



SENATOR JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ
DISTRICT 29

PRESS RELEASE



CAPITOL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
512/463-0129
FAX 512/463-7100

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CONTACT: Sito Negron
915.351-3500 (o) / 915-227-0360 (m)

State awards \$2 million grant to City of El Paso for Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant

Austin – Today (Thursday), the Governor's Texas Military Preparedness Commission awarded a \$2 million grant to the City of El Paso for the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant. The grant will partially fund the City of El Paso's partnership with Enviro Water Minerals Company to convert waste generated from the desalination process into drinkable water.

"Adequate, reliable sources of water are critical for ensuring Fort Bliss remains one of the largest physical military installations in the country. The Army's investments of infrastructure, and troops and support personnel from around the nation, are vital to El Paso's continued economic prosperity. I'm grateful that the State values El Paso's special relationship with Fort Bliss. This grant award increases the value of the City of El Paso and federal government's initial investments to create the pioneering Kay Bailey Hutchison Plant, the world's largest inland desalination plant," said Sen. José Rodríguez.

The grant was awarded via the state's Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) program, an infrastructure grant program designed to assist military cities that may be impacted by a change in federal defense contracts. As a result of substantial advocacy from military communities, including El Paso, the legislature appropriated \$30 million for DEAAG grants in the most recent legislative session, which ended in June 2015.

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus, and a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.