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**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**



PRESS RELEASE

Environmental Training Provided in East Texas for Entities Receiving Funds from the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs

Training Held at ETCOG August 12-13

Kilgore, TX, August 4, 2009: Entities receiving housing or disaster funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) now have the option to receive the required environmental training in East Texas. The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) has partnered with TDHCA to sponsor training at ETCOG's office located at 3800 Stone Road in Kilgore Wednesday, August 12, through Thursday, August 13. Training is required for agencies such as cities, counties and non-profits receiving federal funding through TDHCA programs including: HOME single family and multifamily funds, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP) and Disaster funding through HOME and CDBG (Ike and Dolly).

The two day training will consist of instruction for the Single Family Environmental Process on August 12. This will provide an outline of the environmental process, environmental regulations, tiering, required benchmarks and resources to complete reviews for single family housing projects; the process and limitations on activities pending clearance and an opportunity at the end of the day for one-on-one training with websites and materials.

The second day of training on August 13 will feature the Multifamily Environmental Process. This will focus on the environmental process for multifamily properties, what can be utilized if a review has already occurred with another agency, levels of review, resources to utilize for review, the Phase I and its requirements and how they differ from the HUD Part 58 review requirements, the impact of the environmental process on projects already underway and accessing TCAP funding as well as the hot off the presses submission requirements for all future environmental submissions and required milestones.

Visit <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/home-division/environmental-training.htm> to register for the event. If you have further questions or need additional information, please contact ETCOG's Housing Coordinator, Karen Cline, at karen.cline@etcog.org or 903.984.8641 x220 or Cynthia Vallejo, TDHCA's Environmental Specialist, at cynthia.vallejo@tdhca.state.tx.us.

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.

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