

1  **RIO GRANDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW**

Paso Del Norte Watershed Council Executive Committee Meeting  
July 1, 2011

2  **OBJECTIVES**

- Rio Grande Council of Governments Overview
- Environmental Services & Special Projects Division Overview
- Far West Texas Water Planning Group (Region E) Overview

3  **REGIONALISM**

Definition:

*noun* /'rējənl, izəm/ The theory or practice of regional rather than central systems of administration or economic, cultural, or political affiliation.

4  **BACKGROUND**

- Voluntary Associations of Local Governments Recognized As Political Subdivisions of the State
- Enabling Legislation – Chapter 391, Texas Local Government Code
  - Only Counties and Cities may create a Council of Governments;
  - Regional Boundaries set by the Governor;
  - “The Counties and Municipalities Making the Agreement May Join in the Exercise of or in Acting Cooperatively in Regard to Planning, Powers and Duties As Provided by Law for Any or All of the Counties and Municipalities.”
- Governing Body – Board of Directors or Executive Committee
- At Least 2/3 of Board must be County or City Elected Officials under Chapter 391
- 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session House Bill 2160 – State Legislative Representation
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5  **ORGANIZATIONAL COMPOSITION**

- Four Divisions:
  - Administration/Finance
  - Area Agency on Aging
  - Regional Services
  - Environmental Services & Special Projects
- 37 Full-Time Employees, 3 Part-Time Employees
- Membership includes 34 entities that consist of Cities, Counties, School Districts, and Water Districts
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6  **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION - PROGRAMS**

- Environmental Services
  - Far West Texas Water Planning Group
  - Solid Waste

- Special Projects
  - Urban Emergency Preparedness
  - Citizen Corps
  - Interoperable Emergency Communications
  - Emerging Communities Initiative (Texas Forest Service)
  - Sustainable Communities Initiative (HUD)

7  **MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE**

- Regional Solid Waste Grant
  - Implementation Grants
- Regional Solid Waste Management Plan
- Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
- Closed Landfill Inventory
- Provide for review of pending permits and applications - SWAC
- Regional Public Education and Outreach resource library

8  **FAR WEST TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION E)**

- Process created through 75<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, Senate Bill 1.
- One of sixteen regional water planning groups
- Eleven interest groups represented on regional water planning groups:  
Public, Counties, Municipalities, Industries, Agriculture, Environmental, Small Business, Electric Generating Utilities, River Authorities, Water Districts, and Water Utilities
- Rio Grande Council of Government acts as the political subdivision and executive administrator on behalf of the group
- Regional Water Plans
  - Water supply plans based on "drought of record" 50 year horizon

9  **FAR WEST TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION E) – CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

- Fourth Round of Regional Water Planning (2011 – 2016)
- Current Contract Review/Negotiation
- Current Tasks to be completed:
  - Task 2A – Non-population Related Water Demand Projections
  - Task 2B – Population & Population- Related Water Demand Projections (new)
  - Task 3 – Evaluation of Existing Water Supply
  - Task 4B – Identification of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies
  - Task 4C – Technical Memorandum (Summary of Tasks 2-4B) of RWP
  - Task 4D – Evaluation and Selection of Water Management Strategies
  - Task 10 – Adoption of Plan (Admin & Public Participation for Tasks 2-4C)