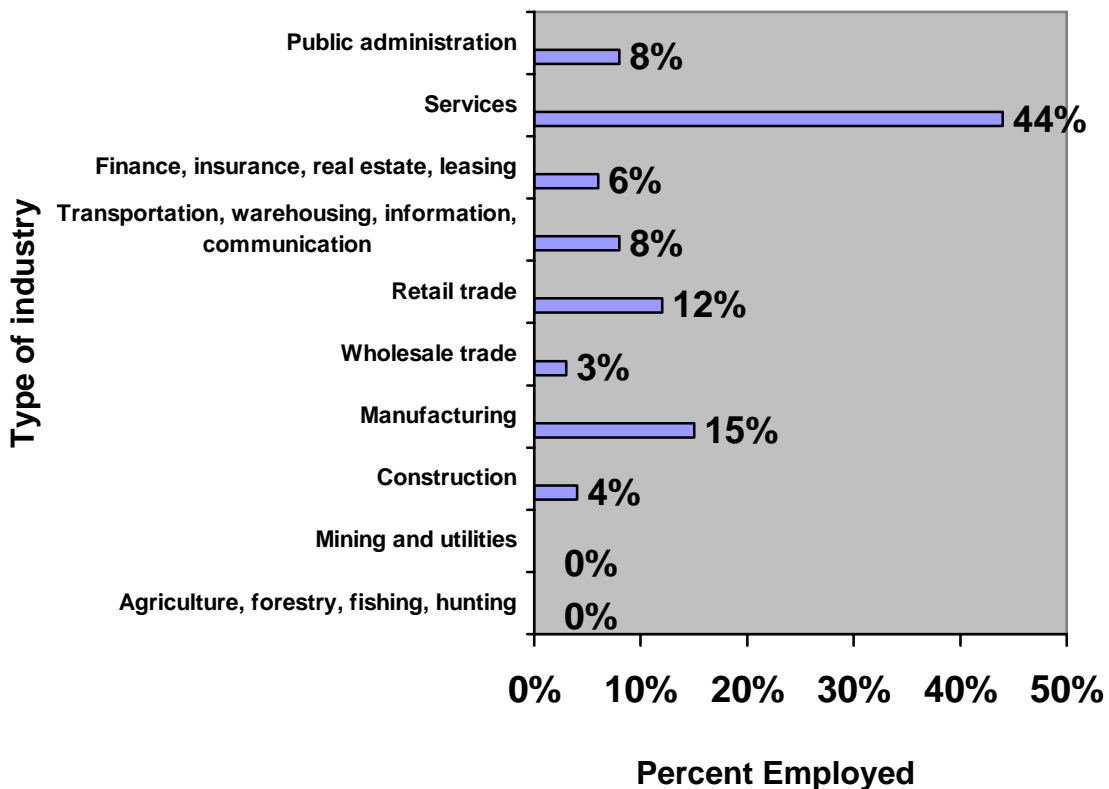
The current TSDC estimates, using the Zero Migration Scenario, are lower than the estimates used in the original *Municipal Solid Waste Plan for Far West Texas*. Those estimates were generally high, when compared with the 2000 U.S. Census. Population figures for 2000 as estimated in the original plan were 14% higher than census for El Paso County, 16% higher for Brewster County, 39% higher for Culberson County, and 9% higher for Presidio County. The

2000 U.S. Census shows that the TSDC estimates (as used in the original plan) for Hudspeth County were 2% lower than actual, and 6% lower than actual in Jeff Davis County. Since the vast majority of the region’s population is concentrated in El Paso County, it is important to choose the estimation method that most closely predicts actual census values in that county, because of the large impact prediction error in that population will have on the entire region. Therefore, we have chosen to go with the more conservative population estimates, and slower projected growth rates, of the TSDC Zero Migration Scenario for this amendment to the *Municipal Solid Waste Plan for Far West Texas*. The population estimates from this model most closely approximated 2000 U.S. Census totals. These revised estimates, reflecting a slower population growth trend than projected in the original plan, may have significant implications for solid waste planning assumptions in the region. Therefore, population trends will need to be carefully monitored in subsequent updates to the regional plan.

## 2. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The garment industry, once a focus of the El Paso area economy, has gone into a steep decline as a result of NAFTA. Layoffs and small closures continue to affect the garment industry. VF Jeanswear, the largest garment manufacturer in El Paso, experienced significant layoffs. In spite of the losses experienced by the garment industry, El Paso’s manufacturing sector remains strong, comprising 15% of the civilian work force (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Employment by Industry in El Paso County, Texas in 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey

Other industries moving into the region are gaining importance in the local economy. Industries such as transportation/trucking, plastic injection molding and wire products, as well as the service and retail sectors, are growing steadily. While the El Paso area economy is not growing as rapidly as other parts of Texas, the growing population and economy have resulted in a building boom (both residential and commercial/industrial) over the past few years. Unfortunately, following from the building boom has been an increase in illegal dumping in the eastern, northeastern, and northwestern portions of El Paso County, the same areas that are growing rapidly. Illegal dumping of both residential and construction debris is on the rise in the metropolitan area, and more municipal and county resources, as well as solid waste grant money, have been diverted from other purposes to address this growing problem.

The maquiladora or twin plant industry sector is still growing rapidly in El Paso County, and has the potential for continued expansion in Presidio County as well. Under the terms of the 1983 La Paz Agreement, U.S. companies are required to return to the U.S. any waste from maquiladora manufacturing activities in Mexico. This includes any non-hazardous as well as hazardous industrial wastes. The largest number of maquiladoras on the Texas border are in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, across from El Paso. As more twin plants are built along the border, the quantities of non-hazardous industrial wastes requiring disposal in Texas border counties will continue to grow, reducing the remaining capacity of MSW landfills. Most of these wastes from Juarez manufacturing operations are disposed of in the Camino Real landfill in Sunland Park, New Mexico, just over the El Paso County border. Since El Paso County communities also depend on the Camino Real landfill for the disposal of over half its municipal solid waste, the increasing industrial waste may impact the capacity available for El Paso. The growth in maquiladoras along the border will continue to increase the need for recycling and waste reduction education and services, particularly aimed at commercial/industrial recycling initiatives, as well as on manufacturing process re-engineering to reduce the amount of waste at the source.

In Van Horn, the rise in travel-related service businesses has resulted in an increase in restaurant and packaging waste, including large quantities of corrugated cardboard. At the same time, the closure of the Van Horn landfill (in September, 1997) has put an emphasis on commercial recycling, and also contributed to illegal dumping problems. In the tri-county area of Brewster, Presidio, and Jeff Davis counties, populations are growing due to an influx of retirees and urban out-migrants from other parts of Texas and the rest of the nation. The growing population has led to a growth in tourism-related service and retail businesses, put pressure on the remaining arid-exempt landfills, and increased the emphasis on residential and commercial recycling. Construction debris in both Marfa and Alpine has also increased as a result of this growing population. With only four landfills in operation in the rural subregion, illegal dumping is an ongoing problem in all counties and communities.

### **3. WASTE GENERATION AND CHARACTERIZATION**

#### **a. Waste Generation**

According to the 2000 Data Summary and Analysis from TCEQ's Annual Reporting Program for Permitted MSW Facilities, the El Paso region disposed of 323,330 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) in the year 2000. El Paso County, the major metropolitan area in the region, accounted for 303,367 tons of the waste disposed. The remaining 19,963 tons of waste was contributed by the five rural counties of Hudspeth, Presidio, Brewster, Jeff Davis and Culberson. Based on the 1997 Texas Recycling Rate Project, it was estimated that 29.25% of the waste generated in the region was recycled. Based on that data, the El Paso region recycled 246,218 tons of materials. The border-region with the City of El Paso bordering Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and the City of Presidio bordering Ojinaga, Mexico imports non-hazardous industrial waste. The waste coming in from Juarez, Mexico is then exported out of the region. Exportation and importation of MSW also takes place within the region, but it is difficult to determine the net imports/exports. Based on the data available, it is estimated that the net exports for the region in 2000 was 512,643 tons. Using the EPA's definition of MSW generation as the sum of disposal, recycling and the net of importation and exportation, it is estimated that the waste generation for this region in the year 2000 was 1,082,191 tons. The following table shows the projected regional waste generation and the amount of waste disposed of and recycled on a per capita basis.

**Table 2. Projected Regional Waste Generation**

Year	Population Projection	Landfill Disposal (Tons)	Disposal Rate (lbs./person/day)	Net Imports/Exports	Recycling (Tons)	Recycling Rate (lbs./person/day)	Generation (Tons)
2000	704,318	323,330	2.51	512,643	246,218	.4	1,082,191
2005	770,580	353,773	2.51	512,643	269,703	.4	1,136,119
2010	814,530	373,950	2.51	512,643	285,085	.4	1,171,678
2015	859,827	394,746	2.51	512,643	300,939	.4	1,208,328
2020	907,467	416,618	2.51	512,643	317,613	.4	1,246,874

In 2000, the per capita landfill disposal rate increased for the state as well as for the region. The population and economy are projected to continue growing and as a result the per capita landfill disposal rate will continue to show increases. In 2000, the per capita landfill disposal rate for this region was 2.51 pounds/person /day. This is up from the 2.33 pounds/person/day disposal rate reported in 1998.

The following illustration (Figure 3) shows the exportation, importation and general flow of MSW in the region during the base year of 2000. As will be discussed later, waste flow in the eastern portion of the planning region served by Duncan Disposal is more complex than the following simplified diagram illustrates, and has changed somewhat since 2000. In the year 2000, 612 tons of MSW were imported into the planning region from Terrell County and disposed of in the Alpine landfill. Duncan Disposal also transported 1,152 tons of MSW from the Town of Van Horn and 470 tons of MSW from Jeff Davis County to a transfer station in Pecos, TX, outside of the planning region.

A portion of Van Horn's waste (2,428 tons) in 2000 was transported to the Sierra Blanca landfill in Hudspeth County for disposal. Dell City's waste is disposed of in the Hudspeth County landfill in Dell City, while the MSW from both Fort Hancock and Sierra Blanca goes to the

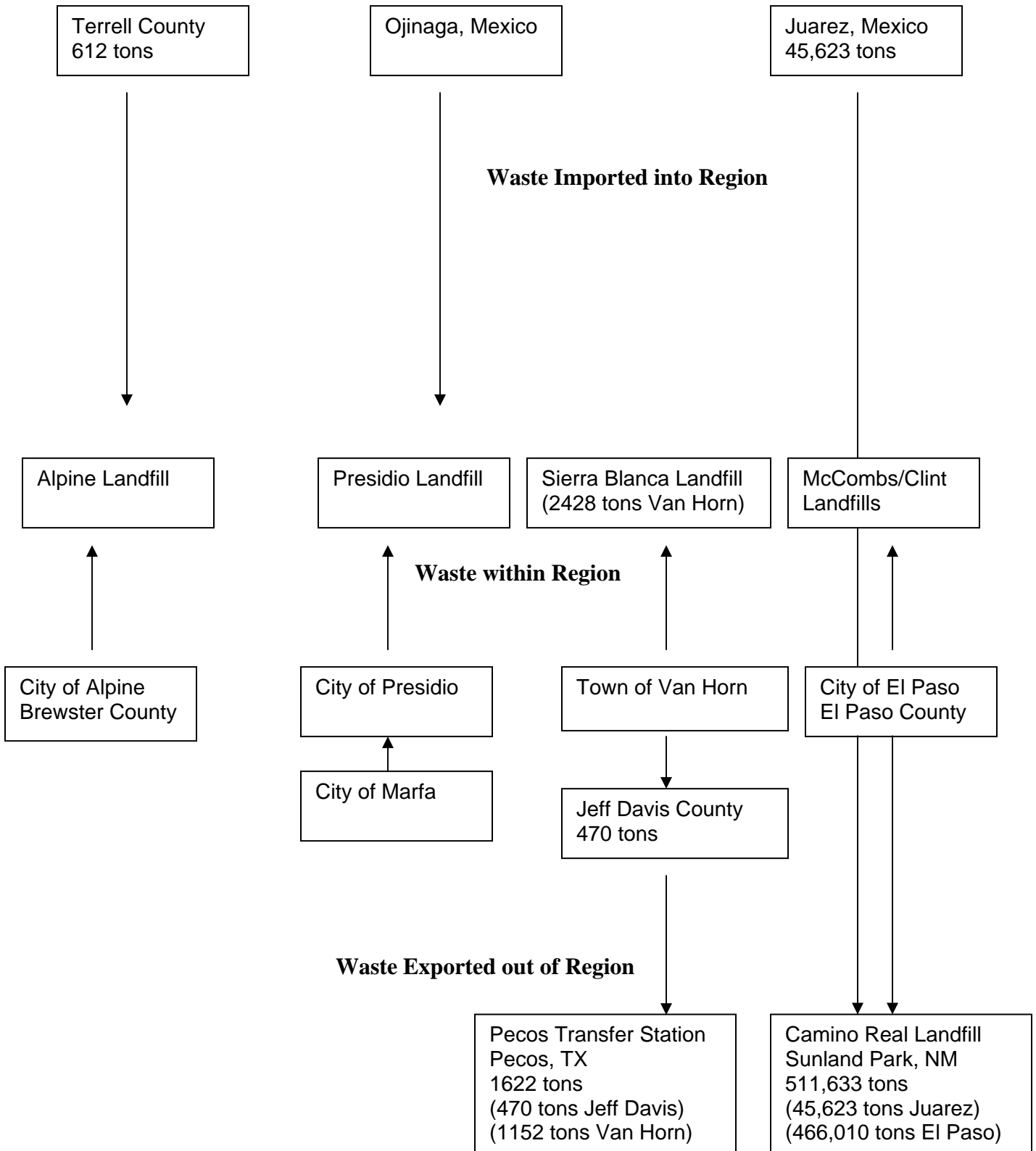
Sierra Blanca landfill. The City of Presidio's landfill accepts non-hazardous industrial waste from maquiladoras in Ojinaga, Mexico along with MSW from the City of Presidio and the City of Marfa. The industrial waste from the American Plume and Fancy Feather factory in Marfa is transported to the Presidio landfill.

The City of El Paso disposes of its MSW in the McCombs Landfill, located in the northern portion of El Paso County, and the Clint Landfill which is located in the southeastern portion of El Paso County. The City and County of El Paso also export MSW to the Camino Real Landfill near Sunland Park, New Mexico. In the year 2000, the City and County of El Paso exported approximately 466,010 tons of MSW to the Camino Real Landfill. The non-hazardous industrial waste from the maquiladoras in Juarez, Mexico is not considered MSW, but is re-imported into the U.S. through the City of El Paso and disposed of at the Camino Real landfill. The landfill received 45,623 tons of this waste in 2000.

The movement of C & D waste in the region differs from the flow of MSW. In the rural subregion, the C & D waste from Presidio, Jeff Davis, and Brewster Counties is transported to the Type IV cell at the Alpine landfill for disposal. Van Horn's C & D waste also goes to the Alpine landfill. Nearly half of the waste disposed of in the Alpine landfill in 2000 was C & D waste. Terrell County's C & D waste, unlike their MSW, is not imported into the region; it is disposed of in a Type IV landfill in Terrell County. In El Paso County, the majority of the C & D waste is collected through commercial contract by El Paso Disposal, and exported from the region into the Camino Real landfill in Sunland Park, New Mexico.

Since 2000, the waste flow in the rural subregion has changed. All of Jeff Davis County's MSW now goes to the Presidio landfill. The MSW from the town of Balmorhea in Reeves County is imported into the planning region, and is also disposed of in the Presidio landfill. No waste, either MSW or C & D, is now exported out of the rural subregion. The City of Presidio is considering the expansion of the Presidio landfill, in anticipation of the expansion of the Presidio international border crossing. Waste flow in the El Paso subregion has remained constant since the 2000 base year.

**Figure 3  
Municipal Solid Waste Flow in Region in 2000**



## **b. Waste Characterization**

It is important to understand the waste composition of a region in order to plan for future waste minimization. Waste characterization is useful in identifying materials which have a greater potential to be recycled and reused based upon current disposal and recycling practices. Waste characterization figures are not available outside of the El Paso area; therefore, this analysis will be based on figures taken from the *1998-1999 Municipal Solid Waste Characterization Study* of the City of El Paso and the EPA's *Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 1999 Facts and Figures* study. Table 3 shows the composition of residential waste and compares the City of El Paso to the national study. Paper and paperboard products made up the largest percentage of all materials in the residential MSW in both studies. The City of El Paso had a larger percentage of yard waste and "other" waste than the 1999 EPA study. Organic/Inorganic and lumber were classified under the "Other" waste. The characterization study of the City of El Paso concluded that paper, plastics, other, and yard trimmings were the dominant groups in the overall residential waste stream.

**Table 3. Comparison of Waste Generation Studies**

	1998-99 City of El Paso **	1999 EPA Study
<b>Paper</b>	34.7	38.1
<b>Yard Waste</b>	29.1	12.1
<b>Food Waste</b>	4.4	10.9
<b>Plastics</b>	9.6	10.5
<b>Metals</b>	4.1	7.8
<b>Rubber, Leather &amp; Textiles</b>	N/A	6.6
<b>Glass</b>	3.9	5.5
<b>Wood</b>	N/A	5.3
<b>HHW</b>	0.2	N/A
<b>Other</b>	13.9	3.2

\* Values are in percent

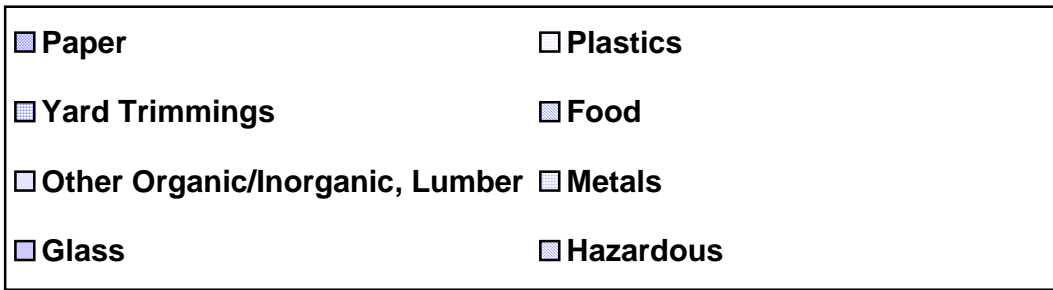
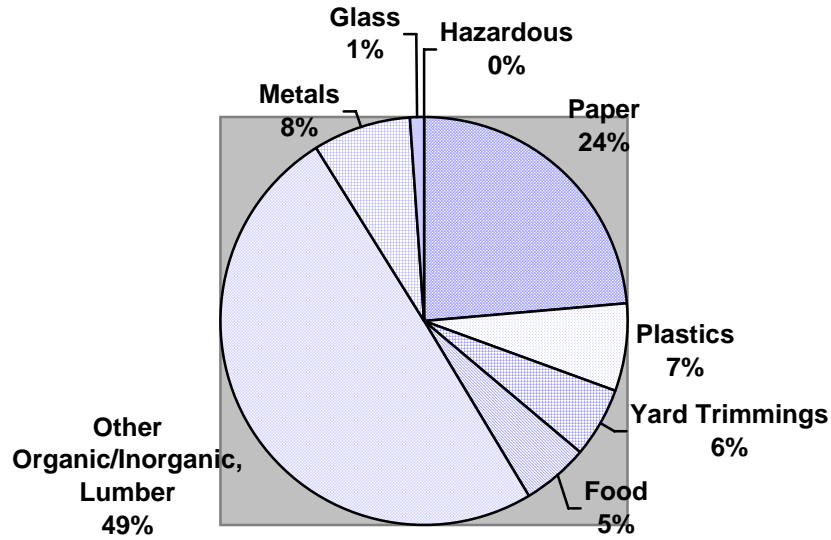
\*\* Percentages were taken from the residential solid waste stream 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter-February 1999

The non-residential waste characterized was from business (retail, manufacturing, industrial, restaurant, airport), institutional (schools, jail, fire stations, libraries) and recreational (convention center, city parks) origin. Figure 4 shows the overall percentages of the non-residential waste sampled from October 1998 to April 1999. Of the non-residential waste characterized, paper, metals and "other" were the dominant groups. According to the study, this can be explained by noting that some of the samples analyzed came from building construction sites and the composition of building construction and demolition wastes is predominantly paper. A large portion came from corrugated packaging materials. The largest percentage of waste was characterized under the "Other" category. This is also due to the C&D waste such as lumber, and other inorganic materials such as broken concrete, bricks, tile, and sheetrock. El Paso will continue to have large portions of C&D waste due to numerous housing and commercial construction projects underway in the City.



**Figure 4**

**Components of Non-Residential Solid Waste Stream**



Source: 1998-99 Municipal Solid Waste Characterization Study-City of El Paso

## **4. WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

### **a. Roles, Responsibilities and Institutional Arrangements**

Many different public and private agencies, authorities, districts, organizations, and entities share responsibility for the management of municipal solid waste in the RGCOG region. The responsibilities of governmental agencies include both policy direction and regulatory authority which impact the management of solid waste. All incorporated cities and all counties with populations greater than 30,000 are obligated to assure that solid waste collections services are available to their citizens, either through a public agency or by contracting with a private service. In addition to cities and counties, special districts can assume the responsibility of providing collection service. The services provided by public and private entities are discussed in the following sections of the plan amendment, and summarized in Appendix 2. Nonprofit organizations also play an important role in local and regional solid waste management by providing educational services and coordination, and by organizing community service events such as clean-up days. In the RGCOG region, Keep Texas Beautiful and its affiliates in cities and counties are active in promoting recycling, litter abatement, and environmental education.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 is the main federal legislation governing the management of solid waste in the United States. It aims to protect public health and the environment while conserving resources, and is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Other federal regulations having an impact on solid waste management activities include the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund), the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. States have the responsibility to see that these federal laws are implemented at the state level.

In Texas, the Solid Waste Disposal Act (Texas Health & Safety Code, Chapter 361) is the state act governing the management of solid waste. It directs the state's resource protection agency, the TCEQ, to take responsibility for solid waste management, implementing and enforcing the provisions of the act. Under Texas Health & Safety Code, Chapter 363, however, Texas' regional councils are designated as the primary entities for solid waste planning. The TCEQ administers the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program as part of its waste planning efforts. Under this program, the TCEQ provides funding and technical assistance to the regional councils to support their regional solid waste planning role, and also provides funding for a pass-through grant program to local governments which is administered by the regional councils. This grant program assists in implementing goals and objectives of both the state solid waste plan and the regional plans.

Several bills which affect solid waste management policy and implementing regulations were passed in the 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session of 2001. The most important of these new laws is House Bill 2912, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Sunset review bill. It requires many changes to TCEQ regulations, including the following:

- Changes the name of the agency to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, to be phased in by January 1, 2004.
- Establishes a performance-oriented regulatory structure based on compliance history,

which will be used in permitting and enforcement decisions.

- Requires the review of solid waste disposal permits every 5 years to assess compliance performance.
- Changes public notice requirements for new solid waste facilities.
- Strengthens and clarifies the regulation of solid waste facilities, specifically addressing sham recycling facilities, and specifying the conditions under which a MSW landfill that has stopped accepting waste may again accept waste.
- Authorizes remedial action at a scrap tire site that threatens to release a hazardous substance, and allows the TCEQ to seek recovery of expenses for remediation from responsible parties.
- Changes permitting regulations for Type IV landfills.
- Requires a permit, rather than a registration, to apply Class B sewage sludge to land.
- Addresses the remediation of hazardous waste at a solid waste facility.

In addition to HB 2912, several other bills which passed in the 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session have an impact on solid waste management. HB 631 increases the fines for illegal dumping by making existing fines and punishments apply to smaller quantities of dumped waste. It also adds a jail felony punishment for certain types of illegal dumping. HB 630 allows municipal enforcement officers to use unmarked cars for surveillance of illegal dump sites. HB 2092 broadens the definition of a public nuisance. SB 352 allows counties to collect solid waste disposal fees. Several interim committees were also given charges which have the potential to affect solid waste management and planning following the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. The Senate Interim Committee on Intergovernmental Relations will examine the power of county officials to regulate growth and development in unincorporated areas.

At the regional and local level, there have been no changes in local ordinances or regulations which would have an impact on the management of solid waste. The 2000 Update to the *Municipal Solid Waste Plan for Far West Texas* summarized changes in local laws and regional programs affecting solid waste management practices.

### **b. Waste Disposal and Capacity**

In 2000, there were eight Type I MSW landfill facilities operating in the region, with a capacity of 8.5 million tons and 26.4 years of capacity available (Table 4). The Van Horn landfill closed in 1997, a loss of 16,696 tons and 5.7 years of capacity for the rural subregion. The Type IV landfill in Brewster County also closed, in 1999. This closure brings an additional loss of 1,082 tons and 11.51 years of capacity for the rural subregion. C & D waste that formerly went to the Brewster County Type IV landfill in Marathon is now disposed of in the Alpine landfill. Van Horn's waste services were contracted out to Duncan Disposal, and since 1999, Van Horn's MSW has been disposed of primarily in Hudspeth County's Sierra Blanca landfill. In 2000, some of Van Horn's waste was exported to the Pecos Transfer Station in Pecos, TX, but the majority was disposed of in the Sierra Blanca landfill. According to Duncan Disposal officials, Van Horn's waste will continue to be transported to the Sierra Blanca landfill in the future. The resulting increase in the disposal rate at the Sierra Blanca facility prompted Hudspeth County to initiate a permit modification request for an expansion of this facility, which was granted in 2001.

**Table 4. Current Regional Waste Disposal Rates and Landfill Capacity\***

Permit No.	Permittee	Facility Type	2000 Tons Disposed	Capacity (Tons Available)	Capacity (Years Available)
<b><i>El Paso Subregion</i></b>					
729	City of El Paso (McCombs)	1	65,046	5,188,074	79.7
1422	US Army/Ft. Bliss	1	12,502	129,314	10.3
1482	City of El Paso (Clint)	1	225,819	522,856	2.3
	<i>El Paso Subregional Total</i>		<i>303,367</i>	<i>5,840,244</i>	<i>19.25</i>
<b><i>Rural Subregion</i></b>					
1276	Big Bend National Park	1AE	511	25,851	51.0
2197	City of Alpine	1AE	13,577	2,429,952	179.0
	<i>Brewster County Total</i>		<i>14,088</i>	<i>2,455,803</i>	<i>174.32</i>
495	Hudspeth County (Dell City)	1AE	560	157,118	93.5
957	Hudspeth County (Sierra Blanca)	1AE	1,800	40,966	22.8
	<i>Hudspeth County Total</i>		<i>2,360</i>	<i>198,084</i>	<i>83.93</i>
1737	City of Presidio	1AE	3,515	40,234	11.4
	<i>Presidio County Total</i>		<i>3,515</i>	<i>40,234</i>	<i>11.45</i>
	<i>Rural Subregional Total</i>		<i>19,963</i>	<i>2,694,121</i>	<i>134.96</i>
<b>Total 2000 Tons Disposed &amp; Capacity Available</b>			<b>323,330</b>	<b>8,534,365</b>	<b>26.40</b>

\*2000 disposal amounts and tons of available capacity based on figures reported to TCEQ.

The estimates of capacity available to the two subregions vary widely; El Paso County has 19.25 years of remaining capacity available at current disposal rates, while the rural subregion has 134.96 years of remaining capacity. All of the rural subregional facilities are arid-exempt landfills which accept a limited amount of solid waste from a small population. Therefore, each new cell that is permitted adds a relatively large amount of capacity because of the small population each landfill serves. Conversely, in El Paso County, with 96% of the population and 95% of the region's waste, the development of new permitted cells adds relatively smaller amounts of available capacity.

Based on the 2000 figures reported to TCEQ, the overall disposal rate for the region is 2.51 pounds/person/day. This is approximately the disposal rate for El Paso County (2.45 pounds/person/day), the locus of 96% of the region's population and 95% of the waste disposed of regionally. The El Paso County disposal rate does not take into account the 466,010 tons of MSW exported from the region and disposed of in the Camino Real landfill in Sunland Park, New Mexico. When that waste (61% of the county total) is taken into account, the per capita disposal rate climbs to 6.2 pounds/person/day. Disposal rates in the rural counties are more difficult to estimate, since MSW and C & D waste from a particular county or community are often sent to different landfills. The disposal rates, however, are generally higher than the statewide average, with 3.87 pounds per capita in Hudspeth County and 7.76 pounds per capita

in Brewster County. Presidio County's per capita rate of 2.64 pounds is comparable to El Paso County's rate. The higher rates in the rural subregion are consistent with the original findings during preparation of the regional plan, and have been explained as a result of the impact of tourism on this part of the region. Big Bend National Park in Brewster County, in particular, is impacted by the nearly 300,000 visitors that it receives annually. In Brewster County, however, the large increase between 1998 and 2000 in the amount of waste disposed of in the Alpine landfill is due to an increase in the amount of C & D waste going into the landfill in 2000. A portion of this waste used to be disposed of in the Brewster County Type IV landfill in Marathon, which closed in 1999. The majority of the increase in C & D waste at the Alpine landfill in 2000, however, resulted from several large commercial construction projects, including construction at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, and the construction of a new visitor's center at McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains. In 2000, nearly half of the 13,577 tons of waste disposed of at the Alpine landfill consisted of C & D waste. Officials at Duncan Disposal report that the yearly tonnage going into the Alpine landfill dropped in 2001, and continues to drop in 2002, as several major commercial construction projects in the area are completed. Even so, per capita rates in each of the rural counties have dropped steadily since the original plan was prepared.

Table 5 illustrates the decline in remaining landfill capacity over the planning horizon. Assuming the 2000 per capita landfill disposal rate remains constant, the current recycling rate remains unchanged, and no additional landfill capacity is developed, the region will run out of landfill disposal capacity shortly after 2015. These assumptions are less than realistic, however. As discussed in the following section, efforts are already underway to increase landfill capacity in both the El Paso and rural subregions. In addition, new landfill capacity is being developed in Dona Ana County, New Mexico. It is reasonable to assume that the additional capacity planned for New Mexico will continue to be used by entities within the planning region. In addition, the amount of materials recycled, and therefore removed from the disposal stream, is expected to continue to increase. While the recycling rate may not increase indefinitely, continued educational efforts, more convenient municipal recycling programs, and a heightened awareness by industry that recycling makes good economic sense, should result in a larger percentage of the region's citizens and industries recycling a greater variety and volume of materials.

Fort Bliss is planning a new landfill to be located just northeast of its existing one on base. The new landfill will be 233 acres, and will consist of Type I and Type IV cells. Based on the 2000 data reported to TCEQ, the estimated remaining disposal capacity of the current Fort Bliss landfill at that time was 10.3 years.

In Otero County, New Mexico, adjacent to El Paso County, Texas, Rhino Environmental Services, Inc. was issued a permit by the New Mexico Environment Department to develop a 160 acre landfill. The landfill will be located 2 miles north of the El Paso County line, and the facility's developers state that the majority of waste it will accept will come from El Paso County, as well as Otero County, New Mexico. The facility is projected to receive 85,000 tons of MSW per year, predominantly from El Paso County.

The City of El Paso has requested a permit to expand its landfill in Clint, TX. The City hopes to expand the landfill to an adjacent 320 acres. The City also has plans to add a Type IV cell at the

McCombs landfill located in the northern portion of El Paso County.

In the rural subregion, Hudspeth County received a permit amendment from TCEQ in 2001 to expand its Type IAE Sierra Blanca MSW landfill. The City of Presidio is also planning for a lateral expansion of its landfill. All of these proposed or newly expanded facilities will increase the available disposal capacity in both the El Paso and rural subregions.

**Table 5. Projected Regional Waste Disposal Rates and Landfill Capacity**

Assumptions:

- 2000 per capita landfill disposal rate remains unchanged
- Current recycling rate remains unchanged
- No additional landfill capacity beyond 2000 level

Planning Year	Population	Landfill Disposal (tons)	Current Per Capita Disposal Rate (lbs/person/day)	Current Per Capita Disposal Rate (tons/person/yr)	Remaining Landfill Disposal Capacity (tons)	Remaining Landfill Disposal Capacity (years)
2000	704,318	323,330	2.51	0.459	8,534,365	26.4
2005	770,580	353,773	2.51	0.459	4,681,465	13.2
2010	814,530	373,950	2.51	0.459	2,811,715	3.5
2015	859,827	394,746	2.51	0.459	837,985	2.1
2020	907,467	416,618	2.51	0.459	(1,245,105)	(2.99)

**c. Waste Transfer, Storage, Treatment and Processing**

The only other permitted MSW facility within the planning region is the City of El Paso’s Delta Street Transfer Station, as shown in Table 6. The amount of waste handled in 2000 by the Delta Street Transfer Station (Permit No. 728) has not increased significantly since 1996.

**Table 6. Other Permitted Municipal Solid Waste Facilities**

Subregion/County	Permit No.	Permit Holder	Facility Type	2000 Tons Handled
<i>El Paso</i>				
	728	City of El Paso	5TS	60,500
<b>Total 2000 Tons</b>				<b>60,500</b>

\*2000 tons of MSW handled based on figures reported to TCEQ.

Valley By Products has notified the RGCOG that it intends to file a permit application for a Type 5GG grease/grit trap waste processing facility in El Paso County. Valley By Products is proposing to use a packaged liquid/solid separation system that will separate the solid from the liquid fraction of the waste. The solids will be disposed of at the Camino Real Landfill in Sunland Park, New Mexico. The liquids will be discharged into the facility's sanitary sewer.

The City of El Paso Water Utilities -- Public Service Board is also exploring the idea of developing a Type 5GG grease and grit trap waste processing facility in El Paso County.

These proposed facilities will address a critical need in the El Paso metropolitan area. In 1999, grease and grit trap waste haulers threatened to go on strike to draw regional attention to the need for a local processing facility. The development of the proposed facilities should dramatically reduce the incidence of illegal dumping and improper disposal of grease and grit trap wastes in the El Paso subregion.

The City of El Paso is also exploring the possibility of constructing a waste gasification facility in El Paso County. The proposed facility would generate electricity using a varied feedstock of MSW, scrap tires, and other materials. The City is working with EPA officials on a preliminary feasibility study for this facility.

#### **d. Waste Collection and Transportation Services**

In the City of El Paso, residential MSW collection is provided by the City's Department of Solid Waste Management. Commercial accounts within the city are predominantly served by El Paso Disposal. In El Paso County, residents and businesses are served by several large and small private service providers, including El Paso Disposal and West Texas Disposal and others listed in Appendix 2. Many residents outside the city limits are provided service through their water supply district, such as the Lower Valley Water District or El Paso County Water Authority. These water supply entities contract with private solid waste service providers for the residents within their district. In unincorporated areas of the county lacking water service, there are often no waste collection services available. Residents must haul their own waste to either the City of El Paso's Clint or McCombs landfill, and pay a disposal fee based on tonnage.

In the rural subregion, Duncan Disposal now provides service to all but Hudspeth County and Town of Van Horn residents, either through individual accounts with rural residents, or under contract to individual cities and counties. Hudspeth County provides service to residential and commercial accounts within Hudspeth County. The Town of Van Horn provides solid waste collection service to residents and commercial accounts within the town and its immediate vicinity. The Presidio County communities of Candelaria and Ruidosa still lack solid waste disposal service; residents must self-haul their waste to Presidio, a distance of over 90 miles. Since the population of the rural subregion outside of incorporated areas is predominantly rural, and widely scattered over a huge geographic area, the provision of adequate collection services is difficult, and many rural residents must self-haul their waste to one of the remaining landfills in the subregion. Transportation costs to provide service to these isolated residents are prohibitive, and counties lack an adequate mechanism for billing service accounts. Rural counties should

assess the feasibility of developing and servicing citizens' collection stations in areas currently lacking adequate collection and disposal options.

There were no transfer stations or citizen collection stations in operation in the rural subregion in 2000. The rural subregion now has two citizen collection stations in operation. Brewster County has one located in Marathon, TX to collect brush and construction and demolition debris. Jeff Davis County has one collection station located in the Davis Mountain Resort. The City of Marfa and Fort Davis both have drop-off stations at their closed landfills for yard waste. In the El Paso subregion, El Paso County has two citizen collection stations located at closed county landfills in the Upper Valley and Lower Valley. The City of El Paso has plans to set up a network of citizens' collection stations in 2002 – 2003, for yard waste, bulky items, municipal solid waste, and recyclables.

#### **e. Recycling Services**

**Recycling Collection & Drop-Off Programs.** Several municipalities within the region provide drop-off recycling collection service to their residents. In the El Paso subregion, the City of El Paso has steadily expanded its Saturday drop-off and workplace recycling programs. The City of El Paso has opened 5 additional citizen collection stations with recycling drop-off capabilities; it now has a total of 8 drop-off sites and 7 weekend drop-off sites (see Appendix 2). The City also provides monthly drop-off household hazardous waste collection service. The City is proposing to add 3 new citizen collection stations that offer recycling drop-off services in FY 2002. The new stations will target the Central, West and Southeast areas of El Paso. The City of Socorro also maintains a permanent recycling drop-off center which was enlarged and upgraded with grant funds in 2000. The City of El Paso services Socorro's drop-off center through interlocal agreement. Fort Bliss has a recycling center located on post, and conducts weekly training classes on recycling on post to all new Fort Bliss residents. Fort Bliss requested federal funding in FY 2000 for the purchase of desk side recycling containers for all post employees, and planned to implement a "Buying Green" program. Several school districts within El Paso County also participate in the City of El Paso's workplace recycling program, including El Paso ISD and Socorro ISD. Similar programs are planned for the Clint and Ysleta school districts. The City of El Paso collects and markets the recyclable products.

In the rural subregion, the City of Presidio collects old corrugated cardboard, which Duncan Disposal transports to the Alpine recycling center. Brewster County collects recyclable materials from an unattended drop-off recycling center in Terlingua, and also transports those materials to Alpine. The cities of Marfa, Alpine, and Ft. Davis all provide recycling drop-off collection centers for their residents. Marfa and Ft. Davis materials are transported to the Alpine recycling center for processing. The Town of Van Horn collects corrugated cardboard, which is processed through a contract with a private recycler in Van Horn, and transported to El Paso for sale. Several school districts in the rural subregion also have implemented recycling programs, including the Culberson/Allamore ISD, Big Bend Consolidated School District and Marathon ISD. Big Bend National Park has an extensive recycling program operating within the Park, which accepts a wide range of materials. Currently, BBNP gives away these recyclable products, but the Park is negotiating with an El Paso recycling company which is interested in purchasing some of their baled materials.



Most private recycling collection and processing services are limited to El Paso County, where the population density, commercial/industrial sector density, and transportation infrastructure make recycling more economically viable. A wide range of materials are accepted by these recyclers, as indicated by the tables in Appendix 2. The vast majority of these materials are shipped to Mexico for reprocessing.

The types of waste where the greatest benefits and results could still be achieved through further waste reduction efforts include paper, yard waste, and C & D waste. In the El Paso subregion, the City of El Paso has a large and successful office paper recycling program. Other communities and many of the school districts within El Paso County also participate in paper recycling programs, mainly through service contracts with the City of El Paso. In the rural subregion, opportunities for paper recycling are limited. The City of Alpine, Brewster County, the City of Marfa, and the community of Ft. Davis all provide opportunities for paper recycling. Alpine offers curbside collection to residents and commercial accounts within the city; all other residents are served by drop-off programs. Substantial reductions in the amount of paper disposed of in regional landfills may still be possible by targeting government installations, schools, and universities, and providing special collection programs for these facilities.

**Yard Waste and C & D Waste Collection & Recycling.** In the El Paso subregion, the City of El Paso provides for weekly collection of separated yard waste, and diverts clean loads of yard and wood waste at their Clint and McCombs landfills for chipping. Chipped product is available to both City departments and citizens for use in landscaping projects. Fort Bliss has acquired a wood grinder which is located at the Fort Bliss landfill. Mulch is provided free of charge to Fort Bliss residents. The City of Socorro purchased a chipper in 2000 from solid waste grant funds which will be used to provide the same service to its residents. Other programs, such as “Don’t Bag It”, could be implemented to divert more yard waste from area landfills. Local governments and governmental facilities should also consider implementing local restrictions and controls to reduce the disposal of yard waste and C & D materials. In El Paso, Type IV cells at the McCombs, Clint, and Fort Bliss landfills reduce the amount of yard waste and C & D waste that goes into the Type I landfill cells, thereby extending the life of the more costly Type I cells.

In the rural subregion, the City of Alpine purchased a large-capacity chipper and dump truck with solid waste grant funds in 1998. The Chipper is operated and maintained by the City of Alpine, which uses the chipper to reduce yard and wood waste. Mulch is made available to residents for landscaping. Brewster County operates a drop-off center for yard waste and C & D debris in Marathon. Culberson County, in conjunction with the Town of Van Horn, also purchased a chipper with solid waste grant funds. Mulch is used by the city and county, and made available to residents for landscaping free of charge. In FY 2002, the City of Marfa and Jeff Davis County both received solid waste grant funds to purchase 18” capacity Bandit drum-style brush chippers to dispose of yard trimmings and brush within the city and county, respectively. The mulch material will be offered to the Marfa and Fort Davis communities free of charge and used on community landscaping projects. Other programs, such as “Don’t Bag It”, could be implemented to divert more yard waste from area landfills. Local governments and governmental facilities should also consider implementing local restrictions and controls to reduce the disposal of yard waste and C & D materials. In the rural subregion, Type IV cells at

the Presidio and Alpine landfills serve to reduce the amount of these materials disposed in the Type I cells.

**Automotive Waste Collection & Recycling.** Recycling opportunities for used oil, oil filters, other automotive wastes such as antifreeze and batteries, and tires, are concentrated in the El Paso subregion. In El Paso County, most do-it-yourself auto supply stores, such as Auto Zone, Pep Boys, WalMart, Sam's Club, and Checker Auto Parts, accept used oil and oil filters from the public for recycling. Lube N Go and Pronto Lube service centers also accept used oil, as does the Texas Dept. of Transportation eastside location on Gateway West. Nunn Waste Management, located in El Paso, is the only registered used oil/filter handler and transporter in the region. The City of El Paso's permanent household hazardous waste collection centers (see Appendix 2) also accept automotive wastes from city residents.

The City of El Paso has a waste tire disposal program established under city ordinance. Waste tire generators must annually register with the Department, and pay a registration fee of fifty dollars, \$50.00. City residents may dispose of eight (8) tires per household each year at no cost at the City's two municipal solid waste landfills, at Household Hazardous Waste collection sites, and at permanent recycling sites (see Appendix 2). Non-residents must pay a disposal fee at the landfills that varies according to tire size. An *ad hoc* Waste Tire Advisory Committee was established in October 2000 to address the pervasive health, safety and esthetic problem of abandoned tires. The Committee was formed for the purpose of receiving public input and providing recommendations to the El Paso City Council. Batteries and tires are generally recycled at the point of sale. There are several tire transporters registered in El Paso County, but only one tire processing and storage facility. These facilities and services are shown in the table in Appendix 2.

In the rural subregion, opportunities for recycling used oil are generally limited to selected Texas Dept. of Transportation offices, including those in Van Horn, Dell City, Sierra Blanca, Ft. Hancock, Ft. Davis, Marfa, and Presidio. The City of Alpine's recycling program no longer accepts used oil, oil filters, or other automotive wastes. In Brewster County, the only used oil recycling collection facility in operation is in Big Bend National Park, which only accepts waste generated in the park. Collection centers in the neighboring communities of Marfa and Ft. Davis, however, provide recycling opportunities for residents of northern Brewster County. The cities of Marfa and Presidio, and Culberson County, are the only local governments in the rural subregion which provide used oil/oil filter recycling. The Marfa facility is located at the closed landfill on Golf Course Road. The Presidio facility is located at the Presidio landfill. Most of the cities and counties in the rural subregion which previously offered used oil recycling drop-off sites have closed them in the past several years due mainly to problems with providing adequate staffing and supervision of the locations, difficulty in arranging servicing of the locations by registered used oil handlers and transporters, and the resulting liability concerns. In most cases, the local Texas Dept. of Transportation office opened their used oil collection facilities to the public when other options were no longer available. A complete list of these locations is provided in Appendix 2.

As in the El Paso subregion, tires and batteries are generally recycled at the point of sale. City and county governments contract with private tire transporters to dispose of used tires which have been illegally dumped. As with the collection of used oil and other recyclable materials, high transportation costs which limit the attractiveness of recycled materials make them difficult to market. Most local government entities in the eastern half of the rural subregion contract with Safe Tire Disposal in Odessa to transport and dispose of the tires they have collected, while Culberson and Hudspeth Counties generally contract with Tres Pesetas, Inc., in El Paso. A complete list of tire transporters, processors, and storage facilities within or serving the region is included in Appendix 2.

Currently, deficiencies in the collection and marketing of used oil, tires, and other automotive wastes exist in Brewster County. Residents in northern Brewster County can access used oil collection centers in Marfa and Fort Davis, within 30 miles of Alpine. With the exception of Big Bend National Park, residents in the south county area, face a 110 mile round-trip to Marfa or Fort Davis to dispose of these items. Neither Brewster County nor the small Texas Dept. of Transportation office in Terlingua have the staff available to operate and maintain a public facility to collect used oil and other automotive wastes. Previous attempts by the County to offer this service at an unattended facility were unsuccessful. It is also difficult to arrange servicing of a facility in this remote location, because of the small volumes collected and the high transportation costs. At present, the only viable alternative for the residents of this area is self-hauling wastes for disposal.

**Recycling Markets.** Recycling markets within the Far West Texas region are concentrated in El Paso County or east of the planning region in other parts of Texas. Three communities, the City of Alpine and Big Bend National Park in Brewster County, and the City of El Paso in El Paso County, currently serve as the main recycling collection points within the region. The City of Alpine's recycling center serves the communities of Alpine, Marathon, Terlingua, Study Butte, Fort Davis, Marfa, and Presidio (cardboard only). The Big Bend National Park recycling program functions independently and serves park residents and visitors. The City of El Paso's recycling drop-off program serves a majority of the inhabitants of El Paso County.

Geographically, these locales represent the eastern and western margins of the planning region. In terms of the flow of recyclable materials, there is little market interaction between these two locales, with the majority of recyclable materials from both Alpine and Big Bend National Park being transported out of the planning region to the east, and the majority of El Paso's recyclable materials being marketed within the City of El Paso, and then transported into Mexico. The City of El Paso is exploring the possibility of marketing their recycled glass through Strategic Materials, Inc., in southern California.

Alpine has found markets for its aluminum cans in Fort Stockton, paper and plastic in San Angelo, and steel cans in San Antonio. Big Bend National Park is so remote from other population centers that they have a difficult time giving their recyclables away, but haul most of the material to Midland/Odessa or San Angelo. Alpine also struggles to find a market for all but its cardboard and white bond paper. Transportation costs due to the area's remoteness from major metropolitan areas restricts the availability of economical recycling markets.

Only six recyclers in the planning region reported to TCEQ during the course of the Texas Recycling Rate Project in 1997. While the six who did report are some of the largest recyclers in the region, they represent only a fraction of the recyclers listed in Appendix 2 of this plan amendment. The recyclers who reported quantities and types of materials recycled to TCEQ in the planning region showed a total of 246,218 tons of material recycled. The reported figures showed a recycling rate of 29.25% for the planning region, compared to a statewide recycling rate of 35%. It is unknown whether the TCEQ estimate that these entities represent 85% of the regional recycling is a valid assumption. Furthermore, the two material categories which account for the majority (over 90%) of material by weight, “other ferrous” and “other non-ferrous” metals, are generally not considered to be municipal solid waste. When scrap metal is removed from the regional total tons recycled, the recycling rate drops to 4.5%. The apparent results of the study are skewed by the high proportion of recycled scrap metal. This serves to overestimate the amount and percentage of materials which are being diverted from the municipal solid waste stream.

There are no known proposed or planned new recycling markets in the planning region. The outlook for recycling market development in the planning region remains poor, due primarily to high transportation costs to distant markets.

#### **f. Household Hazardous Waste Services**

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Services are only provided in the El Paso subregion. The City of El Paso now has three HHW drop-off sites. One is located at 7969 San Paulo Dr. next to the City’s Department of Solid Waste Management and the other is located in the Upper Valley at 121 Atlantic and the third is located at 4501 Hondo Pass. All three sites are open the first Saturday of every month from 9am to 1pm. It is estimated that 256,456 lbs. of HHW has been collected by this program.

In the rural subregion, the Town of Van Horn received solid waste grant funds in FY2002 to hold a one-day HHW event. Unfortunately, the event had low community participation. Cooperative subregional collection events might be a more economical and effective option in the future.

#### **g. Other Solid Waste Services**

Other MSW services available in the region include residential and commercial non-hazardous solid waste collection, commercial composting, chipping/mulching of yard and wood waste and recycling. These services are listed in tabular format in Appendix 2. A variety of services are offered by both public and private entities, with the majority of service providers located in El Paso County. Also listed in these tables are service providers who offer collection, transportation, and/or recycling of other (non-MSW) wastes such as medical waste, hazardous waste, and non-hazardous industrial waste.

#### **h. Litter and Illegal Dumping**

Illegal dumping is a continuing problem throughout the planning region, in almost every community, large and small, in both urban and rural areas. City and county governments alike

struggle to address the growing problem of illegal dumping with limited staff and scarce resources. Very few dedicated environmental enforcement programs exist in the RGCOG region. While two dedicated enforcement programs exist within the El Paso subregion, most cities and counties in both subregions rely on municipal code enforcement personnel, county sheriff's departments, and city police departments to address illegal dumping along with the entire range of civil or criminal enforcement that these agencies are charged with. Each program is tailored to the area that it serves, and operates within the boundaries of the resources it has available.

Regional training and educational opportunities have been made available on a sporadic basis. Regular training and education need to be implemented throughout the region, serving all enforcement personnel, from code enforcement and law enforcement personnel to judges and prosecutors. Educational materials targeting local enforcement and illegal dumping need to be developed or compiled, and widely distributed throughout the region.

Currently, ongoing training and education in environmental enforcement and illegal dumping is available through both the El Paso Sheriff's Department Region 8 Training Academy and the Sul Ross State University Law Enforcement Training Academy in Alpine. The RGCOG has also arranged for guest speakers for special training sessions in both subregions, and distributes the handbook *Local Control of Illegal Dumping* (Ockels 2002) to local governments and law enforcement agencies.

In El Paso County, a cooperative interagency environmental taskforce has been operating since the mid-1990s, and includes city, county, state (Texas and New Mexico), and federal law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, codes enforcement officers, as well as solid waste management personnel. The taskforce was instrumental in the establishment of an environmental court in El Paso County, and holds an annual illegal dumping summit conference, with support from state legislators.

Taskforce members have also taken the lead in providing environmental education and arranging for the provision of basic services in underserved areas of the County, particularly in *colonias*. The City and County of El Paso also teamed up to implement an illegal dumping hotline (1-888-6ELPASO) which takes citizen calls and routes the complaints to the proper agency. Other initiatives of taskforce members include ongoing multimedia public awareness campaigns, school presentations, neighborhood presentations, and involvement in civic organizations and special events. Taskforce members also provide specialized training to law enforcement and judicial personnel. The El Paso County Environmental Taskforce could serve as a model for a regional, or rural subregional, cooperative taskforce. The sharing of information and resources such a taskforce entails is the most efficient and cost-effective manner of utilizing the limited resources that are available to all of the local governmental entities in the planning region.

In the rural subregion, several counties have attempted to organize local enforcement programs, but have had difficulty in obtaining necessary funding and resources. Rural city governments have also met the same obstacles to their plans to implement enforcement programs. For local enforcement to be effective, the entire region must make it a priority, and implement similar programs in every jurisdiction, so that illegal dumping doesn't just shift out of one area with effective enforcement and into a neighboring area lacking enforcement. In addition, an effective regional enforcement effort must focus simultaneously on four elements: public awareness and education, enforcement, cleanup

of existing dumpsites, and provision of basic services.

### **i. Facility Siting**

The *Municipal Solid Waste Plan for Far West Texas* focused on facility siting in terms of the need for the provision of long-term local and regional capacity. Under the guidance of its Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the RGCOG reviews permit applications, registrations, and permit amendments for their conformance with the regional plan. Since planning for future disposal needs was a main priority of the regional plan, the role of the RGCOG in reviewing applications for MSW facility permits for conformance also focused most heavily on capacity issues. As directed by the TCEQ in the 2000 state plan, the procedures by which permit applications are reviewed are being reexamined in this plan amendment.

Since 1998, the TCEQ has been reviewing its policies concerning the siting of MSW facilities in terms of local and regional land use issues. In the 2000 state plan, the TCEQ indicated that regional councils can no longer base their permit application conformance reviews on capacity issues alone. The TCEQ, working in conjunction with the Texas Association of Regional Councils, has suggested that conformance reviews take into account broader issues of environmental concern that are difficult to address through the traditional state permitting review process. While the state has the statutory authority to deal with traditional environmental concerns such as impact on air and water quality, and environmental health issues, which can be addressed through engineering and design requirements, it has more difficulty evaluating issues which are of more local concern. Local issues include such things as traffic, noise, aesthetics, impact on property values, community growth patterns, and compatibility with local land use patterns. It is these issues which the TCEQ directed the regional councils to address in their permit application conformance review process.

The RGCOG, with input from its Solid Waste Advisory Committee, has participated in discussions with other regional councils and the TCEQ on the process for evaluating conformance in relation to the regional plans. The discussions have centered around balancing the appropriate authority of the state in permitting facilities from a technical standpoint, with local authority to address concerns about facility impacts within an individual community. The RGCOG's procedure to carry out permit application conformance reviews while balancing state and local purview is addressed in more detail in the Action Plan section of this plan amendment.

### **j. Closed MSW Landfill Inventory**

The 24 Councils of Governments in Texas were required to conduct an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfills within their respective planning regions, under §363.064(a)(10) of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended by Senate Bill 1446, 76<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature. The landfill units to be included in this inventory include those on a master list provided by TCEQ, as well as other landfills that RGCOG has identified with the assistance of local government staff. Sources of information on landfill units in the inventory include TCEQ permit records, other state agency records, old maps, deed records, city and county departmental records, appraisal records, and personal recollection of residents.

Initial coordination between RGCOG and local government entities concerning closed landfills

within the planning region was begun in 1995. Data gathered during that phase of data collection, as well as during subsequent project phases, have been reviewed for accuracy by staff of the cities and/or counties where each identified closed landfill is located. RGCOG staff, TCEQ Region VI staff, and local government officials attempted to visit each former landfill unit during the conduct of various phases of the initial inventory. The complete RGCOG closed landfill inventory is included as Appendix 3 of this plan.

Per the statutory requirements, the landfill inventory must include:

- Landfill units no longer in operation;
- A description of the exact boundaries of the landfills, or if the exact boundaries are unknown, a description of the best approximation of each unit's boundaries;
- A map showing the location and exact boundaries, if known, or the approximate boundaries of each former landfill unit, if the exact boundaries are not known;
- If known, the current owners of the land on which the former landfill units were located; and,
- If known, the current use of the land.

The individual maps show the landfill boundary lines in relation to identifying physical or geographic features such as roads, surface water sources, railroads, etc. Where known, land use and land ownership of each parcel of land containing a former landfill unit is included on the site data form for each landfill unit.

At the completion of the inventory, it was incorporated into this amendment to the regional solid waste management plan. The final phase of the inventory process required under statute involves several actions designed to notify individual landowners as well as members of the general public about the location of closed landfills in the planning region. If the exact boundaries of a former landfill are known, and the landfill is located wholly on an identifiable tract of land, RGCOG is required to notify the landowner(s) of the land that overlays the former landfill of the former use of the land. RGCOG must also provide a copy of the inventory to the county clerks and chief planning officials of each county in the planning region. The county clerks will record on the county deed records the exact boundaries of the former landfill if they are known, or the best approximation if the boundaries are not known, and a legal description of the parcel or parcels of land in which the former landfill is located. The county clerk will also record notice of the former use of the parcel of land as a landfill, and notice of restrictions on the development or lease of such land under TCEQ regulations, and make these records available for public inspection. The inventory will also be available at the RGCOG offices and on the internet.

The following tables (Tables 7 & 8) provide summary information on the number of closed landfills located within each county in the planning region. There are 42 closed landfills in the inventory, including 22 permitted and 20 unpermitted sites. Only 7 of the 22 permitted sites included in the closed landfill inventory are completely closed. The remaining 15 permitted sites are considered by TCEQ to be going through the closure process. The RGCOG is including sites which are not considered to be completely closed in the inventory attached to this plan amendment because by 2006 (when this plan is scheduled to be updated again), many of the sites listed here as being partially closed will complete their post-closure care period and be

considered completely closed. Most of these sites are either in post-closure care or have stopped accepting waste and are in the process of engineering final cover.

In addition to the 42 sites listed in the inventory, the RGCOG is requesting that 15 sites included in the original site inventory obtained from TCEQ be removed from the inventory. Most of these sites are unauthorized landfills or illegal dumpsites which were noted in records dating to the 1960s and 1970s from other state agencies, such as the Texas Dept. of Health. They could not be relocated during field work or examination of aerial photographs. Other sites which are requested to be deleted are either the site of an active permitted MSW facility, or a single permitted facility with multiple permit numbers which can be discussed under one record or permit number. A list of the sites recommended for deletion is included in Appendix 3.

Tables 7 and 8 summarize the available information on permitted and unpermitted/unauthorized sites in the inventory, respectively. The complete information available for each site is arranged by county in the following sections of this inventory. Confidence levels were assigned to each site, denoting the level of locational accuracy which could be obtained from the available records and from field visits. The following confidence level definitions were used in mapping the site locations, and are noted in the summary table below:

#### **CONFIDENCE LEVELS KEY**

**High:**

1. Metes & bounds with latitude/longitude for point of beginning, or
  2. GPS reading on approximate boundary points with metes & bounds description.
- \*\*Mapping boundary symbol: solid line around site boundary

**Medium:**

1. Metes & bounds with no latitude/longitude for point of beginning, and no GPS reading on approximate boundary points, or
  2. GPS readings on approximate boundary points only
- \*\*Mapping boundary symbol: dashed line around approximate boundary

**Low:**

1. Site location or boundary points unconfirmed
- \*\*Mapping boundary symbol: dotted square centered on approximate center point of estimated site location

Efforts will continue to locate and record additional information for closed landfill sites in the inventory for which only partial or minimal information is available, and the inventory will be regularly updated to reflect the most current information available on closed landfills within the planning region. The RGCOG will work with local governments and landowners to determine whether any of the closed landfill sites in the region should be studied further to assess the risks posed by individual sites to human health or the environment. Most of the permitted sites within



the region have gone through, or are going through, a formal closure process, and are monitored by TCEQ. For the 13 of 22 permitted sites where there is high confidence in their locations and boundaries, risks are more easily assessed and monitored. But for both the permitted sites for which little locational data are available, and for almost all of the unpermitted sites in the inventory, an assessment of risks will be much more difficult. Future risk assessments should focus on sites which are being encroached on by residential and commercial development, those in proximity to shallow groundwater resources, and those sites which are adjacent or in proximity to surface water and drainage features.

**Table 7. Status of Permitted Sites in the Closed Landfill Inventory  
By County and Permit Number**

	Brewster	Culberson	El Paso	Hudspeth	Jeff Davis	Presidio
Completely Closed Sites						
	1274 Z		134 Q			548 Q
	1275 Z		901 K			1344 Q
	980 Z					
<b>Total Closed</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>			<b>2</b>
Partially Closed Sites						
	354 PC	693 PC		494 W	833 PC	547 PC
	1818 G		136 PC	496 W	1045 PC	1872 J
	2174 W		730 PC	927 PC	1400 W	
			1698 CT			
<b>Total Partially Closed</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Closed Permitted Sites</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

\*\*Site Status per TCEQ MSW Permit Status Database 05/10/02 or public documents on file at the Rio Grande Council of Governments.

Site Status Codes:

- G Grandfather Site (GF Site) – Application Submitted
- J Application or Permit Combined w/ Another Permit
- K Site Closed, No Permit Issued (GF Site), Post Closure Maintenance Complete
- Q Site Closed, Permit Issued, Post Closure Maintenance Complete
- W Application Withdrawn
- Z Permit Revoked
- CT Site Closed to Waste, Final Cover in Progress
- PC Site Under Post-Closure Care

**Table 8. Summary of Closed Landfill Information**

County	Confidence Level		
	High	Medium	Low
<b>Brewster</b>			
# Permitted	2	2	2
# Unpermitted	0	1	0
# Recommended for Removal from Inventory	0	0	(2)
# Recommended for Addition to Inventory	0	0	0
<b>County Total: 7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Culberson</b>			
# Permitted	1	0	0
# Unpermitted	0	0	2
# Recommended for Removal from Inventory	0	0	(2)
# Recommended for Addition to Inventory	0	0	0
<b>County Total: 3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>El Paso</b>			
# Permitted	5	0	0
# Unpermitted	0	1	9
# Recommended for Removal from Inventory	(5)	0	(3)
# Recommended for Addition to Inventory	0	0	0
<b>County Total 15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Hudspeth</b>			
# Permitted	1	0	2
# Unpermitted	0	0	0
# Recommended for Removal from Inventory	0	0	(1)
# Recommended for Addition to Inventory	0	0	0
<b>County Total: 3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Jeff Davis</b>			
# Permitted	1	2	0
# Unpermitted	0	0	0
# Recommended for Removal from Inventory	0	0	(2)

**Table 8 Continued.**

# Recommended for Addition to Inventory	0	0	0
<b><i>County Total: 3</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>	<b><i>2</i></b>	<b><i>0</i></b>
<b>Presidio</b>			
# Permitted	3	0	1
# Unpermitted	0	1	2
# Recommended for Removal from Inventory	0	0	0
# Recommended for Addition to Inventory	0	3	1
<b><i>County Total: 11</i></b>	<b><i>3</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>
<b>Total Closed Landfills: 42</b>			

**k. Local Solid Waste Management Plans**

There are currently no local solid waste management plans for subregions of the planning area or for individual local governments. It is recommended that local governments, particularly counties in the rural subregion, consider the preparation of local plans to assist in planning for the provision of services to sparsely settled portions of the region, and to smaller, unincorporated communities. Many of these areas are characterized by a general lack of access to convenient, affordable disposal facilities and/or collection services, and illegal dumping is prevalent.

# Regional Goals, Objectives and Action Plan

## 1. SUMMARY OF NEEDS AND PROBLEMS

The planning region's solid waste-related needs and problem areas were discussed at several Solid Waste Advisory Committee meetings prior to the preparation of this plan amendment. The items listed below represent recurring themes from these discussions. Many of the needs are common to the entire planning region, while others have different expressions or emphases in the El Paso subregion and the rural subregion. Implementation strategies to address these needs and concerns are discussed in the following section on Goals and Objectives.

### **a. Local Enforcement and Illegal Dumping**

1. Need for new or expanded local enforcement programs, especially in the rural subregion.
2. Need for local enforcement training for civil and criminal enforcement personnel, judges, and prosecutors.
3. Need for regional networking opportunities for enforcement personnel to facilitate sharing of resources and information.
4. Concern with amount of illegal dumping and need to clean up chronic dumpsites.

### **b. Construction and Demolition Debris**

1. Need for convenient and cost-effective local and regional disposal options.
2. Need to ensure that contractors properly dispose of C & D waste, through permitting, manifest system, or roll-off requirements.
3. Need local and regional opportunities for recycling of C & D waste.
4. Concern with amount of C & D materials illegally dumped.

### **c. Recycling and Waste Reduction**

1. Need to increase amount and variety of materials recycled.
2. Need to promote existing programs.
3. Need to expand participation in existing programs.
4. Concern with difficulty of finding markets for collected materials.
5. Concern that recycling programs are not cost-effective.
6. Need to develop regional markets and end-uses.

### **d. Household Hazardous Waste**

1. Need to provide opportunities for proper HHW disposal in rural subregion.
2. Concern with the high cost of disposal.
3. Need for public education that focuses on alternative uses as well as proper disposal.

4. Need to promote regional collection centers and promote shared costs.
5. Need for additional permanent collection facilities.

#### **e. Education**

1. Need to promote regional educational campaigns with opportunities for local tie-ins.
2. Need to continue training of teachers.
3. Need for general public education on environmental laws.
4. Need to continue public education on recycling and illegal dumping.

#### **f. Scrap Tires**

1. Concern with amount of tires illegally dumped and need to clean up tire dump sites.
2. Need to investigate regional disposal contract.
3. Need to develop regional markets and end-uses.

#### **g. Collection and Disposal**

1. Need to provide affordable and convenient collection facilities and services, especially in the rural subregion.
2. Need to provide disposal options for residents lacking regular collection.
3. Need to address areas without long-term disposal capacity (10 years or less).
4. Need to provide local and/or regional facilities for liquid waste disposal and processing.

#### **h. Solid Waste Facility Siting/Permit Application Review**

1. Concern that proposed facility locations do not take into account surrounding land uses or adequately address community concerns.
2. Need for local coordination and stakeholder input on the impact of proposed MSW facilities on residents and the community.
3. Need for defined procedures to evaluate facility applications for conformance with the regional plan and any local solid waste plans.

## **2. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The regional solid waste plan amendment establishes several new, broadly stated goals and objectives for the management of municipal solid waste in the Rio Grande Council of Governments' planning region. While there are only three goals, they follow from the goals of the State Solid Waste Strategic Plan (*Solid Waste Management in Texas, Strategic Plan 2001 – 2005*), and will serve to implement the State's policies on the regional and local level. The three goals are: 1) Promote planning to ensure adequate services and facilities for the proper management and disposal of municipal solid waste; 2) Provide technical support and services to promote local and regional municipal solid waste planning; and 3) Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste generated and disposed of, through waste reduction, recycling, and reuse.

In the sections that follow, objectives are outlined for each of the goals, which serve to focus attention on more specific end results to be achieved through the regional solid waste management planning process. Specific implementation strategies, or suggestions for actions to be taken to achieve specific, desired results, are also outlined for each goal. Implementation strategies are grouped by planning timeframes. The planning timeframes are short term (1 – 5 years), intermediate term (6 – 10 years) and long term (11 – 20 or more years).

**a. Goal 1: Promote planning to ensure adequate services and facilities for the proper management and disposal of municipal solid waste.**

**Objectives:**

1. Identify areas with less than 10 years of municipal solid waste disposal capacity, and implement programs or actions to develop more capacity.
2. Identify areas with inadequate collection, transportation, disposal and processing facilities and/or services, and implement programs to address those problems.
3. Support regional and local efforts to identify areas with litter and illegal dumping problems, and implement programs to address those problems.
4. Encourage the development of local solid waste management plans where necessary to ensure long-term capacity and the provision of services.
5. Review applications for municipal solid waste management facility permits for conformance with local and regional solid waste plans.
6. Ensure that municipal solid waste facility locations are compatible with surrounding land uses, zoning, growth patterns and community land use plans.
7. Ensure that local stakeholders are involved in the review of proposed municipal solid waste facility applications.

**Implementation Strategies by Need or Problem Area:**

**Solid Waste Facility Siting/Permit Application Review**

- Develop a checklist of factors to review the conformance of solid waste facility permit applications with the regional plan. (*Short term*)
- Assist local governments to review solid waste permit applications for compatibility with such things as traffic, noise, aesthetics, impact on property values, community growth patterns, compatibility with local land use patterns, local solid waste management plans, and other issues of local concern. (*Short to long term*)
- Encourage local governments to develop and implement solid waste facility siting regulations. (*Intermediate term*)
- Encourage local governments to address solid waste facility siting in their comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. (*Intermediate term*)

**Local Enforcement and Illegal Dumping**

- Develop a regional environmental enforcement taskforce or similar organization to promote the sharing of information and resources, and the standardization of enforcement programs. (*Short term*)
- Develop local enforcement programs in areas lacking them, or establish a regional

- cooperative enforcement program. (*Short term*)
- Require proof of legal disposal as part of the construction and demolition process. (*Intermediate term*)

### **Construction and Demolition Debris**

- Develop convenient and cost-effective local and regional disposal options. (*Short to Intermediate term*)
- Develop a permitting or manifest system, or roll-off requirements at the city and county level to ensure that contractor and do-it-yourselfer waste is properly disposed of. (*Short to Intermediate term*)
- Develop local and/or regional C & D waste recycling services. (*Intermediate to Long term*)

### **Recycling and Waste Reduction**

- Encourage the development of local and/or regional facilities that reduce, reuse or recycle waste materials. (*Short to Intermediate term*)
- Encourage the development of yard waste reduction and composting programs. (*Short to Intermediate term*)

### **Household Hazardous Waste**

- Encourage the development of local and/or cooperative regional household hazardous waste events and permanent collection facilities, especially in the rural subregion.

### **Collection and Disposal**

- Encourage the development of a collection network in each county through the development of citizens' collection stations or small registered transfer stations. (*Short term*)
- Encourage the development of local or subregional solid waste management plans for areas with a substantial number of residents lacking collection and disposal services. (*Short to Intermediate term*)
- Work with local governments to assess disposal capacity needs with special emphasis on local areas with less than 10 years disposal capacity. (*Short to Long term*)
- Promote mandatory solid waste collection service in counties with ongoing illegal dumping problems. (*Short to Intermediate term*)
- Encourage the development of regional liquid waste disposal and processing facilities. (*Short to Intermediate term*)

## **b. Goal 2: Provide technical support and services to promote local and regional municipal solid waste planning.**

### **Objectives:**

1. The RGCOG shall serve as the central point of contact for solid waste management information, outreach, education and training programs.
2. Develop regional cooperative service contracts such as household hazardous waste collection contracts or regional recyclables marketing contracts.



3. Assess waste disposal needs and service needs to identify the best approach to meet those needs.
4. Continue to develop and maintain an inventory of solid waste management facilities and services in the planning region.
5. Benchmark and track the effectiveness of regional and local waste reduction and recycling efforts.

### **Implementation Strategies by Need or Problem Area:**

#### **Local Enforcement and Illegal Dumping**

- Conduct assessment of illegal dumping problems in areas without an active local enforcement program. (*Short term*)
- Encourage local governments to clean up illegal dumpsites and provide residents with legal, affordable, and convenient disposal opportunities. (*Short term*)
- Provide training and education opportunities for environmental enforcement staff (law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and judges). (*Short to Intermediate term*)

#### **Construction and Demolition Debris**

- Conduct assessment of feasibility of developing a regional C & D recycling network, and opportunities for C & D reuse. (*Short term*)

#### **Recycling and Waste Reduction**

- Develop regional recyclables marketing contract. (*Short term*)

#### **Household Hazardous Waste**

- Develop regional HHW collection contract. (*Short term*)

#### **Education**

- Establish a regional municipal solid waste education clearinghouse, with information on training opportunities, sample materials, and contact information. (*Short term*)
- Develop regional education and public awareness campaigns with opportunities for local tie-ins, for general waste reduction, recycling, and reuse; environmental enforcement; scrap tires; composting; household hazardous waste; liquid wastes; and other subject areas as necessary. (*Short to Intermediate term*)

#### **Scrap Tires**

- Develop a regional scrap tire collection and disposal contract. (*Short to Intermediate term*)
- Develop options for regional recycling and reuse of scrap tires. (*Short to Intermediate term*)

#### **Collection and Disposal**

- Provide assistance to local governments to assess collection, processing, and disposal capacity needs and solutions, with special emphasis on local areas with less than 10 years of capacity and/or those lacking collection services for a substantial number of residents.

*(Short to Long term)*

**c. Goal 3: Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste disposed of, through waste reduction, recycling, and reuse.**

**Objectives:**

1. Use outreach and education programs as a catalyst for short-term program initiatives and for long-term changes in attitudes.
2. Benchmark and track the effectiveness of regional and local waste reduction and recycling efforts.
3. Target waste reduction and recycling activities to the major components of the waste disposal stream.
4. Target waste reduction and recycling activities to components of the waste stream that may pose special risks or problems.

**Implementation Strategies by Need or Problem Area:**

**Construction and Demolition Debris**

- Educate the construction and remodeling industries on proper disposal methods and recycling opportunities. *(Short to Intermediate term)*

**Recycling and Waste Reduction**

- Develop and implement a regional recycling educational campaign focusing on buy recycled and recycling basics. *(Short term)*
- Develop regional yard waste reduction and composting educational program. *(Short term)*
- Discourage the landfilling of yard waste. *(Short to Intermediate term)*
- Evaluate local government and school district recycling collection and buy-recycled procurement efforts. *(Short term)*
- Develop and conduct workshop on recycled products and procurement requirements for local governments and school districts. *(Short term)*
- Provide “train the trainers” training program for school districts in recycling and waste reduction. *(Short term)*
- Expand recycling educational campaigns to non-traditional audiences, including colonias residents. *(Short term)*
- Assess the feasibility of providing curbside recycling, especially in the El Paso subregion. *(Short term)*
- Develop cooperative purchasing program for local governments to improve markets for recycled content products. *(Intermediate to Long term)*
- Develop a commercial recycling council and expand commercial and industrial recycling programs. *(Intermediate to Long term)*
- Support efforts to develop innovative waste processing and reuse alternatives. *(Intermediate to Long term)*

### **Household Hazardous Waste**

- Develop and implement a regional HHW educational campaign that focuses on reduction and proper handling and disposal options. *(Short to Intermediate term)*
- Promote local government efforts to establish ongoing HHW collection opportunities. *(Short to Intermediate term)*
- Investigate the feasibility of providing multi-jurisdictional or regional HHW collection events. *(Short to Intermediate term)*

### **Scrap Tires**

- Develop a regional scrap tire collection contract. *(Short to Intermediate term)*
- Encourage tire amnesty days in cooperation with local governments and tire dealers to discourage illegal dumping of tires. *(Short term)*
- Support efforts to develop regional end-uses for scrap tires. *(Short to Intermediate term)*
- Investigate opportunities to develop a regional tire-derived fuel market. *(Intermediate to Long term)*

## **3. ACTION PLAN**

### **a. Plan Conformance/Facility Permit Application Review**

Under state statute (Texas Health & Safety Code §363.066) and the TCEQ rules (30 TAC §330.556), state municipal solid waste regulatory activities must conform to adopted regional and local solid waste management plans. To this end, TCEQ requires each Council of Governments, through its Solid Waste Advisory Committee, to review applications for municipal solid waste facility permits within its region. Each application must be reviewed for conformance with the regional solid waste management plan, and any adopted local solid waste plans. Previously, these reviews were carried out in a different way by each COG, although most focused on recommendations for regional or local facility needs or the assurance of adequate capacity as stated in the regional plan. Capacity needs can no longer be considered as a criterion for conformance. In the 2000 State Solid Waste Management Plan, TCEQ's Objective 2.2 is to *Clarify and then implement the role of regional plans and the COGs in MSW permitting decisions*. TCEQ strategies to implement this objective include the following:

2.2.1 Establish better-defined policy direction, and consider possible regulatory changes, on what in the regional plans must be conformed with by permit applicants. Some of the key policy direction may include:

- Plan conformance decisions will be based on performance-based considerations.
- Local or regional need for capacity should not, by itself, be a factor in the conformance decision.
- Plan conformance should not impose requirements for how a facility is constructed or operated to be protective of human health and the environment; that is the responsibility of the TCEQ.
- Allow those COGs with expertise in evaluating land use compatibility to include policy goals and recommendations for how land use compatibility should be

considered in siting a facility in a region. The factors used by the COGs should correspond to the factors listed in the regulations for consideration by TCEQ: compatibility of land use, zoning in the vicinity, community growth patterns, and other factors associated with the public interest.

- Define and clarify the process for how conformance is to be determined at the COG level, and for how the TCEQ will use the COG recommendations and make a decision on conformance.

#### Recommended Role of Other Entities

2.2.2 The COG regional solid waste management plans should identify those factors in the plan that should be used to evaluate a permit application for conformance with the regional plan.

2.2.3 The COGs should establish clearly defined processes within the COG for how conformance recommendations will be made to the TCEQ.

The permitting requirements in 30 TAC §330.51 state that it is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate conformance with the regional solid waste plan. It is the responsibility of the TCEQ, during permit review, to take into account land use compatibility, zoning, and community growth patterns. Under the rules changes required to implement SB2912 (77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature) TCEQ will also take an applicant's compliance history into account when reviewing permit applications, beginning in 2002. These items, then, are the responsibility of the regulatory agency and the applicant, and not directly the purview of the COGs.

As recommended in the state solid waste plan and approved by the TCEQ Commissioners and Executive Director, the COGs were directed in March 2003 to address land use compatibility and local facility siting concerns in their regional plans. The general factors which will be considered during a plan conformance review are discussed in the following sections.

### **1. Impacts of a Facility Site on Residents and the Community**

The regional plans and the COG's conformance review are used by the TCEQ to assist the agency in considering the possible impacts of a proposed facility site on a city, community, group of property owners, or individuals, under TCEQ regulations 30 TAC §330.53(b)(8). Conformance reviews begin the discussion of a proposed facility's local and regional impacts earlier in the permitting process. Proposed facilities within a planning region which conform to its regional solid waste plan provide an opportunity to achieve regional goals, as well as the opportunity for early coordination and communication to express local concerns.

Local governments have the statutory authority to adopt local regulations that can place restrictions on landfill siting within their jurisdiction (Texas Health and Safety Code §§ 361.062, 361.067, 363.066, 363.112, and 364.012). If a local government has an interest in identifying areas within its jurisdiction that are either appropriate or inappropriate for a landfill or other solid waste facility, that local government must adopt local regulations regarding facility siting.

The RGCOG will support local governments in evaluating the impact that proposed facilities will have on residents and the local community. The assessment of land management and land use compatibility issues is a local government decision which will be supported by the RGCOG. In this determination, local government will become the first line of review in land management issues; the RGCOG will adopt the recommendations made by local governments in evaluating the impact of facility siting on residents and the community.

The RGCOG will facilitate communication between the permit applicant and community stakeholders, and foster pathways of dialogue early in the permitting process. Early communication and coordination will allow the applicants and local government the opportunity to identify local concerns and achieve the regional goals.

Below is a list of factors which will be considered when addressing the compatibility of a proposed facility with existing or planned future land use. In the instance where a local government has not established zoning, facility siting ordinances, or land management plans, TCEQ has outlined the following factors for consideration in determining the impact of facility siting on a community.

30 TAC §330.53(b)(8):

*(8) Land use. A primary concern is that the use of any land for a municipal solid waste site not adversely impact human health or the environment. The impact of the site upon a city, community, group of property owners, or individuals shall be considered in terms of compatibility of land use, zoning in the vicinity, community growth patterns, and other factors associated with the public interest. To assist the executive director in evaluating the impact of the site on the surrounding area, the applicant shall provide the following:*

*(A) zoning at the site and in the vicinity. If the site requires approval as a nonconforming use or a special permit from the local government having jurisdiction, a copy of such approval shall be submitted;*

*(B) character of surrounding land uses within one mile of the proposed facility;*

*(C) growth trends of the nearest community with directions o/major development;*

*(D) proximity to residences and other uses (e.g., schools, churches, cemeteries, --historic structures and sites, archaeologically significant sites, sites having exceptional aesthetic quality, etc.). Give the approximate number of residences and business establishments within one mile of the proposed facility including the distances and direction to the nearest residences and businesses; and*

*(E) description and discussion of all known wells within 500 feet of the proposed site.*

As part of its permit application conformance review, the RGCOG will coordinate with the chief planning official of the city or county where the proposed facility will be located. There

are currently no entities within the planning region which have implemented landfill siting ordinances or orders. If any are implemented in the future, they will be taken into account in the conformance review process. The RGCOG will ensure that any recommendation it makes to the TCEQ regarding a facility conformance review is consistent with all local facility siting regulations within the area of jurisdiction of a proposed solid waste facility. The RGCOG will support any policy or regulations adopted by local governments and may suggest the above-mentioned factors where such policies have not been developed.

## **2. Conformance with Local Solid Waste Management Plans**

State regulatory activities must also conform to an adopted local solid waste management plan (§363.066, Texas Health & Safety Code and §330.566, Subchapter O). The Councils of Governments are responsible for coordinating local planning efforts, and the responsibility to consider any local solid waste management plans during permit application review (§330.56, Subchapter O).

There are no local solid waste plans currently adopted within the planning region. However, the RGCOG will ensure that facility application reviews take into account any local plans which may be adopted in the future. El Paso County is currently developing a local plan. When it is completed and adopted, a permit applicant in El Paso County will be required to show conformance with that local plan as part of the regional conformance review process.

The RGCOG will facilitate coordination of the applicant with the chief planning official in the local government having jurisdiction over the proposed facility site. It will be the responsibility of the local government with jurisdiction over the facility location to review the permit application for its conformance with any local solid waste plan, land management regulations, community growth patterns, or other issues of local concern. The RGCOG will ensure that any recommendation it makes to the TCEQ regarding a facility conformance review will be consistent with any and all adopted local solid waste plans within the area of jurisdiction of a proposed solid waste facility.

## **3. Process of Review of MSW Facility Permit Applications**

TCEQ regulations state that a MSW facility permit applicant shall submit to the TCEQ demonstration of compliance with the regional solid waste plan (§330.51 (b)(8), Subchapter E). The following section outlines the procedure by which the Rio Grande Council of Governments, through its Solid Waste Advisory Committee, will review solid waste facility permit applications for their conformance with this regional solid waste management plan and any applicable local plans. Applicants are encouraged to begin the regional process early, even prior to the development of a full application, so that communication and coordination with stakeholders can begin early in the process to address local concerns.

Step 1. Coordination with local government planning officials on land use issues and conformance with local solid waste plans.

- a. RGCOG facilitates applicant coordination with local government officials to review potential facility site impacts on residents and the local community, and conformance

with any adopted local solid waste plans. Impacts to be considered include compatibility of land use, zoning in the vicinity, community growth patterns, conformance with land use regulations or facility siting ordinances, and any other issues of local concern as determined by the government with jurisdiction over the proposed facility location.

- b. Applicants are required to verify and receive notice on land use compatibility and conformance with any local land management regulations and local solid waste plans from the chief planning official at the city or county level. The applicant must document the results of the local jurisdictional review to the RGCOG and its Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Local government certification of conformance with its local solid waste plan (if applicable), comments on the impact of the proposed facility on the local community, and any concerns raised during local permit application review, will be transmitted to the RGCOG for consideration during its conformance review process.

#### Step 2. RGCOG regional plan conformance review.

The Rio Grande Council of Governments, through its Solid Waste Advisory Committee, will develop a checklist of factors that measure the degree to which a proposed facility supports implementation of the regional plan's goals and objectives. Each goal and objective relevant to facility siting issues will be addressed on the checklist, and the prospective permit applicant will be required to demonstrate how their proposed facility either facilitates or does not facilitate implementation of the plan.

- a. Applicant completes list of factors conformance checklist based on Parts 1 & 2 of their application.
- b. RGCOG reviews completed factors checklist and verifies responses with information in Parts 1 & 2 of facility application with applicant.
- c. SWAC meets with applicant to discuss facility plans, local government input on conformance with local plan, land use issues and community concerns, and conformance with regional plan.
- d. RGCOG Board of Directors reviews SWAC recommendations on facility application conformance or non-conformance and makes final determination.

Step 3. RGCOG submits a letter stating their determination of conformance or non-conformance to the TCEQ MSW Permits Section, along with the conformance factors checklist, for review and insertion in the Commission backup material. If the RGCOG does not submit a conformance determination within the time frame specified by the TCEQ, the lack of action will be considered to constitute agreement with the applicant's conformance statement.

### **b. Grants Funding Plan**

#### **1. Regional Solid Waste Management Priorities**

The Rio Grande Council of Governments has chosen not to prioritize its goals. Grant funds may be used to address any of the goals and objectives and to implement any of the strategies identified in the Goals and Objectives section of this regional management plan.

## **2. Specific Projects**

The Rio Grande Council of Governments has chosen not to identify specific projects for grant funding allocation in this plan. Entities eligible for grant funding will continue to develop grant applications which address the goals, objectives, and implementation strategies of this plan, and submit them to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for review and funding recommendations.

## **3. Project Categories**

The following project categories have been established by the Rio Grande Council of Governments for the fiscal year 2002/2003 biennium. All project applications must fit within one of these categories to be eligible for grant funding. Project categories will be reviewed and may be revised prior to each two-year grant funding period. Eligible project categories will adhere to all guidelines, limitations, and restrictions on the use of grant funding which may be imposed by the TCEQ or its successor agency(ies). Eligible project categories include:

- **Local Enforcement.** Funds may be used for projects which contribute to the prevention of illegal dumping of municipal solid waste, including liquid wastes. Funding recipients may investigate illegal dumping problems; enforce laws and regulations pertaining to the illegal dumping of municipal solid waste, including liquid waste; establish a program to monitor the collection and transport of municipal liquid wastes, through administration of a manifesting system; and educate the public on illegal dumping laws and regulations.
- **Litter and Illegal Dumping Cleanup.** Funds may be used for ongoing and periodic activities to clean up litter and illegal dumping of municipal solid waste. Projects may include support for Lake and River Cleanup events, conducted in conjunction with the TCEQ's and Keep Texas Beautiful's Lake and River Cleanup Program. Funded activities may include: waste removal; disposal or recycling of removed materials; fencing and barriers; and signage. Placement of trash collection receptacles in public areas with chronic littering problems may also be funded. Reuse or recycling options should be considered for managing the materials cleaned up under this program, to the extent feasible.
- **Source Reduction and Recycling.** Funds may be used for projects which provide a direct and measurable effect on reducing the amount of municipal solid waste going into landfills, by diverting various materials from the municipal solid waste stream for reuse or recycling, or by reducing waste generation at the source. Funded activities may include: diversion from the waste stream and/or collection, processing for transport, and transportation of materials for reuse and/or recycling; implementation of efficiency improvements in order to increase source reduction and recycling, to include full-cost accounting systems and cost-based rate structures,



establishment of a solid waste services enterprise fund, and mechanisms to track and assess the level of recycling activity in the community on a regular basis; and educational and promotional activities to increase source reduction and recycling.

- **Local Solid Waste Management Plans.** Funding may be used to develop and/or amend local solid waste management plans by local governments. Local plans must be consistent with this regional management plan and be prepared in conformance with TCEQ Rules and its content and format guidelines.
- **Citizens' Collection Stations, "Small" Registered Transfer Stations, and Community Collection Events.** Funds may be used for projects to construct and equip citizens' collection stations and small transfer stations in areas of the region that are underserved by collection services or lack public access to proper disposal facilities. Projects funded for these types of facilities should include consideration of an integrated approach to solid waste management, to include providing recycling services at the site, if appropriate to the management system in place. Funds may also be used for periodic community collection events, held not more frequently than four times per year, and must be intended to provide residents an opportunity to dispose of hard-to-collect materials, such as large and bulky items that are not picked up under the regular collection system.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Management.** Funds may be used for projects which provide a means for the collection, recycling, reuse, or proper disposal of household hazardous waste, including household chemicals and other materials. Funded activities may include: periodic collection events; consolidation and transportation costs associated with collection activities; recycling or reuse of materials; proper disposal of materials; permanent collection facilities, and education and public awareness programs. Funds may also be used to support Texas County Cleanup events, conducted in conjunction with the TCEQ.
- **Technical Studies.** Funds may be used for projects which include the collection of pertinent data, analysis of issues and needs, evaluation of alternative solutions, public input, and identification of recommended actions to assist in making solid waste management decisions at the local or regional level. Projects may also include research and investigations to determine the location, boundaries, and contents of closed or abandoned municipal solid waste landfills, and to assess possible risks to human health or the environment associated with those landfills and sites.

- **Educational and Training Projects.** Funds may be used for “stand-alone” educational projects and training events dealing with a variety of municipal solid waste management topics.
- **Other.** Funds may be used for periodic activities to clean up scrap tire and C & D waste dumping sites. Funded activities may include: waste removal; disposal or recycling of removed materials; fencing and barriers; and signage. Reuse or recycling options should be considered for managing the materials cleaned up under this program, to the extent feasible.

#### **4. Allocation & Priorities**

- Fiscal Year 2002 Budget - \$371,124
- Fiscal Year 2003 Budget - \$371,124
- Fiscal Year 2004/2005 Budgets – Unknown at this time
- Minimum or Maximum Funding Limits - No subregional allocation limits, category funding limits, or grant award funding caps are proposed.
- Funding Priorities – No prioritization of regional goals or project categories for grant funding are proposed.

#### **5. Project Selection Process**

For the FY2002/2003 grant cycle, the Rio Grande Council of Governments and its Solid Waste Advisory Committee will utilize a competitive grant selection process. Project applications will be reviewed and ranked by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), and available funds will be assigned to projects in rank order. The SWAC will determine a funding level for each project recommended for funding. Projects selected for funding must not provide a competitive advantage over private industry. The Rio Grande Council of Governments Board of Directors will review the SWAC’s project funding recommendations, and if the Board approves, those recommendations will be transmitted to the TCEQ for final review and approval.

Project applications must be consistent with and address the goals, objectives, and implementation strategies of this plan. In addition, projects funded with these grant funds must promote cooperation between public and private entities and may not be otherwise readily available or create a competitive advantage over a private industry that provides recycling or solid waste services in the area where the proposed project will be conducted.

#### **c. Local Solid Waste Management Plans**

It is recommended that local governments evaluate their municipal solid waste management programs, activities, and access to long range disposal capacity every five years. Preparation of a local solid waste management plan is a good way to perform this evaluation. In particular, as noted in the Goals and Objectives section, local governments in areas of the region that are underserved by collection services or lack convenient access to proper disposal facilities would benefit by the preparation of a local solid waste management plan. Local plans must be consistent with this regional management plan and be prepared in conformance with TCEQ

Rules and its content and format guidelines.

#### **d. Regional Coordination and Planning**

Under contract with the TCEQ, the Rio Grande Council of Governments carries out several core functions as the state's designated regional solid waste planning entity. It provides technical assistance to local government entities and individuals on solid waste issues, conducts informational programs, and participates in civic and community organizations and events related to municipal solid waste issues.

The Rio Grande Council of Governments maintains a Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), which acts as the central advisory and coordinating body to the Council of Governments' Board of Directors on regional solid waste issues, planning studies such as this amendment to the regional solid waste plan, reviews permit applications for municipal solid waste management facilities in the region, and for the selection of local municipal solid waste projects for grant funding. The SWAC meets quarterly to discuss solid waste management activities in the region, solid waste issues important to the region, new laws and regulations, and opportunities for grants and other funding.

The Rio Grande Council of Governments also serves as the central point of contact for solid waste management outreach, education, and training programs in the planning region, and maintains a regional collection of solid waste information and reference materials that are available to the public and to local governments.

#### **e. Local and Subregional Recommendations**

Local and subregional recommendations for municipal solid waste planning, facilities, and services are addressed in the Goals and Objectives section of this plan.

#### **f. Recommendations for State-Level Action**

The amendment to the regional solid waste management plan may include recommendations for state-level action. The Rio Grande Council of Governments makes no recommendations at this time.

#### **g. Other**

The amendment to the regional solid waste management plan may include other recommendations and proposed actions; however, at this time the Rio Grande Council of Governments makes no additional recommendations.

# Appendix 1.

## Status and Location of Permitted MSW Facilities

Subregion/County	Permit No.	Permit Holder	Facility Type	Status
<i>Rural Subregion</i>				
Brewster Co.				
	1276	Big Bend National Park (Grapevine Hills)	1AE	Open
	2197	City of Alpine	1AE	Open
	1274	Big Bend National Park (Castolon)	3	Closed
	1275	Big Bend National Park (Panther Junction)	3	Closed
	980	Brewster County (Marathon)	3AE	Closed
	354	City of Alpine	1	Post Closure Care
	1818	Brewster County (Study Butte)	3	Post Closure Care
	2174	Mischer Corp. (now owned by Lajitas Resort, S. Smith)	3	Permit application Withdrawn
Culberson Co.	693	Town of Van Horn	2AE	Post Closure Care

Hudspeth Co.	495	Hudspeth Co. (Dell City)	1AE	Open
	957	Hudspeth Co. (Sierra Blanca)	1AE	Open
	494	Hudspeth Co. (Ft. Hancock)	3	Grandfathered/ Closed
	496	Hudspeth Co. (Sierra Blanca)	3	Grandfathered/ Closed
	927	Hudspeth Co. (Ft. Hancock)	3	Post Closure Care
Jeff Davis Co.	833	Jeff Davis Co. (Ft. Davis)	3	Post Closure Care
	1045	Jeff Davis Co. (Valentine)	3	Post Closure Care
	1400	Davis Mtns. Property Owners Assoc. (Davis Mtns. Estates)	3	Grandfathered/ Permit App. Withdrawn
Presidio Co.	1737	City of Presidio	1AE	Open
	548	City of Marfa	5	Closed
	1344	City of Marfa	4	Closed
	547	City of Marfa	2	Post Closure Care
	1872	City of Marfa	2	Post Closure Care

<i>El PasoSubregion</i>				
	729	City of El Paso (McCombs)	1	Open
	1422	US Army/Ft. Bliss	1	Open
	1482	City of El Paso (Clint)	1	Open
	728	City of El Paso (Delta Street)	5TS	Open
	134	El Paso County (Canutillo)	1	Closed
	901	El Paso County (Fabens)	1	Closed
	136	El Paso County (Fabens)	1	Post Closure Care
	730	City of El Paso (Zaragoza)	1	Post Closure Care
	1698	El Paso County (Canutillo)	1	Post Closure Care

**Appendix 2:  
Other Solid Waste Services**

**Solid Waste Collection Services – El Paso Subregion**

	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Service Area</i>	<i>Services Offered</i>
<b>El Paso County</b>				
City of El Paso Solid Waste Dept.	7969 San Paulo, El Paso TX 79907	(915) 621- 6700 or 593- 2784 (59- EARTH)	City of El Paso	Residential
El Paso Disposal	5539 El Paso Drive, El Paso TX 79905	(915) 772- 7495	El Paso County	Residential, Commercial, front loader, roll-off, compactors, storage units
El Paso Sun City Disposal	P.O. Box 371726, El Paso, TX 79937	(915) 630- 4856 or 629- 8842	El Paso County	Residential, Commercial, front loader, property clean-out
Enviro-Waste	351. N. Nevarez Road, El Paso, TX 79927	(915) 859- 5900	El Paso County	Industrial, Commercial, Construction, roll- offs, compactors
Heist Disposal Services	510 Mockingbird, El Paso TX 79907	(915) 594- 3610	El Paso County	Residential, Commercial, Industrial, front loader, property clean-out
Moore Service, Inc.	10540 Montwood, El Paso TX 79935	(915) 592- 5558	El Paso County	Residential
Rhino Environmental	200 E. Sunset, El Paso, TX 79922	(915) 842- 9911 or 800- 762-0241	El Paso County	Residential, Commercial, roll- offs, storage units
Solid Waste Systems	P.O. Box 220736, El Paso, TX 79913	(915) 544- 2930	El Paso County – Horizon City & Upper Valley	Residential
West Texas Disposal	1645 Bessemer Drive, El Paso TX 79936	(915) 590- 2406	El Paso County	Commercial, Industrial, Construction, frontloader, roll- offs, compactors

**Solid Waste Collection Services – Rural Subregion**

<b>Brewster County</b>				
Duncan Disposal	3001 Old Marathon Highway, Alpine, TX 79830	(915) 837-1244	Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio Counties	Commercial, Residential, Construction
<b>Culberson County</b>				
Town of Van Horn	P.O. Box 517, Van Horn, TX 79855	(915) 283-2050	Town of Van Horn & immediate vicinity	Commercial, Residential, Construction
<b>Hudspeth County</b>				
Hudspeth County	P.O. Box 68, Sierra Blanca, TX 79851	(915)369-2321	Hudspeth County	Commercial, Residential, Construction
<b>Jeff Davis County</b>				
Duncan Disposal	3001 Old Marathon Highway, Alpine, TX 79830	(915) 837-1244	Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio Counties	Commercial, Residential, Construction
<b>Presidio County</b>				
Duncan Disposal	3001 Old Marathon Highway, Alpine, TX 79830	(915) 837-1244	Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio Counties	Commercial, Residential, Construction



**Community Recycling Collection Centers**

<i>El Paso subregion</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Materials Accepted</i>
<b>El Paso County</b>				
City of El Paso	Frank Valdez	915-621-6725 or 915-593-2784	<p><u>Hours: 9am – 1pm</u>  <u>Every Saturday:</u>                      Address, Coronado, Eastwood, Franklin, &amp; Montwood High Schools.  <u>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sats:</u>                      UTEP Schuster St. Parking lot.  <u>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday:</u>                      El Paso Zoo.  <u>Permanent Sites:</u>                      The Environmental Center, 800 S. Piedras, Mon – Sat 9am – 3pm. Clint &amp; McCombs landfills, Sun – Sat 7am – 5 pm. Northeast, 4501 Hondo Pass, Mon-Sat 9am-3pm. Westside, 721 Atlantic, Mon-Sat 9am-3pm. Lower Valley, 7970 San Paulo, Mon-Sat 9am-3pm. Americas High School, Mon-Sat 9am-2:30pm. Socorro, 241 Old Hueco Tanks Road, Mon-Fri 8am-3pm.</p>	Aluminum cans, tin (steel) cans, aluminum foil & aluminum pie plates, #1 & #2 plastic, plastic grocery bags, newspaper, junk mail, magazines, white & colored bond paper, cardboard, paper bags, scrap metal including copper, copper wire, brass, iron & clean aluminum, yard waste & clean wood (at landfills only)

City of El Paso	Frank Valdez	915-621-6725 or 915-593-2784	<b>Permanent HHW Collection Centers:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month, 9am – 1pm. 7969 San Paulo, 121 Atlantic, 4501 Hondo Pass	Used Oil, Oil Filters, Waste Tires, Batteries, Brake Fluids, Paint, Solvents, Anti-Freeze, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Pool Chemicals, Old Medications, Drain Cleaners, Fertilizers, Degreasers, Dry Cleaning Fluids, Rust Removers, Furniture Polish, Pesticides/Herbicides, Fertilizer, Charcoal lighter fluid
City of Socorro	R. M. Fierro	915- 858-2915	241 Old Hueco Tanks Rd., Mon – Fri 8am – 5:30 pm	Same as above, plus yard waste & clean wood
Fort Bliss	Lilia Lenhart	915-568-5724	1336 Marshall Road, Mon. – Fri. 8am – 4pm. Also permanent, 24 hr/ 7day drop-off site at Marshall & Forrest Roads.	Clear, brown & green glass, #1 & #2 plastic, computer paper, white office paper, newspaper, corrugated & non-corrugated cardboard, magazines, steel cans, aluminum cans, scrap metal, fluorescent tubes, aerosol cans, antifreeze, yard waste & clean wood
<b>Rural Subregion</b>				
<b>Brewster County</b>				
Duncan Disposal	Dan Springfield	915-837-1244	Alpine landfill (dropoff); Terlingua (dropoff)	newspaper; white paper; computer paper; office pack; magazines/ glossy paper; aluminum cans; corrugated cardboard; appliances (white goods); yard waste & clean wood

Big Bend National Park	Jim Erickson	915-477-1114	Panther Junction (Park Headquarters)	All batteries, all paper, corrugated cardboard, non-corrugated cardboard, #1 & #2 plastic, aluminum cans, steel cans, steel, copper, antifreeze, used engine & transmission oils, aerosol cans, glass, freon
<b>Jeff Davis County</b>				
Fort Davis	Judge George Grubb	915-426-3968	Old Ft. Davis landfill (dropoff)	As above for Alpine landfill
<b>Presidio County</b>				
Marfa	Curtis Schrader	915-729-4315	Old Marfa Landfill, Golf Course Road Thursday. 8 am – 5 pm	As above for Alpine landfill

### Public Used Oil & Automotive Waste Collection Facilities

	Facility	Location
<b>El Paso Subregion</b>		
<i>El Paso County</i>	Auto Zone (accepts 5 gallons oil)	1461 N. Lee Trevino, 8717 Alameda, 5900 Alameda, 9800 Dyer, 7648 N. Loop, 3820 Dyer, 911 S. Stanton, 5064 Doniphan, 10290 Montana, 10497 Alameda, 1799 S. Zaragoza, 6019 N. Mesa
	C & R Distributing (used oil in 55 gal. drums only)	8528 Alameda
	Desert West Lubricants Inc. (accepts 5 gallons oil)	1013 Wall
	Lube N' Go (accepts 5 gallons oil, oil filters, antifreeze, transmission fluid, brake fluid)	1447 Lee Trevino, 9746 Dyer, 9508 Montana, 10920 Pebble Hills, 10440 Montwood, 5710 N. Mesa, 4018 N. Mesa

	Checker Auto Parts (accepts 5 gallons oil, car batteries)	9728 Dyer, 4101 Dyer, 1010 N. Piedras, 5305 Alameda, 8139 Alameda, 9700 Montana, 11335 Montwood, 700 N. Zaragoza, 1794 Zaragoza, 7500 N. Mesa, 10791 N. Loop, 6812 Doniphan (Canutillo), 1801 Trawood, 420 E. Redd Rd.
	Sam's Club (accepts a case of oil)	7001 Gateway West, 7970 N. Mesa, 11360 Pellicano
	Wal-Mart (accepts 2 gal. oil, oil filters, car batteries, tires)	7101 Gateway West, 4530 Transmountain, 9441 Alameda, 1850 N. Zaragoza
	Pronto Lube (accepts 1 gallons of oil & oil filters; disposal fee for antifreeze)	760 Carolina, 1580 George Dieter, 109 Executive Center, 4008 Hayes, 101 Village Court, 8900 Viscount, 7000 Westwind
	Vista Hills Carwash & Lube (accepts 5 gal. & recycles oil filters for \$1.00 fee)	10947 Ben Crenshaw
	Master Lube (accepts 5 gallons oil)	3010 Trawood, 1340 N. Zaragoza
	Pep Boys (accepts 5 quarts oil, oil filters, antifreeze, transmission fluid, batteries (fee), tires (fee))	1910 George Dieter, 10501 Gateway West, 2900 N. Mesa, 9345 Dyer, 2005 Ave. of the Americas, 5595 Alameda, 7465 N. Mesa
	Texas Dept. of Transportation (accepts 5 gallons & oil filters – call first)	6496 Doniphan (581-4387), 4201 Hondo Pass (757-0663), 9180 Socorro (859-8202)
<b>Rural Subregion</b>		
<b>Culberson County</b>	Culberson County Repair Shop (County residents only; accepts 5 gallons oil & oil filters)	1310 W. Broadway, Van Horn
	Texas Dept. of Transportation (accepts 5 gallons oil & oil filters – call first)	US Highway 90, South of I-10 (283-2501)

<b>Hudspeth County</b>	Texas Dept. of Transportation (accepts 5 gallons oil & oil filters – call first)	Loop 416, 0.5 miles west of FM1111, Sierra Blanca (369-2811); 807 N. Knox, Fort Hancock (769-3955); 600 N. Main, Dell City (964-2345)
<b>Jeff Davis County</b>	Texas Dept. of Transportation (accepts 5 gallons oil & oil filters – call first)	104 Musquiz Drive & SH 118 (426-3991)
<b>Presidio County</b>	Texas Dept. of Transportation (accepts 5 gallons oil & oil filters – call first)	809 W. San Antonio, Marfa (729-4123); East FM 170, Presidio (229-3753)
	City of Presidio (used oil only)	City Landfill, East FM 170

#### **Tire Disposal & Tire Recycling Facilities Serving the Planning Region**

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Facility Location</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Service Provided</b>
Road Masters	730 S. Santa Fe, El Paso	915-533-7541	T
Tres Pesetas, Inc.	14636 Montana, El Paso	915-855-0600	T, P, S
Border Tire Disposal	3531 Pershing, El Paso	915-566-2157	T
Chaparral Sand & Gravel	140 Hwy. 54, Chaparral NM	915-534-7208	T
Safe Tire Disposal Co.	1501 W. Murphy, Odessa	800-221-8951	P, S

*Information per TCEQ, March 2001. Service code: T = transporter, P = processor, S = storage*