

COG Number: 21



**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF TRAVIS**

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality document,  
which is filed in the permanent records of the Commission.  
Given under my hand and the seal of office on

*LaDonna Castanuela* JUN 25 2007

LaDonna Castanuela, Chief Clerk  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
311 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
McAllen, TX 78501-4705

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE: **MAY 31 2007**

*Kathleen H. White*  
For the Commission

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (hereafter called LRGVDC). The counties covered under this plan include Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated August 22, 2002, as revised on September 18, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

**SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN**

**A. Regional Goals**

Goal #1: Reduce waste generation/disposal and develop responsible waste disposal practices.

Objective #1A: Minimize illegal dumping.

Objective #1B: Educate communities on recycling and reduce waste generation.

Objective #1C: Expand disposal service to rural areas and colonias.

Goal #2: Plan for adequate regional waste disposal capacity.

Objective #2A: Maintain at least 10 years of landfill capacity throughout the LRGVDC region.

Objective #2B: Coordinate provisions for disposal of special wastes.

Objective #2C: Maintain solid waste data and support sub-regional studies to respond to solid waste needs.

**B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education**

- (1) The current efforts in the region to minimize municipal solid waste, including sludge, and efforts to reuse or recycle waste are as follows: recycling services consisting of citizen drop off stations accepting general materials such as paper, plastic, aluminum cans, etc. In addition, citizen drop off stations accepting automotive wastes and stations hosting yard waste recycling programs with composting or chipper services are widely available. The City of McAllen is the only entity in the region providing curbside recycling services and even then more citizen education is needed to produce better recycling statistics. There are about six open Recycling Centers in the region and only four cities with composting programs. Cameron and Hidalgo County both have local enforcement programs to curtail illegal dumping. Cameron County is also providing solid waste service pick-up to its rural residents. The City of McAllen is the only entity in the region pursuing efforts to begin recycling sludge. They are currently looking into finding land for the project. All other sludge is currently being land filled.

The LRGVDC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes to include education and training programs on home composting, community

composting, and composting to address water conservation and storm water issues. The two larger cities in the region, McAllen and Brownsville, have established composting programs and are producing compost and mulch for sale. Other communities also have composting programs on a smaller scale and provide mulch to residents free of charge.

The LRGVDC has developed several composting brochures and provides educational material to interested entities. LRGVDC Staff is also available to help with public education and outreach.

Assessment - The region suffers from an apparent lack of curbside recycling services due mainly to financial constraints. However, a significant effort has been made by city/county governments and the private sector to ensure that citizen drop off locations are available. The main limitations to recycling as a means to waste reduction are limited existing recycled materials markets and limited legislation at a state level requiring recycling. Current efforts in the region to minimize municipal solid waste and sludge and to reuse and recycle waste appear to be adequate at this time.

- (2) The LRGVDC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes to include education and training programs on home composting, community composting, and composting to address water conservation and storm water issues. The two larger cities in the region, McAllen and Brownsville, have established composting programs and are producing compost and mulch for sale. Other communities also have composting programs on a smaller scale and provide mulch to residents free of charge. The LRGVDC has developed several composting brochures and provides educational material to interested entities. LRGVDC Staff is also available to help with public education and outreach.
- (3) The region currently supports no permanent, ongoing household hazardous waste programs. Periodically, local government or private entities host collection events; however, none of the citizen drop-off stations maintain facilities to accept household hazardous waste. Programs for the collection of household hazardous waste are in need within the region.
- (4) LRGVDC will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) LRGVDC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) LRGVDC's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities – LRGVDC will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



## **VOLUME II: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINE** **Approved under provisions of Texas Health & Safety Code Ann.** **Chapter 363 (Vernon)**

Name of Council of Governments: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
311 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
McAllen, Texas 78501-4705

Regional Solid Waste Management Implementation Guidelines provide the details for implementing the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (Volume I). The TCEQ Commissioners adopted Volume I on May 31, 2007. The requirement and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Implementation Guidelines are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This Guideline is approved subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved Guideline. Nothing in this Guideline exempts the Council of Governments from complying with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality rules and regulations. This Guideline is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Executive Director.

This guideline is approved by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

This action is taken under authority delegated by the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

APPROVAL DATE: **SEP 06 2007**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

For the Commission