



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Statement

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Senator Cesar Blanco Announces \$4 Million Award for Flood Mitigation in El Paso County

El Paso, Texas - Yesterday, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) approved an application from El Paso County for \$4 million dollars for a watershed within the cities of Socorro and Horizon City and within El Paso County. The approved \$4 million in financial assistance consists of \$2 million in financing and a \$2 million grant.

“In recent years, El Paso’s monsoon season has showered a year’s worth of rain in just a matter of days, emphasizing the need for updated flood control, mitigation, and effective drainage projects throughout the city,” said Senator César J. Blanco. “This watershed will help protect 621 residents in the Special Hazard Area, of which there are 62 residential structures. This project is critical in promoting economic development and protecting our residents.”

The City of Socorro experiences flooding approximately 2 to 3 times per year during storm events. Uncontrolled flows, originating in the upper end of the Stream 4 watershed and additional runoff from El Paso Hills, flood residences, and deposit sediment. The El Paso Hills Detention Basin had previously alleviated some of the flooding and sedimentation issues, but its embankment appears to have failed during a 2004 storm and has not yet been repaired. El Paso County proposed to repair the embankment at the El Paso Hills Detention Basin and to construct a new detention basin for additional flood and sediment pool storage.

Supported by Senator Blanco in the 86th Texas Legislature and approved by voters through a constitutional amendment, the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) was created to provide funding for flood mitigation projects. The purpose of the FIF, as outlined in Senate Bill 7, is to assist in financing drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects.

Based on a 30-year maturity schedule and current interest rates, the County could save approximately \$1,317,427 over the life of the financing. The County is also saving \$2,278,500 in grant funding.

Senator Blanco also added, "I'd like to express my deepest appreciation to the TWDB members for recognizing Socorro's need for funding to complete this flood mitigation project. I look forward to continuing to work with the Board on ensuring our region gets its fair share for water and flood infrastructure projects."

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