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Senator Lucio: Get Ready for the Colonia Summit!

Senator Lucio is pleased to announce the first ever Valley Colonia Summit will take place on Friday, the 27th of July, at the Texas State Technical College, Harlingen Cultural Arts Center from 10:00 am – 2:00pm.

"My hope is to provide a forum for Colonia residents to tell us what is still missing, and what they consider to be their priorities for improving their communities," Lucio said. "These are people who are being forced to pursue the American dream the hard way."

The summit is an information gathering event. Colonia leaders will outline their most pressing problems in four major subject areas and will offer some possible solutions: Drainage (problems with flooding), housing, economic development (jobs) and better guided growth (measures that will prevent substandard housing in the future.)

"This historic event is a community driven conference," Lucio said. "We've been working with a number of community organizations to help facilitate the colonia residents' participation, such as the Equal Voice Network, Proyecto Azteca and others."

State agencies, Federal agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations will be present to listen to these important community development concerns, to provide resource assistance, and to offer program information and handouts. Confirmed attendees include, the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas A&M Colonia Center, Secretary of State's Office, Texas General Land Office, US Dept. of Agriculture, US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), and NADBank.

"We want to make sure we have a feel for what our people want before we go back into the next legislative session in 2013," Lucio said. "Right now there are concerted efforts at the state, local and federal level to improve the quality of life for colonia residents. We need to be in constant communication."

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