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## **STARR COUNTY ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

Starr County- The County of Starr joins regional initiative to promote economic development. Through its economic development agency, the Starr County Industrial Foundation, Starr County has joined Rio South Texas, an organization created to promote the four counties that makeup the Rio Grande Valley. Rose Benavidez, Executive Director for the Starr County Industrial Foundation stated, "the competition for manufacturing companies and/or national retailers has gotten tougher, we can offer so much more if we sell our region as a whole, not just each individual

more

city." The county has been experiencing a steady grow, but as with the rest of the country, at this point new development is slow. The membership of Rio South Texas is impressive; it is compiled of economic development specialist and county and city officials.

Starr County Judge Eloy Vera stated that it is a fact that when a company comes to one of the cities, they consider the population of the entire region. "We are still a small community that relies on each other and needs alliances to continue growing. We are very excited and look forward to greater things with this new endeavor," Vera concluded.

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