



CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA
COUNTY JUDGE

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County Administrator

Cameron County Completes Requirements To Construct West Rail and State Department Issues Diplomatic Note

Judge Carlos H. Cascos, CPA announced today two important developments regarding the West Rail project. Judge Cascos was notified in a letter from the Texas Department of Transportation that Cameron County has met all the federal and state approvals to advertise and receive bids for construction of the West Rail.

In addition, Cascos also stated that he has been notified that the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. will send a Diplomatic Note to its counterpart in Mexico (Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores) today advising the Government that the U.S. Sponsor (Cameron County) is ready to commence construction on or about June 1, 2010. "This is an important and necessary step when working on an international project," Cascos stated. Once Mexico receives the Diplomatic Note the two governments will then have to either agree or disagree on the parameters and exchange Notes on the construction start dates.

"Subject to certain other conditions that need to be met such as a Coast Guard permit, which is currently underway and should be approved in the next month or so, this basically gives us the ability to solicit bids and select a contractor for this important project," Cascos stated. Cameron County will begin the bid process sometime in March.

Judge Cascos expressed his appreciation and thanks to all the federal and state agencies that have been involved in getting the Cameron County projects approved for construction. "Over the past year there has been an intense level of coordination at all levels and lots has been done to meet the deadlines and requirements set by all agencies in this process to ensure the funding is not lost."