

SOLID WASTE (cont'd from p. 1)

The public meeting will be held on Tues., Dec. 6, 2011, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the CAPCOG Pecan Room. CAPCOG is located at 6800 Burseson Road, Building 310, Suite 165, Austin, Texas 78744. A map and directions to CAPCOG may be found on our website at <http://www.capcog.org/about-capcog/directions-to-capcog>.

For more information, to RSVP, or to receive a copy of CAPCOG's 2012/2013 Solid Waste Management Funding Plan prior to the meeting, please contact Solid Waste Program Manager Kelly Freeman at 512-916-6040 or kfreeman@capcog.org.

RLEA (cont'd from p. 2) RLEA will offer a New Supervisor course Dec. 13th-15th. This is a mandatory course for personnel who have been promoted into supervisory roles. The course covers best practices for managing difficult employees as well as how to motivate employees to improve overall performance.

Check the CAPCOG training website at <http://www.training.capcog.org> for more information including courses, dates, and locations.

ENERGY (cont'd from p. 2)

The real challenge may be reinventing America's electric system since the business model of most utility companies wasn't designed to create an incentive for reduced use of energy. The Pecan Street Project will continue exploration of all these issues, but CAPCOG's role in the economic development analysis is being wrapped up. In the coming months, CAPCOG will be releasing a report based on a series of white papers produced in collaboration with the Pecan Street Project that outline the many local opportunities associated with smart grid technology.

CAREGIVERS (cont'd from p. 2) living with this disease and to their caregivers."

Presidential Proclamation -- National Family Caregivers Month, November 2011—Barack Obama "Across our country, millions of family members, neighbors, and friends provide care and support for their loved ones during times of need. With profound compassion and selflessness, these caregivers sustain American men, women, and children at their most vulnerable moments, and through their devoted acts, they exemplify the best of the American spirit. During National Family Caregivers Month, we pay tribute to the indi-

viduals throughout America who ensure the health and well-being of their relatives and loved ones. I encourage all Americans to pay tribute to those who provide for the health and well-being of their family members, friends, and neighbors."

HSGP (cont'd from p. 3) Notification System. This program will build upon planning for the orderly growth and enhancement of the systems, as well as providing for enhancements to local operations. Development of policies and procedures and training for jurisdiction users (provided by CAPCOG staff) will continue as we add to the capabilities and users of these systems - \$36,938.89;

- FireCAP Pre-Attack Planning Tools - project to define specific hazards, resource needs, and access issues for ten high-risk properties in five communities - \$17,252,50; and
- Burnet County CCP Program Phase II - To establish, train, and sustain a civilian workforce of volunteers through CERT Training and Medical Reserve Corp training and create the Burnet County Citizen Corps Program - \$33,462.00.

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

New PSAP Policy Adopted

When the Texas Legislature cut CAPCOG's 9-1-1 budget by 25%, reductions of \$5.5 million forced the agency to cut administrative costs, public education, some equipment maintenance costs, and as a last resort, eight Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) with the lowest call volume. Once the state fiscal year began in September, CAPCOG was able to provide partial funding to four of the largest PSAPs that would have been cut: Taylor, Elgin, Lakeway, and Leander.

During the budget discussions, the CAPCOG Executive Committee noted that while a policy exists for funding new PSAPs based on population and call volume, no policy existed for when PSAPs are "defunded." During the November Executive Committee meeting, a revised PSAP Policy was adopted that addresses this issue; PSAPs that fall below the call volume criteria will no longer receive funding. The policy also has a time cycle for when and how the call volume will be monitored so that PSAPs falling below the criteria will be notified well in advance.

Gregg Obuch, CAPCOG's Emergency Communications Director, pointed out that a local government can pick up the cost of funding a PSAP on its own, as

Luling and Lago Vista are currently. In the case of the four PSAPs being partially funded by CAPCOG, the local jurisdictions provide the remaining funds. If three of the partially-funded PSAPs do not meet the minimum requirements set forth in the criteria, it could result in these no longer being partially funded by CAP-



COG after Aug. 31, 2013. However, Mr. Obuch noted that population growth could make some of these PSAPs eligible for full funding by the time a decision must be made, assuming CAPCOG does not have additional cuts in 9-1-1 funding as a result of the 2013 Legislative Session.

The revised policy can be found on CAPCOG's website at <http://www.capcog.org/divisions/emergency-communications/> under "PSAP Resources."

CAPCOG's Annual Membership Meeting

CAPCOG will host its Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon at the Wyndham Garden Hotel at 3401 South IH-35 in Austin, Wed., Dec. 14th, at 11:00 a.m. A complimentary buffet will be served for all invited.

The business meeting will include amendments to the CAPCOG Bylaws, which will allow up to two legislators to sit on the Executive Committee, and recommendations from the Nominating Committee for the 2012 Executive Committee members. The presentation will be *Communities in the Region Come Together: The Bastrop County Fires* recognizing those who played pivotal roles during the disaster, with comments from Bastrop County Judge Ronnie McDonald. Also, The Jack Griesenbeck Leadership in Regionalism Award will be presented.

Public Meeting to Discuss Solid Waste Funding

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) invites interested individuals to attend a public meeting to discuss CAPCOG's FY2012/2013 solid waste management activities and grants programs. For FY 2012/2013, approximately \$241,544 is available to local political subdivisions (e.g., cities, counties, school districts) to implement local and regional solid waste management projects. The public meeting will include discussion on the processes for selecting projects and consideration of private industry concerns. (See *SOLID WASTE, P. 4*)

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CAPCOG Regional Law Enforcement Academy

The Regional Law Enforcement Academy (RLEA) recently conducted a Basic Jailer Course in Blanco County in conjunction with the opening of the new Blanco County Jail. The class included eight new jailers from the Blanco County Sheriff's Department and three jailers from the Llano County Sheriff's Department. All corrections officers must be certified by TCLEOSE within one year of being hired to work in a corrections facility.

RLEA In-Service Training

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) requires Texas peace

officers to acquire 40 hours of mandatory training every two years. Mandatory classes include Special Investigative Topics, Cultural Diversity, State and Federal Legislative Updates, and Intermediate Crisis Intervention. The RLEA is now posting upcoming classes for all required training.

State and Federal Legislative Updates is a critical course because all 52 new laws and amendments are currently in effect. The course includes several changes in the areas of Human Trafficking, Driving While Intoxicated, as well as Civil Process for county jailers. (See *RLEA*, p. 4)

CAPCOG Honors and Brings Awareness of the Long Journey of Caregivers

November is the month to honor family caregivers of those diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and caregivers of all ages. In support of raising national and local attention to the issues facing caregivers, Texas Governor Rick Perry and President Barack Obama signed the following proclamations (summarized).

Governors Proclamation – Family Caregivers Month, November 2011- Rick Perry "Each November, an awareness campaign highlights the important contributions of family caregivers. At this time, I encourage all Texans to recognize the commitment and dedication of informal caregivers who make a profound difference in many lives. Through their selfless service, they exemplify the best of the Lone Star State. Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim November 2011 to be Family Caregivers Month in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof."

Presidential Proclamation -- National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, November 2011—Barack Obama "For millions of Americans, the heartbreak of watching a loved one struggle with Alzheimer's disease is a pain they know all too well. Alzheimer's disease burdens an increasing number of our Nation's elders and their families, and it is essential that we confront the challenge it poses to our public health. During National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about Alzheimer's disease and to offer their support to the individuals (See *CAREGIVERS*, p. 4)

Central Texas Clean Air Coalition to Consider Revision of Local Air Quality Plan

In November, the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC) voted to address new challenges posed by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) more restrictive ground-level ozone standards. The CAC is a group of elected officials representing local governments in the five-county Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA that have committed to voluntarily adopt local ozone control measures such as vehicle inspection and maintenance programs, fleet optimization, and truck idling restrictions. The region's current air quality plan, the 8-Hour Ozone Flex Program, which is in effect through 2013, was signed by city and county governments in the MSA, as well as by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the EPA. Since the plan was designed with the older 1997 ozone standard in mind and since EPA has recently announced that it will begin implementing a more restrictive standard adopted in 2008, the CAC decided that it was time to consider revisions to the plan. The region's current ozone "design value," which is used to determine if the region is in or out of compliance with an air quality standard, is 75 parts per billion (ppb), which just meets the current standard adopted in 2008 of 75 ppb.

Both EPA and TCEQ are being consulted to determine what options will be available to CAC for revising the agreement to continue implementation of existing measures and add enhanced measures to the existing plan to meet the new standard. Revisions are being considered by CAC to directly address the 75 ppb standard and to extend commitments to the plan out through the end of 2016, to coincide with when EPA is expected to revisit the ozone standard and make determinations as to whether areas are attaining that standard or not. CAPCOG staff will work with local stakeholders to develop a new set of emission reduction measures that the CAC will consider recommending for the new plan. This process will occur in the first part of 2012. Options for new measures will be discussed at the CAC meeting scheduled Jan. 12, 2012.

FY 2011 Homeland Security Grants Approved

The State of Texas has approved over one million dollars in funding to CAPCOG and its member jurisdictions from the federal Homeland Security Grant

CAPCOG Helping to Improve Local Emissions Estimates

Under a grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), CAPCOG is undertaking a series of efforts to help improve estimates of emissions from truck idling and a number of non-road engine categories including construction, agricultural, lawn and garden, industrial equipment, small-scale manufacturing fuel use, and the printing industry. Last year, CAPCOG identified these as sources of local air pollution for which the existing estimates used by the State could be substantially improved upon. The improved estimates for these sources will be used by CAPCOG and TCEQ to improve pollution modeling and evaluate the effectiveness of various strategies to reduce local ozone levels.

CAPCOG's efforts at improving the estimates of these categories will include on-site observations, surveys, and data analysis. CAPCOG's Air Quality Program staff will be reaching out to local governments in the region to assist with this effort to help ensure the most accurate estimates of local emissions possible. If you have expertise or data that can help in these efforts, including equipment counts, fuel use data, or other operating parameters, please contact Andrew Hoekzema, Air Quality Program Specialist, at (512) 916-6043 or ahoekzema@capcog.org.

Program (HSGP). Since its inception, the HSGP has provided over \$23 million to CAPCOG and its member jurisdictions. These funds have been used to purchase equipment, train personnel, conduct exercises, and develop plans to protect citizens of the region from natural and human-caused disasters, terrorist attacks, and other hazards.

The FY 2011 funding will be used to support CAPCOG's ongoing Homeland Security program including staffing, coordination of regional homeland security activities, and maintenance of the regional Emergency Notification System (ENS) and WebEOC application.

Other funding has been allocated to support the Citizens Corps Program (CCP) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs in Bastrop, Burnet, and Hays Counties as well as the City of Cedar Park. The mission of the CCP is to assist individuals and communities in recovering from the effects of natural and human-caused disasters through the provision of community-based outreach and psycho-

-educational services. The CERT Program includes training and education in disaster preparedness for hazards that impact specific areas as well as basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

The remainder of the funding has been allocated to Burnet and Llano Counties for completion of the three-county regional radio system. When complete, this system will provide enhanced radio coverage and interoperability for public safety agencies in Blanco, Burnet, and Llano Counties. In addition, this system will be connected to the Greater Austin-Travis County Regional Radio System (GATRRS) that serves Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, and Lee Counties. The GATRRS is linked to the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) radio system that is used by public safety agencies in Fayette and Hays Counties.

Based upon lessons learned during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center, telecommunica-

tions interoperability has been a priority for HSGP funding. CAPCOG jurisdictions have received over \$10 million to fund telecommunications projects since the inception of the program.

The list of approved projects for FY 2011 includes:

- CAPCOG Regional Planning - will continue our regional capabilities in regional planning, coordination, and staff support to homeland security activities in the CAPCOG Region; specific activities are defined in the Statement of Work (SOW) issued by the SAA - \$314,762.91;
- Maintain and enhance regional WebEOC and ENS projects - support local jurisdictions in the development and maintenance of systems needed to manage a catastrophic event. These include continued development and support of the regional WebEOC implementation and the regional Emergency (See *HSGP*, p. 4)

Clean Energy Innovation? There may soon be an app for that...

New businesses are often the byproduct of high tech innovation – at least that was CAPCOG's plan when it invested a regional innovation grant awarded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in the Pecan Street Project, a research organization focused on advancing smart grid technology. In 2009, EDA's Austin Regional Office awarded CAPCOG, through its Economic Development District, a regional innovation grant as a visionary investment toward fostering economic development through innovation clusters.

energy management system, the organic development of a new business cluster seemed likely to CAPCOG's economic development staff.

In October, Pecan Street Project Executive Director Brewster McCracken highlighted the organization's progress during a presentation to the Capital Area Economic Development District (CAEDD) board. In the past two years the Pecan Street Project has outfitted 200 homes with solar panels and supported the purchase or lease of 100 Chevy Volts by local residents. Additionally, nine major companies—including Best Buy, Sony, and Whirlpool—are currently using the Pecan Street Project to test new products that rely on the smart grid.

As McCracken stressed throughout the presentation, the ability of companies to solve customer problems via the smart grid will unleash exciting new advances in home security, energy management, and health care monitoring. He suggested that the smart grid technology could allow someone to monitor how well their aging parents might be doing, noticing that an upward trend of power use might mean mom and dad aren't remembering to turn off their appliances. Or a parent could determine while out of town that the teenager left at home for the weekend might have had a party when the water usage spiked dramatically for a few hours on Saturday night. (See *ENERGY*, p. 4)

Economic developers have recognized for years that regional clusters of businesses create a competitive advantage when geographic proximity ties together labor force, manufacturers, supply chain companies, as well as applied research, commercialization of technology, and business start-ups. Since Pecan Street Project was ramping up a pilot in the Mueller neighborhood that involved testing a smart energy grid including new products, software systems, digital communications for energy, and many other components of a consumer-driven,