

 **Announcements**

RESOLUTION NO. 99-R-167

ADOPTING A MUNICIPAL ANNEXATION PLAN AS  
REQUIRED BY SECTION 43.052 OF THE LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT CODE, SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFYING  
ANNEXATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR BEGINNING ON  
THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATE THE  
ANNEXATION PLAN IS ADOPTED. A COPY OF  
SAID ANNEXATION PLAN IS MARKED ATTACHMENT  
"A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART  
HEREOF FOR ALL PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, each municipality shall adopt an annexation plan as required by Section 43.052, Local Government Code, on or before December 31, 1999, that becomes effective December 31, 1999; and

WHEREAS, a municipality shall prepare an annexation plan that specifically identifies annexations that may occur beginning on the third anniversary of the date the annexation plan is adopted; and

WHEREAS, the municipality may amend the plan to specifically identify annexations that may occur beginning on the third anniversary of the date the plan is amended; and

WHEREAS, an annexation plan does not apply to an area proposed for annexation if the area contains fewer than 100 separate tracts of land on which one or more residential dwellings are located on each tract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:

Section 1: That the City of Laredo hereby adopts an Annexation Plan as required by Section 43.052 of the Local Government Code. A copy of said Annexation Plan is marked Attachment "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS  
THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

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ELIZABETH G. FLORES

MAYOR

ATTEST:

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GUSTAVO GUEVARA, JR.

CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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JAIME L. FLORES

CITY ATTORNEY

## **CITY OF LAREDO**

### **MUNICIPAL ANNEXATION PLAN**

#### **Chapter 1: Intent**

This Annexation Plan is intended to identify and provide service plans for those tracts of land required for inclusion in an Annexation Plan as per Section 43.052, Local Government Code.

#### **Chapter 2: Proposed Tracts for Annexation**

There are no tracts of land proposed for annexation included in this Annexation Plan.

#### **Chapter 3: Effective Date**

This Annexation Plan shall become effective upon December 31, 1999.

#### **Chapter 4: Publication**

This Annexation Plan shall be posted and maintained on the City of Laredo's

Internet website as per Section 43.052(j), Local Government Code.

Attachment "A"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nina Nixon-Méndez, Historic Preservation Officer, (956)791-7441

5/15/98

## **Guide to Historic Los Dos Laredos**

### **More than 10,000 brochures to be Distributed**

**A recent project of the Historic District/Landmark Board, the Guide to Historic Los Dos Laredos provides a brief history of the development of the City and detailed information on more than 122 historic sites. The Guide was funded by the Certified Local Government Program of the U.S Dept. of the Interior, administered through the Texas Historical Commission; the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the Webb County Historical Commission; and the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Contributors to the project were El Colegio de La Frontera Norte de Nuevo Laredo and El Archivo Municipal de Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The Guides have been printed in English and Spanish, and are available at the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Webb Co. Heritage Foundation office, Republic of the Rio Grande Museum, the City Planning Department, and El Archivo Municipal in Nuevo Laredo.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mary Mahoney (956)791-7441

6/5/98

## **Los Dos Laredos Environmental Plan**

**Los Dos Laredos Environmental Management Plan was developed to give an overview of the environmental status of Los Dos Laredos, disseminate this information to the public, and achieve solutions. This plan establishes the responsibility and authority of the two local governments, and the state and federal administrative agencies of both nations in development of effective environmental management systems and enforcement. The joint commitment between the cities for a better natural environment transcends the differences between legal and political structures, development standards and implementation strategies. The Los Dos**

**Laredos Environmental Management Plan is available at the City of Laredo Planning Department and Direccion de Planeacion del Desarrollo Urbano y Ecologico in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico.**

## *Paso del Indio Brownfields Initiative*

**I. Background:** The Paso del Indio is located west of the downtown business sector between the Laredo Rail Yard, and the historic Ft. McIntosh, on the Caminos del Rio Heritage Corridor. It is believed that the site was an original crossing point for native Americans, the path followed by Spanish Conquistadors in the colonization of Mexico. The Laredo Rail Yard was established in the 1880's and remains the site of the only rail crossing into the Republic of Mexico, utilized by both the Union Pacific Railway and the Texas Mexican Railroad. The 100 acre site is located partially within the environmentally sensitive floodplain or "vega". Of the known activities to occur on the site, the most recent was a concrete ready mix and quarrying operation which ceased operations in 1986. As a result of quarrying, the site has a number of ponds which are suspected to have a direct hydraulic connection with the Rio Grande. Prior to acquisition of the property by the city of Laredo, the site was subject to illegal dumping.

**II. Goals and Objectives:** The primary goals are to inventory brownfields in Laredo, to determine the extent of environmental remediation which will be required at the Paso del Indio site, and to develop a plan for remediation and conversion of the site to an environmentally sensitive use. The adaptive reuse of the site is expected to spur increased attention to environmental remediation, historic preservation, crime prevention, and improving the quality of water of the Rio Grande at this location. Additionally, spurring economic redevelopment on the riverfront.

**III. Plans for the Pilot:** EPA funds will be used for brownfields inventory, testing and evaluation of the site, and the development of an environmental remediation plan. Additionally, the preparation of a redevelopment master plan suitable to the location will extend from the waterfront to the campus of the Laredo Community College located at Ft. McIntosh. Furthermore, the plan will include the development of low- and moderate-income housing above the floodplain adjacent to existing residential development. Access to the project will be provided by means of a roadway extension below the International rail bridge. The roadway will assist Border Patrol, Customs, and the railroads in monitoring illegal immigration, smuggling activity, and trespassing.

**IV. Progress of the Pilot:** The project was awarded in September of 1995. Subsequent testing resulted in a finding of no contamination at the Paso Del Indio site. EPA advised the City that no additional funding could be directed towards redeveloping the tract. The City continues to investigate sites to include in a city-wide inventory of potentially environmental sites. Negotiations with the Texas Mexican Railroad Company are ongoing in an attempt to redirect the project to include the Texas Mexican Rail yard as the primary site. If negotiations proceed favorably, the new project (Los Altos Del Rio) will proceed immediately.

## **Tax Exemption for Certified Historic Rehabilitation Projects**

The City of Laredo and the County of Webb is offering new opportunities for owners of historic property. The City's Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions for Certified Historic Rehabilitation Program provides an eight year tax freeze for residential properties and a four year tax exemption plus a four year tax freeze for commercial properties.

Across the State of Texas, tax abatement programs have generated a renewed enthusiasm in preservation of architectural heritage and have proven instrumental in the revitalization of urban downtowns. At present, an estimated 250 properties in the City's three local historic districts are eligible for tax exemption. Properties in other historic neighborhoods in El Azteca, La Guadalupe, El Cuatro, and the Heights may qualify upon designation by the Historic District/Landmark Board as locally significant historic landmarks. Substantial rehabilitation is required to receive the abatement. The restoration costs must equal 50% of the value of the improvements on the property, and the restoration must utilize the standards adopted by the Historic District/Landmark Board.

Don't miss this opportunity to qualify for the City's Historic Tax Exemption Program!

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## National Tax Credit for Historic Rehabilitation

In addition to local incentives, a 20% federal income tax credit is available for the rehabilitation of historic buildings for commercial, industrial, and rental residential purposes. Expenditures must exceed the adjusted basis of the building. Also, exemptions can be obtained on State of Texas sales tax on labor associated with historic preservation projects. Contact the City's Historic Preservation Officer for more information.

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## Historic Colors Brighten Our Future!

A palette of over 350 colors has been approved by the Historic District/Landmark Board for properties located within the local historic districts. These rich, subtle tones have been matched to documented colors found on historic home and buildings throughout the United States. Color cards guide you in your selection of body, trim and accent colors. Selections from major paint companies are ready mixed and custom blended. A palette of brighter colors is well suited for Mexican architecture. Painting your house historic colors will capture the charm, character and beauty inspired by Laredo's Mexican and Victorian American architecture. Application must be made to the Historic District/Landmark Board prior to changing the paint color of your building.

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## City's Sign Ordinance Designed to Enhance the Appearance of the Community

The City of Laredo's Signs and Outdoor Advertising Ordinance is intended to protect property values, create a more attractive business climate, enhance and protect the physical appearance of the community, and preserve the scenic and natural beauty of designated areas. It is further intended to reduce sign or advertising distraction and obstructions that may contribute to traffic accidents, reduce hazards that may be caused by signs overhanging or projecting over public rights-of-way, and provide more open space.

Before a sign is erected, altered, restored or moved, property owners in the local historic districts must make application to the Historic District/Landmark Board. Banners must also be approved by the Historic District/Landmark Board. Portable signs are prohibited. Portable signs include those not permanently attached or affixed to the ground or other permanent structure, or a sign designed to be transported or moved from place to place. This includes, but is not limited to, signs designed to be transported by means of wheels; signs converted to A- or T-frames; menu and sandwich board; statues or figurines situated on a trailer; and signs attached to or painted on vehicles parked and visible from the public right-of-way unless the said vehicle is used in the normal day-to-day operation of the business.

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### **Historic District/Landmark Board Meetings**

The Historic District/Landmark Board meets every third Thursday of the month at the City Manager's Conference Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall Building, 1100 Houston Street. Property owners wishing to make changes to the exterior of their buildings or property must make application to the Board 20 days prior to the meeting. An application can be obtained at the City Planning Department.

The City's Historic Preservation Officer is ready to assist property owners with their applications to the Board and provide information on research and restoration of historic properties. Call the City Planning Department at (956)791-7441 for more information.