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EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PRESS RELEASE

$114,671 in Solid Waste Grant Funds to be Distributed

Projects Aimed to Reduce Solid Waste in East Texas

Kilgore, TX, November 12, 2015: Local governments and special districts will soon receive grant funds from the East Texas Council of Governments funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) reviewed 24 grant proposals with a total funding request of $201,740.05 submitted by 20 local governments during an open meeting on October 27, 2015. A total of $114,671.90 was available to be awarded. After consideration of the proposals, the SWAC recommended the ETCOG Executive Committee approve the projects listed below at their open meeting on November 5, 2015. The ETCOG Executive Committee approved the following projects recommended by the SWAC:

APPLICANT	FUNDING	CATEGORY
City of Pittsburg	$20,000.00	Litter Abatement Officer-Year 2
Van Zandt County	$10,000.00	Litter Abatement Officer-Year 3
City of Grand Saline	$3,000	Community Clean up
Henderson County	$2,000	Local Enforcement-Cameras
Rains County	$1,750	Tire Collection
City of East Tawakoni	$3,000	Community Clean Up
City of Longview-Sanitation	$4,129.80	Recycling Education
Smith County	$3,000	Community Clean up
City of Tyler	$12,000	HHW paint recycling
Upshur County	$3,000	Community Clean up
Upper Sabine Valley Water Conservation District #1	$3,000	Community Clean up
Upper Sabine Valley Water Conservation District #2	$2,000	Tire Collection
City of Longview-Community Serv.	$4,876	Education
City of Waskom #1	$3,000	Community Clean up
City of Waskom #2	$1,000	Local Enforcement-Cameras
City of Jacksonville	$3,000	Community Clean up
City of Alto	$15,000	Litter Abatement Officer-part time
City of Murchison	$3,891.10	Recycling Education and Camera
City of Gladewater	$1,300	Tire Collection
City of Athens	$7,400	Glass Recycling
City of Henderson	$2,000	Local Enforcement-Cameras
City of Kilgore	$6,325	Dump Trailer for green waste

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TOTAL **$114,671.90**

Approved project categories included: 1) Local Enforcement- This category consists of projects which contribute to the prevention of illegal dumping. These projects may include programs to investigate illegal dumping problems, educate the public on illegal dumping laws, and prosecute violators. These programs may also include activities such as monitoring collection and transport through a manifest system to enforce laws pertaining to the illegal disposal of liquid wastes; 2) Source Reduction and Recycling; 3) Educational and Training Projects- Educational components are encouraged under the other categories in order to better ensure public participation in projects; 4) Community Cleanup Events.

The listed projects were approved by the ETCOG Executive Committee on November 6th and are now pending approval with TCEQ. Approved grant funding requests were in support of the goals and objectives of the ETCOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Eligible public entities that could apply for funds were: 1) Cities; 2) Counties; 3) Public Schools and School Districts (excluding universities and other post-secondary educational institutions); and 4) General and Special Law Districts created as political subdivisions of the state, with the authority and responsibility for water quality protection or municipal solid waste management, including river authorities.

For more information, contact Julie Burnfield, Economic Development Lead, at (903) 218-6436.

Solid Waste Management Plan

The purpose of the Plan is to provide guidelines for current and future solid waste management to local governments in the region. The State requires that the Regional Plan give preference, to the maximum extent economically and technologically feasible, to the hierarchy of management methods for solid waste, from the most preferred to the lease preferred:

- Source reduction and minimization of waste
- Reuse or recycling of waste
- Treatment to destroy or reprocess waste for energy or resource recovery; and
- Land disposal

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.