

TEXAS COLORADO RIVER FLOODPLAIN COALITION COMMEMORATES FIRST FIVE YEARS

For Immediate Release: November 20, 2006

Media Contact: Lochen Wood, 1-800-776-5272, Ext. 2869

Editor's note: A list of coalition members and photo are included.

AUSTIN –The Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition (TCRFC) commemorated its five-year anniversary at its biannual meeting Nov. 14. The meeting, attended by board members, legislative staff and floodplain coordinators, highlighted the accomplishments of the five years since the coalition's creation and provided an opportunity to plan future initiatives.

Guest speakers, former State Representative Bob Turner and Mark Warren of the Texas Association of Counties, shared their perspectives on working with the Texas Legislature, engaging members within the coalition and improving organizational effectiveness.

Coalition members discussed plans to continue working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to increase the effectiveness of local flood protection programs and to update floodplain maps in the basin. The group also plans to recruit new members to join the coalition and will continue to promote flood safety efforts such as the NOAA weather radios and the Turn Around, Don't Drown educational programs.

Previous board member Renee Blaschke, former Mayor of Smithville and outgoing Chair James Oakley, Burnet County Commissioner, were recognized for their service to the Coalition. Plaques were presented to the 30 charter member communities during a recognition ceremony.

“The TCRFC should be proud of its continued success in the basin,” said incoming TCRFC Chair Rob Lindsey of Mills County. “The coalition appreciates the Lower Colorado River Authority's continued support for improving floodplain management initiatives in the basin.”

The coalition also is working to improve statewide floodplain management initiatives by supporting additional staffing and funding at the state level. The Texas Senate Intergovernmental Affairs Committee has studied these issues as a part of its interim charges. The coalition will partner with the Texas Floodplain Management Association and other groups to support these initiatives during the upcoming legislative session.

TCRFC is a partnership of 54 cities and counties in the Colorado River basin and surrounding areas seeking better ways to reduce and mitigate flood damage. The coalition was formed in response to a combination of rapid growth, a greatly expanded number of homes and businesses in the floodplain and devastating floods that have recurred in the basin. The Lower Colorado River Authority provides administrative and technical support to the coalition.

The coalition partners with local cities and counties to strengthen floodplain programs,

raise standards and increase coordination between neighboring communities with the goal of preventing and reducing flood damages. The coalition also works to increase state and federal funding to provide basinwide coordination among local floodplain programs and increase public outreach and input on flood issues.

For more information about the coalition, contact Lochen Wood, LCRA, 1-800-776-5272, Ext. 2869, or visit <http://www.tcrfc.org>.

Coalition members

* denotes charter members

Bastrop County*
Blanco County*
Burnet County*
City of Austin
City of Bastrop*
City of Bay City*
City of Bertram
City of Brady
City of Brownwood
City of Carmine
City of Columbus*
City of Cottonwood Shores
City of Eagle Lake*
City of El Campo
City of Elgin*
City of Flatonia
City of Goldthwaite
City of Granite Shoals*
City of Highland Haven*
City of Johnson City*
City of Jonestown
City of Kempner*
City of La Grange*
City of Lago Vista*
City of Lakeway*
City of Lampasas*
City of Llano
City of Lometa*
City of Marble Falls*
City of Mason
City of Meadowlakes*
City of Mustang Ridge
City of Palacios*
City of San Saba*
City of Smithville*
City of Sunrise Beach Village
City of West Lake Hills
City of Wharton*
Colorado County
Fayette County*
Hays County

Lampasas County*
Llano County*
Mason County
Matagorda County*
Mills County
San Saba County*
Travis County*
Village of Briarcliff
Village of Point Venture
Village of San Leanna
Village of Volente
Wharton County*
Williamson County

Photo caption:

TCRFC Board members celebrate coalition's five-year anniversary. From left, Region II Representative Vickie Box, Bastrop County; Region III Representative Terry Pelton, Marble Falls; Region I Representative Monica Martin, Wharton County; Treasurer Brian Shirley, Marble Falls; Vice Chair Rob Lindsey, Mills County; and Chair James Oakley, Burnet County.