



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

# Planning Studies: Economic Development

COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

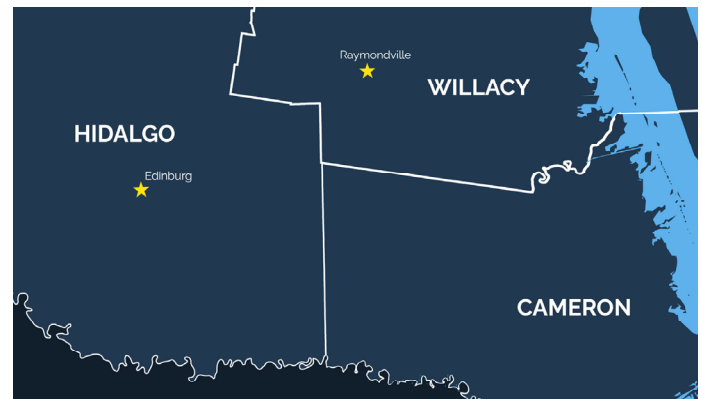
The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is focused on providing Texas communities impacted by natural disasters, such as hurricanes and flooding, with strategies to expand the region's job base and build more sustainable, resilient economies. The economic development studies are funded through Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) allocated to address recovery needs resulting from Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and the 2019 floods that impacted the Rio Grande Valley.

## Lower Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Study

Completed: May 2024

Study Area Counties: **Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV)**

This study brings together three counties impacted by flooding in 2019 to build an inventory of the economic assets and areas for improvement within the study area, provide economic development strategies, and develop an action plan for creating a diverse and resilient economic base.



## STUDY GOALS

- ✓ Identify ways to minimize the economic impact of natural disasters in the LRGV
- ✓ Evaluate what is unique and strong about LRGV and its current economy
- ✓ Create an action plan tailored to the needs of the communities of LRGV
- ✓ Join a statewide effort to collect public information that can be used for future planning
- ✓ This study will work with local leaders and members of LRGV communities to analyze the intersection of resilience and economic development. We will examine how to make the region's economy more robust and better able to withstand shocks and stresses.



LRGV Videos



LRGV Final Report





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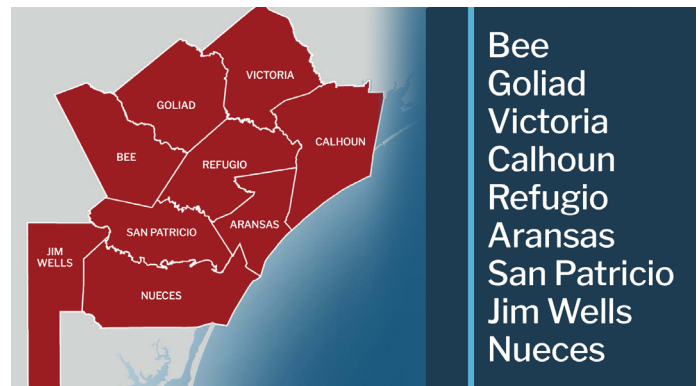
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## Nine County Economic Development Strategy & Diversification Study

Completed: June 2021

Study Area Counties: **Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, Goliad, Jim Wells, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, and Victoria**

The Texas General Land Office conducted an Economic Development Strategy and Diversification Study covering nine South Texas counties. The study examines workforce, infrastructure, education, and housing, among other areas, to develop strategies that diversify and strengthen local economies against future storms.



## STUDY GOALS

- ✓ Strengthen organizational capacity and regional partnerships that enhance resilience to reduce economic disruptions and expand market access.
- ✓ Promote regional growth through strategic infrastructure projects that build on unique regional assets and competitive strengths.
- ✓ Sustain housing investment and support workforce growth by maintaining affordability, leveraging existing building stock, and mitigating risks and impacts.
- ✓ Foster regional resilience through strategies that encourage economic inclusion and diversification to provide stability during downturns and in response to natural disasters.
- ✓ Encourage quality of life improvements through placemaking and environmental enhancements to attract families to visit and reside within the region.



Eco. Dev. Videos



Eco. Dev.  
Final Report

