

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS

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CAPCOG to Host RRC Scoring Meeting

The Governor's Capital Area Regional Review Committee (RRC) will hold its Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) scoring meeting on Apr. 13, 2007 to review applications from 32 communities requesting almost \$8,000,000 in CDBG funds. In 2005-2006, 28 communities made applications and 18 communities received a total of \$4,597,000 in grants.



The application scoring process is split 50-50 between the RRC and the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA). The Scoring Session for the CDBG program is the critical stage of the application process in which the members of the RRC review the appli-

cation materials submitted and then meet to hear five-minutes of presentations from the applicants' representatives. During the scoring session, the applicants will briefly present the proposals followed by each proposal being scored and the recommendations sent to ORCA. Applicants can receive up to 700 points, of which 350 points are given by the RRC. (See **RRC** pg. 4)

PSAP Equipment Updated

A four-year project to upgrade call-taking equipment in all of CAPCOG's 32 PSAPs was just completed in mid-January with installations in the last five: Westlake, Lakeway, Lago Vista, UT, and Texas State. With completion, all PSAPs will have the same equipment thus creating efficiencies in maintenance as well as training. The last five PSAPs will also be part of a new Next Generation Project utilizing Intranet Protocol (IP) for delivery of 9-1-1 calls that operates on a high speed T1 network.

Texas has depended on a traditional system of switches, trunks, and circuits to support land line phone service including 9-1-1 calling; however, industry experts and national associations have begun planning for the inevitability of a 9-1-1 system supported completely by Internet or Intranet Protocol. The Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) has also stated its mission to construct and deploy Next Generation technology by 2010. CAPCOG is one of two COGs being funded by CSEC to install Next Generation technology. The PSAP at CAPCOG, being built as a backup to Austin-Travis County's Combined Technology and Emergency Communications Center (CTECC), will also use the new technology.

Capital Area Establishes Regional Mutual Aid Coordinator Teams

Some disasters can be so catastrophic that they can deplete the resources of a single local jurisdiction. When this occurs, assistance is generally needed from multiple jurisdictions through mutual aid requests. In order to facilitate mutual aid coordination

and assets across the region, CAPCOG has established Regional Mutual Aid Coordinators (RMACs) to serve as the intermediary between the Requesting Party and the Assisting Party in implementing the *Capital Area Regional Mutual Aid Agreement and the Capital Area Regional Response Plan*.

A pre-selected cadre of RMACs composed of personnel from across the region that have experience, training, and knowledge in emergency management and resource allocation have been recruited to fill this volunteer role. Twelve RMACs will be grouped into four teams and the teams will rotate on a duty roster throughout the year. (See *Mutual Aid*, pg. 4)



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9-1-1 Quality Assurance Program

CAPCOG's Emergency Communications Division has established a Quality Assurance Program to ensure the successful end-to-end delivery of a 9-1-1 call originating from any of the eight wireless networks which include approximately 1,500 cell towers servicing the ten-county region. The Quality Assurance process verifies functionality of wireless networks and mapping software; currently about 660,000 wireless calls are received annually by the region's Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The primary benefits of this program will be data management, performance testing, and accuracy testing for all antenna/transmitter sectors of every wireless carrier while also providing additional training for 9-1-1 call takers.

Most cell towers are divided into three antenna/transmitter sectors and each sector is designated to route to a specific PSAP. The data management file will ensure all cell towers have been identified as CAPCOG staff works with each Wireless Service Provider (WSP) to ensure the accuracy of this information. The performance testing will verify that the correct information has been uploaded; wireless test calls are conducted on a recurring basis for all counties; and any problems encountered which degrade the wireless transmission or adversely impact 9-1-1 services are documented. Issues that adversely affect call completion, Phase II func-



tionality, or serious degradation of network integrity are reported to wireless service providers.

The three components of this wireless quality assurance program are Data Maintenance, Performance Testing, and Accuracy Testing which together are necessary to measure the service providers' ability to deliver a wireless 9-1-1 call to the appropriate PSAP and display the correct location information regardless of the technology used. Ultimately, the program will establish a benchmark for system performance and Phase II accuracy along with helping to gauge system reliability with providers as well as PSAPs. This program is expected to be expanded to include several other areas of 9-1-1 call delivery in the future such as Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), Private Switch, and Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs).

Blanco & Hays Counties Cooperate on Glass Recycling

CAPCOG's Solid Waste Grant of \$122,000 to Blanco County, Hays County, and Johnson City last year to coordinate glass recycling in their communities has now made it economically feasible to pulverize glass into recyclable products. Previously, the high costs associated with transporting glass to distant facilities made it uneconomical to recycle glass in these counties. For this reason, Hays County chose to discontinue their glass recycling program.



Blanco County purchased a glass pulverizer while Hays County and Johnson City purchased trailers with which to haul their glass to Blanco. By coordinating their efforts, these communities can now accept and recycle glass into road base, pipe bedding, and landscaping materials. These glass-based products save these communities money and reduce the amount of solid waste in our landfills. For more information about the CAPCOG Solid Waste Grant Program, please contact Chris Masey at cmasey@capcog.org.

Region's Clean Air Coalition Supports Consideration of EPA's Eight-Hour Ozone Flex Program as a Successor to the Early Action Compact

The Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC), the group of elected officials representing local governments in the five-county MSA, decided in their December meeting to submit a letter of intent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to participate in an eight-hour Ozone Flex (O3 Flex) Program. The current clean air plan being implemented in the region, the Early Action Compact, expires on Dec. 31, 2007. A new plan submitted under the O3 Flex program would provide the mechanism to continue local, proactive emission reduc-



tion measures designed to maintain the area's attainment status through 2012. Although there is no guarantee under an O3 Flex plan that the central Texas area will not be designated in

"nonattainment" if the monitoring results exceed the federal ozone standard, participation in the O3 Flex Program will allow the EPA to consider the area's ongoing commitments to reduce emissions as it makes any decision to designate. The CAC recognized the benefit of going forward with the O3 Flex as the avenue for continued proactive air quality improvement measures while not adding any new burdensome requirements at the local level.

Submission of a letter of intent does not bind the MSA to participate in the (See *Ozone* pg. 4)

Forensic Investigative Hypnosis Course Held

CAPCOG's Regional Training Center held its annual Forensic Investigative Hypnosis Certification Course during January with Criminal Justice Director Scott Huckabee, Inspector Marx Howell (DPS Ret.), and Texas Ranger Sergeant Frank Malanak as instructors. Inspector Howell spearheaded the legislation that not only allowed investigative hypnosis to be used by law enforcement in the investigation of criminal cases, but required law enforcement personnel to be trained, tested, and certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Inspector Howell also developed the investigative hypnosis program for the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and was Chairman of the DPS Investigative Hypnosis Oversight Committee. Ranger Sergeant Frank Malanak actively uses investigative hypnosis in major cases throughout the state. Ranger Malanak is a Past Chair



of the Texas Association of Investigative Hypnosis.

Forensic Investigative Hypnosis is a technique used to help witnesses recall information from a criminal episode. This technique can be used only when an investigation is at a standstill and the

our state, fewer than 300 are active in this technique.

This course is seldom taught in our state due to the lack of credentialed instructors; however, CAPCOG provides this course annually. This intensive 50-hour required course prepares the student to take the certification test at the Commission on Law Enforcement. This course will be attended by investigators from our region as well as those from out of state.

Basic Peace Officers Course Graduations Set

Class 43 of the CAPCOG Basic Peace Officers Course, begun in June 2006, will graduate on Feb. 23, 2007 at the Capitol's Extension Auditorium at 10 a.m. after completing 33 weeks of night classes.

Last October, 40 students began Class 44 of the daytime Basic Peace Officer Course. These students will receive 756 hours of training prior to graduating on Mar. 9, 2006.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week: April 22 – April 28, 2007

Each April since 1981, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) has helped lead communities across the country in their observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). Public rallies, candlelight vigils, and a host of commemorative activities promote victims' rights and services in all sectors of our society. For more information about how you can participate in NCVRW, go to <http://www.ovc.gov/ncvrw/welcome.html>.

This year CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Division would like to support agencies and service providers throughout the region by posting a schedule of community-planned victims' rights awareness events on our website. If your agency would like to participate in this initiative, please send an email to Michelle Casanova, Regional Criminal Justice Planner, at mcasanova@capcog.org with your name, your agency's name and other contact information. You will receive a link to an online form that you can use to send CAPCOG your event information.

witness cannot recall any other critical information about the crime. Investigators certified in the use of Forensic Investigative Hypnosis are rare; out of 60,000 + law enforcement officers in

High Resolution Elevation Data for Central Texas Acquired

	Austin	Travis County	LCRA	Flatonia	Total
Non-GeoMap Cost Est.	\$ 181,010	\$ 241,353	\$ 191,130	\$ 20,000	\$ 633,493
GeoMap Cost Est.	\$ 77,770	\$ 181,652	\$ 123,894	\$ 13,978	\$ 397,294
Est. GeoMap Savings	\$ 103,240	\$ 59,701	\$ 67,236	\$ 6,022	\$ 236,199

GeoMap 2007 LiDAR and Contours Cost Savings Worksheet

CAPCOG is teaming up with the Lower Colorado River Authority, Travis County, the City of Austin, and the City of Flatonia to acquire high-resolution elevation data and contours via the Capital Area Geospatial Base Map (GeoMap) Program. The high-resolution elevation data will be captured using a Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) sensor. The final product will support a number of applications including preliminary engineering, watershed management, floodplain mapping, wildfire prevention, and infrastructure planning. The GeoMap Program is a four-

year cost-sharing initiative to produce and maintain current Geographic Information System (GIS) map data for the Capital Area. During 2006, participating organizations saved over \$500,000 on over \$2,000,000 of mapping data purchased via the GeoMap Program. In 2007, GeoMap participants will save an additional \$236,199 with the leveraged purchased of LiDAR data and contours. For information on how the GeoMap Program can develop low cost, accurate, and up-to-date GIS data for your organization, please contact Sean Moran at smoran@capcog.org.

RRC (Cont'd from pg. 1)

This grant is available on a biennial basis for funding to non-entitlement communities based on U. S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines. The CAPCOG RRC met last May to develop and define their operating and scoring procedures for these upcoming grants. The RRC approved the 2007/2008 Application Guidelines which were mailed to all eligible governmental entities. The Guidelines assist applicants from the CAPCOG region in understanding the criteria utilized to evaluate CDBG applications.

The following communities submitted 2007/2008 CDBG applications: Hays, Lee, Llano, Bastrop, and Fayette counties; cities of: Smithville, Flatonia, Thrall, Carmine, Lexington, Marble Falls, Dripping Springs, Schulenburg, Cottonwood Shores, Creedmoor, Luling, Manor, Lockhart, Buda, Johnson City, Florence, Llano, La Grange, Martindale, Fayetteville, Kyle, Bastrop, Bertram, Giddings, Elgin, Blanco, and Granite Shoals.

Mutual Aid (Cont'd from pg. 1)

Members of the staff of the City of Austin Office of Emergency Management (OEM), who serve as on-call Duty Officers, will receive the notification request for RMAC assistance from a jurisdiction. The City of Austin OEM Duty Officer will then contact one of the RMAC teams for activation. RMACs will interact with incident commanders, elected officials, and state level and senior level individuals in order to facilitate regional mutual aid requests and sharing of assets. The RMACs' teams represent an additional tool local emergency management coordinators can call on when disaster circumstances are overwhelming and more resources are needed.

For more information about the RMACs or the Capital Area Regional Response Plan, contact Robin Wiatrek at (512) 916-6014 or rwiatrek@capcog.org.

Ozone (Cont'd from pg. 2)

Flex Program. The final recommendation as to participation will not be made by the CAC until an Action Plan is developed for the MSA involving the

area's stakeholders: local government, industry, environmental and citizens' groups, and other interested citizens. Any agreement with EPA for implementation of the plan will require approval by the individual cities and counties that are participating. The next step in the process will be consideration by the CAC, at their meeting scheduled Feb. 28th, of a letter of commitment to EPA which will provide more details on stakeholder roles, scheduling milestones, and strategy for developing the action plan.

The Austin—Round Rock MSA currently monitors attainment of the eight-hour standard for ozone, but it is thought that the area's continuing attainment status may be due in part to the emission reductions achieved by the area through its participation in the predecessor programs to the eight-hour Ozone Flex Program, the one-hour Ozone Flex Plan and the Early Action Compact. Thus, participation in this new eight-hour Ozone Flex Program, with its voluntary commitment period of up to five years, is a continuing expression of this area's elected officials and of the citizenry to take and support proactive steps to preserve the area's air quality into the future.

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