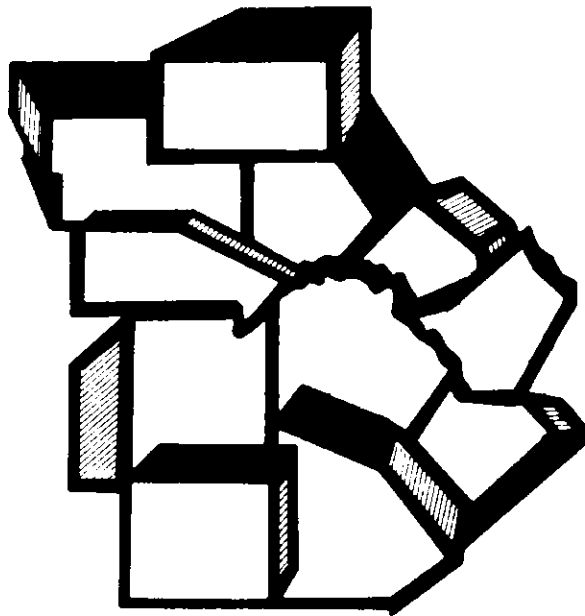


A A C O G
SERVICES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES
IN
COMAL COUNTY

A REPORT
TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND CITIZENS



ALAMO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Three Americas Building

San Antonio, Texas 78205

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to inform the citizens and governmental units of Comal County of the impact, services, and programs which Comal County's membership and the County Committee's participation have had in achieving the Council's goal of strengthening local governments. The Alamo Area Council of Governments is charged with the responsibility of comprehensive planning for an eleven county region, one of twenty-four "regional communities" established by the State of Texas for the coordination of all planning activities having regional implications. In its role as a planning and development organization, AACOG must be a catalyst, organizer, and innovator in meeting regional problems. The Council is funded through dues paid by member governments, State appropriations, and federal matching grants. The Executive Committee, the Council's governing Board, is composed of representatives of member governments - local officials - committed to keeping decision-making where it belongs - at the local level. AACOG has no authority to levy taxes, pass ordinances, or otherwise regulate local governments.

The Executive Committee of AACOG has established a process dependent upon the involvement, participation, and cooperation of member governments, and the citizens of each county through the County Committee.

Comal County and the Comal-Hays-Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District are to be commended for their foresight in joining the Council of Governments and participating in its activities, for it is only through their local initiative that membership in the Council becomes meaningful and productive. The effective role which the Comal County Committee and your representatives to our program advisory committees have played in this

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process has been outstanding in the recapturing of local initiative and has provided needed services and programs to the citizens of your county.

It is our sincere desire that all governmental units in Comal County participate in this process of strengthening local government.

COMAL COUNTY'S AACOG REPRESENTATION

1. Executive Committee: Hon. Max R. Wommack, County Judge
2. Criminal Justice Planning Committee: Judge Alvin Welsch
R. Street
3. Economic & Social Planning Committee: Mrs. Eva Mills
4. Government Application Review Committee: Wayne A. Phares
5. Health Coordinating Committee: Aguinaldo Zamora
6. Housing Committee: Elias Amaro
7. Resource Conservation & Development Committee: Herman Blank
8. Comal County Committee: E. Harrison Preston, Chairman
Elias Amaro
Edward Badouh, Atty.
Royce Couch, Chief - NBPD
Dr. O. L. Forbis
Gazexer Green
Pedro Grimaldo
Dr. E. A. Grist, County Sanitarian
Marcos Hernandez, Comal County Youth Council
Joe Herring
Melvin Johec, Chamber of Commerce
Dr. William T. Lee
Esteban Lopez
Mrs. Eva Mills
Leon Parker
Wayne A. Phares
Guadalupe Suarez, City Councilman
Dr. J. R. Till, County Health Officer
Mrs. Glennye Waggener, County Health Nurse
Judge Alvin Welsch
Hon. Max R. Wommack, County Judge
Aguinaldo Zamora

AACOG PROGRAMS

1. General Government - Goals

A. Member Liaison and Services

1. Present and Ongoing Activities

- a. Establishment and close staff support with County Committees in eight member counties, including Comal.
- b. Support and planning assistance to member governments.
- c. Coordination between member governments and State and Federal agencies and programs.
- d. Administration and coordination of Emergency Employment Act funds.
- e. Technical assistance in the preparation of applications for federal funds to insure consistency with regional plans, planning completeness, and strengthening of proposals.
- f. Organization of Resource Conservation and Development Program.
- g. Promoted and implemented the first joint meeting of two County Committees - Comal and Kendall - to discuss mutual problems.
- h. Organized two meetings of County Judges and Commissioners to discuss items of mutual interest and exchange ideas.

2. Projected Activities

- a. Development and expansion of RC&D Program.
- b. Continued promotion of intergovernmental agreements and activities within the AACOG region.
- c. Increased contact with member governments in liaison capacity and in providing technical support and assistance.

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B. Goals Program

1. Present and Ongoing Activities

- a. Establishment of Goals process as part of County Committee structure.
- b. Comal County Committee has discussed county problems and established the following priorities, some of which are in the process of implementation:
 - 1) Health Clinic and Medical Programs
 - 2) Better Law Enforcement
 - 3) Education - Technical & Vocational Training
 - 4) Job Opportunities
 - 5) Housing
 - 6) Legal Aid
 - 7) Parks & Recreation
 - 8) Water & Air Pollution
 - 9) Neighborhood Center
 - 10) Determine social needs of the poor, elderly, and youth.
- c. Integration of priorities into Regional Goals process

2. Projected Activities

- a. Determination of specific problem areas within stated priorities.
- b. Expansion of role of County Committees in the A-95 review process and as forum for citizen involvement.
- c. Strengthening County Committee linkages to Executive Committee and Program Advisory Committees.

C. Project Notification and Review System

1. Present and Ongoing Activities

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- a. Strengthening of member government involvement and participation in the review process to insure consideration of member viewpoints and concerns.
- b. Increased emphasis on environmental impact of all applications for federal funds.
- c. In 1971 alone, the GARC reviewed approximately \$95 million in federal funding applications from throughout the Alamo region. Among the past GARC activities affecting Comal County and the City of New Braunfels were:
 - 1) Review and favorable comment, in 1969, on Grant-In-Aid application for Pierce Park.
 - 2) Favorable review, and recommendations for acceptance by the Executive Committee, of applications for City of New Braunfels, Hinman Island, Landa Park project, and Comal River Watershed Plan.
 - 3) Review and processing of numerous highway projects affecting Comal County submitted by District 15 of Texas Highway Department.
 - 4) Review of numerous applications for grants under the "Safe Streets Act."

2. Project Activities

- a. Expansion of A-95 Review process to insure that all regional interests and viewpoints are represented in the public forum. Comal County is already represented by Mr. Wayne Phares, natural resource specialist from New Braunfels and active participant on GARC.

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- b. Inclusion of County Committee comments in review of applications.
- c. Staff liaison with New Braunfels City Manager in application for federal funding for Cypress Band Park Development project to facilitate favorable review in immediate future.

II. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

A. Criminal Justice Planning

1. Current and Ongoing Activities

- a. AACOG funding of special criminal investigation bureau and narcotics and drug unit within City of New Braunfels police force. Grant of \$14,973 for this project is the largest grant to a city other than San Antonio in the AACOG region, and is providing cash for hiring extra detective and for purchasing investigative equipment and supplies to fully equip a 3-man unit specializing in narcotics investigation.
- b. AACOG Area Law Enforcement Academy, headed for several years by former New Braunfels Chief of Police Larry Beauchamp, which is designed to provide basic certification, training, and specialized courses in law enforcement for police officers and sheriff's deputies in the region. Two Comal County deputies are currently enrolled in the Academy.
- c. Improvement, statewide, of law enforcement teletype communications through AACOG grant which finances 60% of monthly line cost and machine rental and is currently

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- saving the City of New Braunfels over \$100 monthly while providing more sophisticated and useful equipment.
- d. Implementation and funding by AACOG of improved radio communications for law enforcement officials which will link area enforcement agencies on a special frequency. Radio engineer hired through an AACOG grant is presently working with all area law enforcement agencies, including New Braunfels, in designing the system to meet their needs.
 - e. Funding through AACOG of modern criminal investigative laboratory in Bexar County that is available to all regional law enforcement agencies.
 - f. Establishment by AACOG of Drug Abuse Central to work at regional level in coordinating and evaluating drug programs and to assist in development of new programs.
 - g. AACOG sponsorship of Patrician Movement for rehabilitation of drug dependent persons through residential treatment, hospitalization, and education.
 - h. Establishment of LaVernia Boys Ranch to provide a home for delinquent or pre-delinquent boys from throughout the region. This facility is not yet operating at full capacity and can be utilized by the City of New Braunfels at any time the need arises.
 - i. AACOG funding for Worden School Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Unit, which works in Comal County and other parts of the Alamo region. This program provides intensive casework counseling and work with the family unit to

effectively redirect children from a delinquent career.

- j. Education for Prevention of Juvenile Shoplifting, a program that supplies films and educational materials to instruct teenagers on the dangers and consequences of shoplifting to schools and other interested groups.

2. Projected Activities

- a. Incorporation of Area Law Enforcement Academy with Bexar County Sheriffs' Academy to continue training of officers at no cost to the individual or department. Current plans call for enrollment of three more Comal deputies in classes in the near future.
- b. Computerization of criminal justice records in Bexar County with planned expansion of computerized service throughout the region and connection with regional teletype system.
- c. As part of areawide radio communications system, AACOG grant will pay 75% of cost of new radio equipment, including mobile units, base stations, radio towers, etc., and pay engineer to supervise installation and start-up. Comal County sheriff's equipment will cost about \$33,000 and the City of New Braunfels about \$15,000 with AACOG paying 75% of this cost.
- d. Provision of professional probation services to area counties presently without that capability.
- e. Thorough study of concept of regional jails to determine if such facilities will serve needs of this region.

B. Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) Planning

1. Current and Ongoing Activities

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- a. Thorough study providing overview of child care needs in rural areas of AACOG region.
- b. Have current funding from Texas Department of Public Welfare to develop rural 4-C program for the region.

2. Projected Activities

- a. Provide orientation to 4-C program and Child Development Council concept for area county officials and personnel concerned with child care.
- b. Establish a 4-C Steering Committee in each rural county as a task force of County Committee, and work with Steering groups to determine form and structure of regional 4-C organization. A presentation of this concept was made to the Community Council of South Central Texas.
- c. Establish regional 4-C organization meeting Federal and State requirements to obtain federal support for implementation of child care action programs in AACOG region.

C. Comprehensive Health Planning

1. Current and Projected Activities

- a. Obtained support for and directed student intern study and report on rural health services and needs in the AACOG region, including outlining of health programs in Comal County.
- b. Worked closely, through Comal County Committee, in providing technical assistance to develop City-County Health Facility in New Braunfels.
- c. Through work with Comal County Committee in developing

list of priorities, established need for improved health care as number one priority.

- d. Comal County membership on AACOG Health Coordinating Committee to represent Comal's interests in determining overall regional health programs and relating them to this county.
- e. Through AACOG Research and Information Program, interpreted Census Data as related to health needs and made this data available for use by all city and county officials.
- f. Planned and provided coordination for MAST (Military Assistance for Safety and Traffic), an air ambulance service that has dramatically improved emergency treatment of residents throughout the AACOG region. Worked with the region's congressmen to continue program beyond pilot stage.

2. Projected Activities

- a. With Rural Health Planner now on AACOG's staff, develop a rural health program through close work with County Committees and consumer and provider interests in rural counties.
- b. Assist area consumer education group in application for funding of consumer health education program in AACOG region.
- c. Increase participation in health planning by representatives from all AACOG member governments.
- d. Continue research and planning activities to develop more complete data on area health status and needs.
- e. Establish "Review and Comment" procedure on area health-related applications.

C. Economic Planning

1. Current and Ongoing Activities

- a. Began development of Structural Analysis of Alamo Region through extensive research and analysis of data on economic factors affecting the region.
- b. Completed inventory of all presently available economic data for use in economic planning.
- c. Published report on "Socio-Economic Aspects of Water Planning" as part of methodology for using economic analysis for water planning.

2. Projected Activities

- a. Completion of Structural Analysis of region to tie in with State Input-Output project and preparation of report on findings.
- b. Analysis of elements of trade and service affecting growth of AACOG region to aid in forecasting alternative growth patterns.
- c. Coordination of economic development activities in region and provision of technical assistance to member governments.

D. Social Planning

1. Current and Ongoing Activities

- a. Completion of "Demographic Profile of Region" through use of 1970 Census data and publication of 1960-70 population comparisons.
- b. Development of comprehensive compendium of data presently available by county and city governments, to be entitled "The Alamo Region, 1971-72."

2. Projected Activities

- a. Publication of "The Alamo Region, 1971-1972," and making this valuable data available for use by all member governments.
- b. Compilation and publication of report on preliminary social indicators.

III. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Housing

1. Current and Ongoing Activities

- a. Close work with County Committees to determine each County's housing needs. A Housing Task Force has been formed in Wilson County as prototype for all rural areas.
- b. Individual contact with agencies and persons in the area to encourage greater efforts in meeting housing needs.
- c. Investigation by Housing Committee of housing rehabilitation programs to apply these rehab projects throughout the AACOG region.
- d. Review of housing applications to FHA as part of A-95 Review Process.

2. Projected Activities

- a. Formation of housing subcommittees in all area counties to form linkages with rural localities for data gathering and program guidance purposes.
- b. Begin Regional Housing Development Plan through use of Market and Industry Profile computerization and updating and Housing Characteristics Study.
- c. Determine impact of non-uniform building codes in area and high cost/low revenue residential development as it

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pertains to school districts.

d. Expansion of Housing A-95 Review.

B. Land Use Planning

1. Current and Ongoing Activities

a. Updating all land use base maps by county in the Alamo region.

b. Provide comprehensive technical planning assistance to all member governments.

c. Provide continuous input to A-95 Review Process.

2. Projected Activities

a. Use of student interns to do Model Codes Study. Comal County will probably serve as model for this study because of progress made there in zoning and subdivision regulation work as a County Health District.

b. Provision to Comal County of student interns to work directly for county in doing comprehensive planning. Restrictions placed on this grant by the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development require AACOG to assign these graduate urban studies students to work only for AACOG members.

c. Provide technical support for cities in region in starting comprehensive planning programs.

d. Evaluation of growth trends to project future regional land use.

C. Open Space Planning

1. Current and Ongoing Activities

a. Publication of Regional Green Open Space Plan, which identified the current needs and most appropriate forms

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of recreation for Comal and other AACOG counties.

- b. Obtained certification from HUD for Alamo Area members to qualify for Legacy of Parks funding and Open Space Planning.

2. Projected Activities

- a. Prepare study design for historical planning and preservation.
- b. Formulate regional utility open space plan.
- c. Assist AACOG members in qualifying for Legacy of Parks funding.

D. Environmental Planning

1. Current and Ongoing Activities

- a. Adopted procedure for environmental impact review by GARC and AACOG staff.
- b. With grant from Farmers Home Administration, AACOG is developing a rural water and sewer plan which includes Comal County, to include a computerized cost analysis of proposed systems.
- c. Preparation underway of Regional Water, Waste Water, and Storm Drainage Plan as required by HUD.

2. Projected Activities

- a. Collect and analyze data for preparation of regional solid waste management plan.
- b. Provide technical assistance in environmental planning to member governments.

- c. Work closely with all regional River Authorities to coordinate water planning.
- d. Use of computer cost analysis program to assist members in planning water and sewer facilities.

E. Transportation

1. Current and Ongoing Activities

- a. Preparing Comprehensive Transportation Study which includes Comal County and all cities within the county.
- b. Collecting data for National Urban Transportation Needs Study.

2. Projected Activities

Initiate multi-modal transportation planning process on regional level - first element will include study of mass transit potential to the City of New Braunfels.

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AACOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Carol Haberman - Chairman
Councilwoman, City of San Antonio

Albert Pena - Vice Chairman
Commissioner, Bexar County

G. L. Akin - Commissioner, Wilson County

C. O. Brown - Mayor, City of Grey Forest

Alfred O. Bruns - Soil & Water Conservation

Mrs. Lila Cockrell - City of San Antonio

David Davidson - Atascosa County Judge

Jerome Decker - Medina County Judge

Thomas Drought - Special Districts

R. D. Fitch - Frio County Judge

W. O. Hatfield - Bandera County Judge

Earl Hill - Bexar County

M. J. Hoeneke - Mayor, City of Kirby

A. E. Howell, Jr. - Mayor, City of Boerne

Julius Neunhoffer - Kerr County Judge

William Ochse - School Districts

Blair Reeves - Bexar County Judge

John Shields - Public Utility Boards

M. A. Shumard, Jr. - Kendall County Judge

Felix Trevino - Councilman, City of San Antonio

Max R. Wommack - Comal County Judge

The preparation of this Report was financed in part through urban planning grants from the Departments of Housing and Urban Development; Health, Education, and Welfare; Labor; the State of Texas; and the Criminal Justice Council of Texas.

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