

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul A. Hofmann, City Manager
Date: April 8, 2022
Subject: Weekly Memo, April 4 – April 8, 2022



Personnel Updates

Morgan LeBaron began his employment on April 6 as a Firefighter/EMT.
Ben Gosner began his employment on April 8 as a Firefighter/EMT.

Emergency Management Performance Grant Funding

For the past several years, the City of Bastrop has received approximately \$30,000 annually in EMPG funding to supplement City funding of our emergency management services. The attached information from the Texas Division of Emergency Management indicates an end to the current funding approach. TDEM is using the funds to initiate a plan for the placement of County Liaison Officers in local areas.

This will have an impact on the FY 23 base budget, and we'll develop a proposed budget accordingly.

Upcoming Training

Below are future training opportunities. If you are interested in attending any of the trainings, please notify the City Secretary and she will take care of the registration for you.

TML Newly Elected Officials' Webinars – Interacting Constructively with the Media

Date: April 14
Time: 11:00 a.m. – Noon
Location: webinar

TML Newly Elected Officials' Webinars – Governing Ethically: Understanding Your Influence

Date: April 26
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: webinar

TML Small Town Conference

Date: May 19– May 20
Time: All Day
Location: Fredericksburg

City Hall Essentials

Municipal Fundamentals Seminar

Date: May 20
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Webinar

TML Budget and Tax Rate Workshops

Date: June 30
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Bastrop

TML-TAMCC Newly Elected City Officials' Orientation

Date: August 11- August 12

Time: All Day

Location: San Antonio

Hunters Crossing Fence Project

Public Works held the pre-construction meeting with Phoenix Fence on Monday, April 4 for the Hunters Crossing fence project. Phoenix Fence is scheduled to deliver customer notices/door hangers in section 1A on Friday, April 8, with a start date of Monday, April 18 and will be completed in section 3B by August 24. In addition to the customer notices that will be distributed by the contractor, our communications team is creating a one-pager that will contain the map, timeline, and other details about the project. This information will be shared on social media, the Hunters Crossing Facebook group, the property owners email list, and through the Everbridge notification system's email alerts.

Attached are the complete project timeline and the section map.

Community Stakeholders

The quarterly stakeholders meeting was held on Monday, April 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lost Pines Art Center. The meetings provide an opportunity to engage in community-wide conversations and network on how to collaborate and support events in Bastrop. Chloe Brevette with the Lost Pines Art Center provided an overview about the Lost Pines Art Center's conferences, classes, and events. Amy Miller, Director of Community Services for the City of Elgin then spoke to the group about the Hogeye Festival's history, challenges, and successes. Community Impact Manager Candice Butts then spoke to the stakeholders about signing up for the quarterly community engagement newsletter, and the group discussed upcoming events and partnership opportunities. The next meeting will be Monday, June 20 at the Bastrop Public Library.

Council Member Questions

Council Member Rogers asked two questions this week, the answers of which would be good information for you all to have.

The Main Street program has developed its **Downtown Recycles** program. The program objectives focus on litter prevention, waste reduction, and promoting recycling awareness. Placement of the dual recycling cans along Main Street have been determined by the board. A QR code will be placed on the receptacles that directs to a recycling resource page on the City's website. Recycling reminders and information will be promoted on the Main Street Newsletters quarterly as well as monthly social media posts. The dual recycling cans will be delivered around late September or early October and paid for through the Designated Revenue Fund.

It was suggested that the Main Street Program start communicating with Main Street building owners while the legal agreement for the **Downtown Lighting Project** is drafted. This would provide an opportunity for staff to work through any issues on the front end prior to the sending of the legal agreement for signature. ACM Gleason will work with Fabiola de Carvalho and drafting and sending those communications.

Splash Pad Opening

The Splash Pad opened on Monday, April 4. The Public Works Department is working out the final details of the resurfacing contract and are hopeful we will be able to share a timeline within a week or two. The splash pad operates through Labor Day.

Reception for Mayor Pro-Tem Peterson and Council Member Jackson

On April 26 we will have a reception for our outgoing council members in appreciation for their commitment to the City of Bastrop and its citizens.

Spring Fest

Join the Children's Advocacy Center and CASA, in Fisherman's Park on Saturday, April 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with City of Bastrop Fire Department, Police Department, Library, Recreation, and Community Engagement teams who will be on hand to connect with the community. This is a free event and open to the public.

Disc Golf Course Ribbon Cutting

The Disc Golf Course Ribbon Cutting will be held on April 22 at 2:00 p.m. at Bob Bryant Park.



BUILDING BASTROP
HONORING OUR AUTHENTIC PAST.
PLANNING FOR OUR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

**BOB BRYANT
DISC GOLF COURSE
RIBBON CUTTING**

APRIL 22, 2022 | 2 PM
BOB BRYANT PARK | 600 CHARLES BLVD

(512) 332-8800 | BUILDINGBASTROP@CITYOFBASTROP.ORG
WWW.CITYOFBASTROP.ORG/BUILDINGBASTROP

Community Engagement Newsletter

Attached please find the City's first community engagement newsletter which will be sent out Monday, April 11th and quarterly after that.

Future Agenda Items

April 19, 2022, 4:00 p.m., City Council Chambers

- Workshop – Comprehensive Plan, Fiscal Forecast, and CIP

April 26, 2022

- Visit Bastrop Mid-Year Presentation
- Municipal Court Jury Fund

Attachments

- TDEM letter on EMPG funding (4 documents)
- 3rd Quarter Community Newsletter
- Hunters Crossing Fence Timeline
- Hunters Crossing Fence Map
- TML Legislative Update Number #14



Dear Emergency Management Partner,

In the last decade, we have experienced some of the worst disasters the state has ever faced. Since 2010, Texas has been granted 19 federally declared major disasters, 6 federally declared emergencies and 72 federal fire management assistance declarations. The historic impacts from Hurricane Harvey and COVID-19 are just a few of the events Texans have managed. Currently, every single Texas county is operating under a disaster declaration, yet TDEM only has a physical presence in 30 of 254 counties.

Historically, Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding is dispersed to states to provide needed emergency management services. EMPG is a cost match program, meaning jurisdictions participating in the arrangement are required to provide at least 50 percent in matching funds for covered expenses.

TDEM is implementing a restructuring of EMPG funds. These funds will now be used to fund full-time support staff in 100 additional Texas counties. These support positions, called County Liaison Officers (CLOs), will expand and improve emergency management capabilities statewide. These new field response personnel will live and work in your community and be provided with a response vehicle to support your county and Texas emergency management. This new program will place state emergency management personnel in 137 of the 254 Texas counties, increasing coverage from 12 percent to over 53 percent.

This change allows TDEM to directly support local partners in a more robust manner by leveraging state resources for your communities. As a result, TDEM will triple the size of our field support network by dedicating full-time employees to support local emergency management efforts.

This updated strategy ensures alignment with the purpose of EMPG and the efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across primary mission areas.

These CLOs will be recruited and hired in groups of 20, the first group is being advertised beginning early April. The attached table outlines the counties in each of the five tranches. We appreciate your patience as we fold these new personnel into the mix and look forward to our continued partnership to prepare for, respond to, mitigate against, and recover from disasters of all kinds.

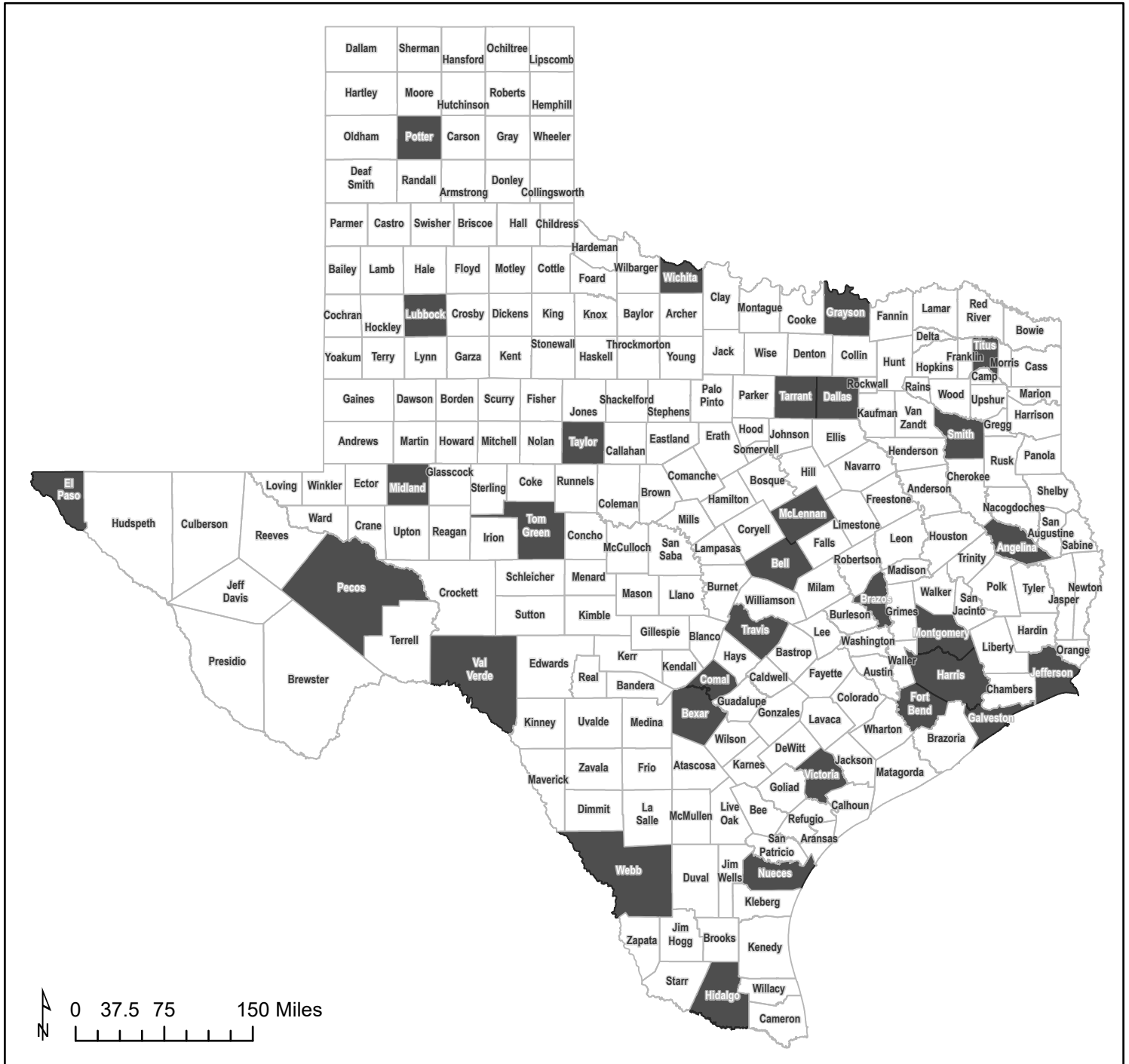
As always, feel free to call, text or email me with any questions or concerns.

Thanks for all that you do.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ann Kilde".

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Counties w/TDEM Staff
Atascosa	Archer	Bee	Aransas	Briscoe	Anderson*
Bastrop	Bowie	Brooks	Austin	Cherokee	Angelina
Brazoria	Caldwell	Childress	Brown	Ector	Bell
Cameron	Cooke	Crane	Burnet	Foard	Bexar
Chambers	Coryell	Dewitt	Calhoun	Gregg	Brazos
Collin	Ellis	Gillespie	Colorado	Guadalupe	Clay*
Denton	Erath	Gray	Comanche	Harrison	Comal
Hays	Henderson	Lamb	Crockett	Hood	Dallas
Houston	Howard	Lavaca	Culberson	Jim Wells	El Paso
Jones	Hunt	Madison	Dickens	Kaufman	Fort Bend
Liberty	Jasper	Milam	Hill	Medina	Galveston
Matagorda	Johnson	Mills	Hopkins	Navarro	Grayson
Nacogdoches	Kerr	Moore	Kimble	Parker	Hardin*
Newton	Lamar	Nolan	Kleberg	Presidio	Harris
Orange	Polk	Robertson	Llano	Randall	Hidalgo
Refugio	Starr	San Saba	Maverick	Roberts	Hockley*
San Jacinto	Upshur	Scurry	McCulloch	Rockwall	Irion*
San Patricio	Washington	Shelby	Montague	Rusk	Jefferson
Walker	Williamson	Uvalde	Sabine	Van Zandt	Lubbock
Waller	Wilson	Young	Wharton	Wise	McLennan
					Midland
*As a result of adding 12 new TDEM Section Chiefs, these counties have TDEM staff officing in their areas.					Montgomery
					Nueces
					Pecos
					Potter
					Smith
					Tarrant
					Taylor
					Terry*
					Throckmorton*
					Titus
					Tom Green
					Travis
					Val Verde
					Victoria
					Webb
					Wichita


Current TDEM Presence



- TDEM Counties
- Non-TDEM Counties

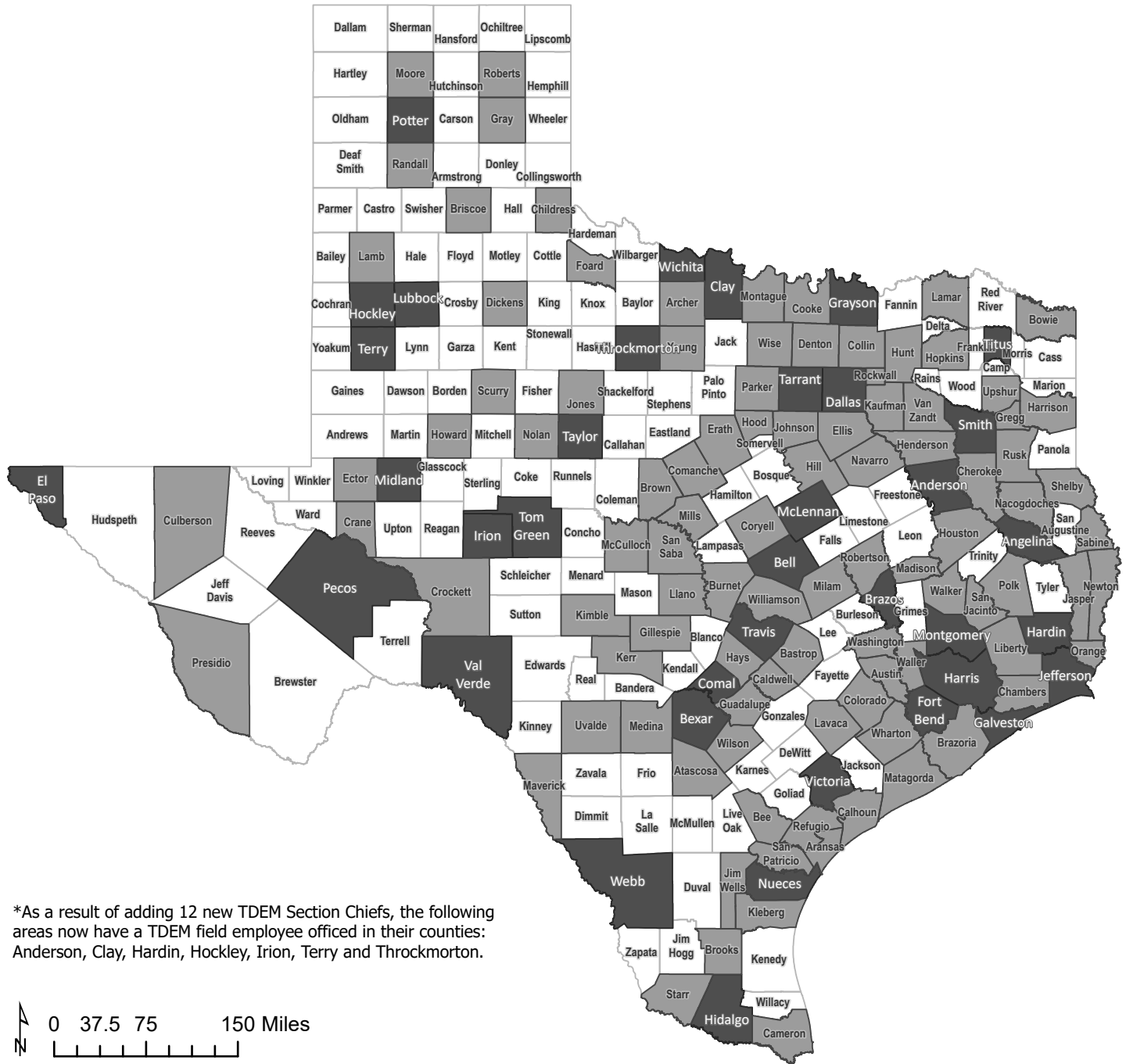
Author: TDEM Operations Technology
 Sources: TDEM, TxDOT
 Date: March 31, 2022

Texas Division of Emergency Management

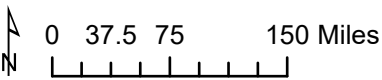


TDEM
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Future TDEM Presence



*As a result of adding 12 new TDEM Section Chiefs, the following areas now have a TDEM field employee officed in their counties: Anderson, Clay, Hardin, Hockley, Irian, Terry and Throckmorton.



- TDEM Counties
- CLO Counties
- Unfilled

Author: TDEM Operations Technology
 Sources: TDEM, TxDOT
 Date: March 31, 2022

Texas Division of Emergency Management

TDEM
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



Our BASTROP

"love your city"

City of Bastrop Community Newsletter

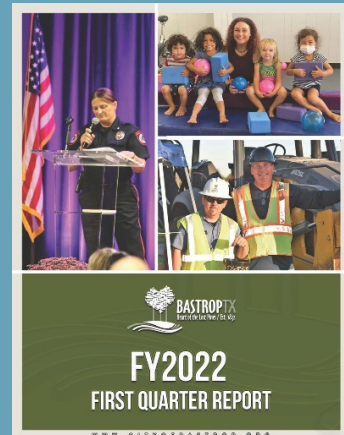
The City of Bastrop's quarterly newsletter helps keep residents and businesses connected to all that is going on in and throughout the City. You can connect with us and learn more about our community, cultural events and celebrations, and news by reading this newsletter, visiting our website at cityofbastrop.org, and following us on our social media channels listed at the bottom of this email. We look forward to connecting with you!

Mayor's State of the City Address



The City of Bastrop presents Mayor Connie Schroeder's Inaugural State of the City Address for 2022! You'll find lots of interesting and useful information about what the City has been up to in the last year and details about current and future projects.

Quarterly Report



Want a status update from a particular project the City is working on? Check out the First Quarter Report for Fiscal Year 2022. This report gives a status update on all City projects during October through December 2021.

These reports are updated and presented to council quarterly. **Click the graphic to read more.**

Overheard At City Hall



The Official Podcast of the City of Bastrop is back! Join us for the Season 2 Premiere in what is a highly informative and in-depth discussion between our host, City Manager Paul A. Hofmann and three of the City's Water/Wastewater experts - James Wilson, Water/Wastewater Superintendent; Adam Jordy, Chief Plant Operator; and Fernando Guerrero, Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator.

Downtown Parking



Looking for a place to park in historic Downtown Bastrop? Look no further. The Main Street Program designed a parking map to assist you in finding that perfect parking spot.

Click the graphic to preview the Downtown Parking Brochure.

Events



Storytime

Wednesdays &
Fridays
10:30am
Bastrop Public
Library
1100 Church Street



Teen Program

Thursdays
4:45pm -6:00pm
Bastrop Public
Library
1100 Church Street



Leading Ladies

April 8 - April 24
Bastrop Opera
House
711 Spring Street

[Tickets](#)



Solo Flamenco

April 10
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Lost Pines Art
Center
1204 Chestnut
Street
Tickets:
\$20 advance
\$25 at the door

[Tickets](#)



Docent Tours
Every Monday
Bastrop Museum &
Visitor Center
904 Main Street



**City Friends
Story Time -
Water
Conservation**
April 20
10:30am
Bastrop Public
Library
1100 Church Street



**Building Bastrop
U - Pool
Contractors**
April 20
Noon - 1:00pm
City Hall
1311 Chestnut
Street



**Disc Golf Course
Ribbon Cutting**
April 22
2:00pm
Bob Bryant Park
600 Charles Blvd

SPRINGFEST

SPONSORED BY **atly**

April 23
11:00am - 4:00pm
Fisherman's Park
1200 Willow Street
Free Admission

Volunteers needed! Click the
link below to volunteer.

[Volunteer](#)

SPRINGFEST

THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER, SERVING BASTROP, LEE AND FAYETTE
COUNTIES AND CASA OF BASTROP, LEE AND FAYETTE COUNTIES PRESENTS

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY FESTIVAL IN THE PARK CELEBRATING
NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH!



SPRINGFEST will feature FUN for the entire family, including a kid's play zone with inflatables, games for all ages, food trucks, live music and performances, meet & greet opportunities with our first responder partners and so much more! In celebration of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, our organizations are reaching out to the community help children get to know their trusted adults, and for everyone to learn how to recognize and fight child abuse. This is a free event, and open to the public!

Connect with us to learn more!
info@CACBastrop.org



Art Immersion
April 28 until April 30
Lost Pines Art
Center
1204 Chestnut
Street

[Tickets](#)

Friends of the Library & Lost Pines Garden Club

USED BOOK SALE

Friday, April 29
10:00 - 6:00 PM
Friends Only Preview: 9-10 AM

Saturday, April 30
10:00 - 4:00 PM

Plant Sale
Saturday only
All proceeds benefit the
Bastrop Public Library

**The Friends of
the Library Book
and Plant Sale**
April 29 10:00am -
6:00pm
April 30 10:00am -
4:00pm
Bastrop Public
Library
1100 Church Street





Table on Main

May 1
5:30pm - 8:30pm
Main Street
Volunteers needed! Click the link below to volunteer.

[Volunteer](#)



Farm Street Opry

May 5 & June 2
(Every 1st Thursday)
7:00pm
Bastrop Convention Center
1408 Chestnut Street
\$7.50 Admission



Movies in the Park

May 7
7:30pm - 10:30pm
Bob Bryant Park
600 Charles Blvd
Free Admission



Art After Dark

May 7 & June 4
(Every 1st Saturday)
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Lost Pines Art Center
1204 Chestnut Street
Free Admission



Little Shop of Horrors

May 13- May 29
Bastrop Opera House
711 Spring Street

[Tickets](#)



Building Bastrop U -Stormwater Management

May 18
Noon - 1:00pm
City Hall
1311 Chestnut Street



Bastrop Juneteenth Celebration

June 17 & 18
Recognition Dinner
Parade
Street Dance



International Yoga Day

June 21
Various Locations
Free Classes



Summer Reading Program

May 31 - July 23
Bastrop Public Library
1100 Church Street



LEGO Club

April 19, May 17, &
June 21
(every third
Tuesday)
3:00pm
Bastrop Public
Library
1100 Church Street

For more events, go to www.visitbastrop.com/events/.

[City Council Meetings](#)

[Boards and Commissions](#)

[Recreation](#)

[Bastrop Public Library](#)



City of Bastrop | 1311 Chestnut Street, Bastrop, TX 78602

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Phoenix Fence
P.O. Box 305
Bastrop, Texas 78602
(512) 95-FENCE
craig@phoenixfencetx.com

PROJECT TIMELINE

Removal and Replacement of Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Public Improvement Districts (Wood) Fencing for the Hunter’s Crossing Subdivision located at East Highway 71 and SH 304 in Bastrop, Texas



Scheduled Dates	TIMELINE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED UPON POSSIBLE DELAYS CAUSED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER OR MATERIAL SHORTAGES/UNAVAILABILITY FROM SUPPLIERS AND CONTINGENT UPON RECEIVING A PERMIT FROM THE CITY OF BASTROP.
4/4/22	Pre-construction meeting between David Juarez, PW Superintendent and Craig Hanly, Phoenix Fence.
4/08/22	Deliver Customer Notices/Door Hangers for Section 1A
4/18/22	Begin Removal and Replacement of approx. 3,378 ft of Fence in Section 1A
4/29/22	Deliver Customer Notices/Door Hangers for Section 1B
5/05/22	Completion of Section 1A
5/06/22	Begin Removal and Replacement of approx. 3,400 ft of Fence in Section 1B
5/20/22	Deliver Customer Notices/Door Hangers for Section 2A
5/27/22	Completion of Section 1B
5/30/22	Begin Removal and Replacement of approx. 2,306 ft of Fence in Section 2A
6/03/22	Deliver Customer Notices/Door Hangers for Section 2B

6/10/22	Completion of Section 2A
6/13/22	Begin Removal and Replacement of approx. 6,068 ft of Fence in Section 2B
7/08/22	Deliver Customer Notices/Door Hangers for Section 3A
7/14/22	Completion of Section 2B
7/15/22	Begin Removal and Replacement of approx. 4,486 ft of Fence in Section 3A
8/05/22	Deliver Customer Notices/Door Hangers for Section 3B
8/10/22	Completion of Section 3A
8/11/22	Begin Removal and Replacement of approx. 2,295 ft of Fence in Section 3B
8/24/22	Completion of Section 3B / Walk-through and Inspection by David Juarez
8/25/22	Address any punch list items if needed / Project Complete



2

2

2

3

3

1

1

3

Greater Texas Credit Union
China Buffet Takeout · Delivery
Domino's Pizza Takeout · Delivery
Goin' Postal
Chad Byler, DDS, PA

Bastrop Donuts Takeout
Texaco

Bastrop Websites

Bear Hunter Dr

Pack Horse Dr

Pack Horse Dr

Pack Horse Dr

Pony Pass

Wildcat Dr

Wildcat Dr

Hunters Crossing Park

Trophy Ct

Wolverine Pass

Javelina Trail

Caliber Cove

Buck Shot Ct

Bowstring Bend

Big Horn Pass

Hunters Crossing Blvd

Magnum Trail

Bushmaster Bend

Thompson Trail

Maverick Dr

Steel Shot Ct

N Hunting Lodge Ln

Mossberg Ln

D.R. Horton

Antelope Trail

Bird Dog Bend

Bird Dog Bend

Browning Dr

Pheasant Trail

Pheasant Trail

Pheasant Trail

Hunters Point Dr

Hunters Point Dr

Hunters Point Dr

Gutsch Dr

Outfitter Dr

Outfitter Dr

Outfitter Dr

Outfitter Dr

Outfitter Dr

Trapper Trail

S Hunting Lodge Ln

Hunters Crossing Blvd

Home Depot Way

Home Depot Way

Home Depot Way

304

304

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304

TML LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



April 8, 2022
Number 14

Lieutenant Governor Releases Senate Interim Charges

Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick released [interim charges](#) to the committees of the Texas Senate to study prior to the 2023 legislative session. Many of the relevant city-related charges are below.

The League will continue to monitor the charges and report on the progress of the charges throughout the interim.

Business and Commerce Committee

- **Broadband and Telecommunications:** Study broadband and other telecommunications related issues impacting Texans, including:
 - Monitoring the implementation of [House Bill 5](#) and [House Bill 1505](#), 87th Legislature; discuss anticipated federal infrastructure funding dedicated to broadband initiatives;
 - Reviewing the Texas Universal Service Fund and reporting what, if any, changes should be made through a review of both the fund's contributions and disbursements, as well as the impact of technology on the long-term stability of the Texas Universal Service Fund; and

- Monitoring the implementation of [House Bill 2911](#), 87th Legislature, relating to next generation 9-1-1 service and the establishment of a next generation 9-1-1 service fund.
- **Electricity:** Assess the electricity market in Texas. Study issues impacting the Texas electric grid, including weather preparedness, transmission planning, maintenance scheduling, and the natural gas supply chain. Study the consequences of increased electric vehicle usage and charging on the generation, transmission and distribution, and retail sectors of Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and evaluate their potential impact on increased electric demand and reliability of the grid. Evaluate potential benefits of real-time transparency of the intrastate gas market with respect to the functions of ERCOT and the Texas Energy Reliability Council. Examine the growth of renewable energy generation in the state and evaluate its impact on grid reliability. Make recommendations to strengthen the reliability of the grid, and meet the future generation needs of ERCOT through new and existing dispatchable generation. Assess plans to expeditiously add new dispatchable generation. Monitor the implementation of [Senate Bill 2](#) and [Senate Bill 3](#), 87th Legislature.
- **Cybersecurity:** Review current state and federal laws regarding cybersecurity protections and requirements for local governments, state agencies, and critical industries of our state. Make recommendations for legislation to improve resilience and protection against cybersecurity attacks and ensure the privacy protection of the citizens of Texas.

Criminal Justice Committee

- **Criminal Case Backlogs:** Evaluate the current backlog of criminal cases. Consider and recommend ways to reduce delays and ensure timely resolution of cases, including an examination of methods developed by district attorneys, judges, and court administrators.
- **Automobile Parts Theft (Including Catalytic Converters):** Review the effect of [House Bill 4110](#) (87th Legislature), relating to the registration of metal recycling, and related catalytic converter theft legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Determine what actions are needed to aid law enforcement and stop catalytic converter theft and its related violence.

Education Committee

- **Local Government Exclusion:** Investigate how some cities and counties are prohibiting the expansion of charter schools through local ordinances. Make recommendations to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of charter schools and independent school districts.

Finance Committee

- **Federal Funds:** Report on the state use of federal COVID-19 relief funds provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, the American Rescue Plan Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Acts, and similar federal legislation. Examine local use of federal

relief funding, including funding provided to school districts through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. Evaluate the overall fiscal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on state agencies, including costs incurred due to federal mandates. Identify barriers to the effective utilization of funds and make recommendations on the expenditure of unappropriated funds. In addition, evaluate and report on the spending by state agencies that have been utilizing “one-time” federal funding (temporary enhancements, e.g. FMAP and ESSER) sources, where federal funding will likely be significantly reduced in future biennia.

- **Property Tax Relief:** Examine and recommend ways to reduce Texans’ property tax burden. Review and report on proposals to use or dedicate state revenues in excess of the state spending limit to eliminate the school district maintenance and operations property tax.
- **Inflation:** Review and report on the impact of inflation on units of local governments’ revenue collections and property taxpayers’ tax bills, including the homestead exemption.
- **Tax Exemptions:** Examine Texans’ current tax exemptions and report on whether adjustments are merited because of inflation or any other factors.

Health and Human Services Committee

- **Public Health Data:** Review the processes for public health data collection and coordination by local and state entities as well as regional trauma centers. Identify any continuing barriers to the real-time dissemination of data concerning health care facility capacity—including data that can expedite timely care—and mortality rates, as well as other information that can assist in public policy decisions.

Local Government Committee

- **Property Tax Reform:** Review the effect of [Senate Bill 2](#) (86th Legislature), the Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of 2019, and related legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Make recommendations for further property tax reform and relief.
- **Appraisal Reform:** Review the implementation of [Senate Bill 63](#), [House Bill 988](#), and other related legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Make recommendations to ensure appraisal guidelines are effective and taxpayers have enforcement mechanisms.
- **Special Purpose Districts:** Perform a comprehensive study on the powers and purposes of various special purpose districts and their associated legislative templates. Make recommendations to improve public transparency in operations of special purpose districts and associated legislative templates.
- **Affordable Housing:** Study issues related to affordable housing, homelessness, and methods of providing and financing affordable housing. Make recommendations to

improve transparency and accountability, as well as to better utilize existing federal, state, and local programs.

- **Bond Elections:** Review and report of voter participation and bond election result differences between November and May elections. Make recommendations for improved voter turnout, increased election efficiencies, and better accountability of local debt.
- **Community Advocacy:** Study how governmental entities use public funds for political lobbying purposes. Examine what types of governmental entities use public funds for lobbying purposes and what level of transparency is available to the public. Make recommendations to protect taxpayers from paying for lobbyists who may not represent the taxpayers' interest.
- **Efficiency Audits:** Study the concept of efficiency audits for cities, counties, and special purpose districts and under what circumstances they should be performed. Evaluate whether efficiency audits provide Texans tools to combat wasteful government spending and report whether they are needed before local government tax ratification elections.
- **Extraterritorial Jurisdictions:** Study issues related to municipal extraterritorial jurisdictions and annexation powers, including examining possible disannexation authority. Determine whether extraterritorial jurisdictions continue to provide value to their residents and make recommendations on equitable methods for disannexation.
- **Ballot Language:** Study the development of the language used for constitutional amendment and local ballot propositions. Recommend changes to make ballot propositions more easily understood by voters.

Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee

- **Economic Development Program:** Review the programs in Chapters 380 and 381 of the Local Government Code. Consider the benefits of each program in generating economic development. Make recommendations for improvements to Chapters 380 and 381 to increase transparency and accountability and the effectiveness of the programs.
- **Hotel Occupancy Taxes:** Study the collection and use of hotel occupancy taxes. Evaluate and make recommendations related to the effectiveness, costs of rebates, incentives, and other taxes applied to qualified hotel and convention center projects. Investigate and determine whether the creation of a standard Hotel Occupancy Tax legislative template is feasible, and whether it would enable the legislature to more efficiently evaluate proposed Hotel Occupancy Tax bills during the legislative session.
- **Wildfires and Prescribed Burns:** Examine ways to reduce the risk of and destructive impact of wildfires. Monitor the role of Prescribed Burning Board plays in controlled burns. Recommend practices and improvements that public and private landowners may use to reduce fire risks.

State Affairs Committee

- **Elections Enforcement:** Evaluate the impact that the Court of Criminal Appeals' ruling in *Stephens v. State* will have on criminal prosecution in Texas. Additionally, study ways in which the Secretary of State's office can respond promptly to reports of Election Code violations. Review the process by which the Secretary of State receives and reports election results, including any internal processes to verify the results reported by county elections administrators. Make recommendations to improve the accuracy and timeliness of election results reported by the Secretary of State on the day of an election. Make recommendations that will allow consistent enforcement of election laws across the state.
- **Elections Administration:** Study how the allocation of polling locations are determined for early voting and election day for counties with and without county-wide voting and report whether current law provides equitable distribution. Study the protocols and scheduling of proper maintenance and calibration of election equipment and recommend what is required for maximum efficiency, accuracy, and security. Study the history of a holiday falling within the early voting period and recommend methods to ensure that early voting always has the required number of days and every qualified voter has the opportunity to vote. Study and recommend whether the state should shorten the primary election runoff period in Texas in order to allow voters to know who their candidate is sooner – while remaining in compliance with the federal MOVE Act. Make recommendations to ensure it is easy to vote and hard to cheat.

Transportation Committee

- **Safety:** Study the contributing factors leading to fatal crashes and make recommendations to prevent and reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries.
- **Alternatively Fueled Vehicles:** Review the Texas Department of Transportation's plan for federal funding related to alternatively fueled vehicle infrastructure development. Examine the increase of private and public owned alternatively fueled vehicles registered in the state and make recommendations for road user fee fairness between alternatively fueled vehicles and gasoline and diesel vehicles.

Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee

- **Water Utility Infrastructure:** Evaluate the state's water infrastructure. Study and make recommendations on options to upgrade and update water infrastructure to address deferred maintenance, disasters, and water loss.
- **Water Supply:** Review and make recommendations to complete specific projects to complete specific projects identified in the 2022 State Water Plan. In light of recent changes to the global economy, consider the current regulatory process regarding innovative technology solutions to water supply needs, such as marine desalination, and make recommendations for their improvement.

- **Groundwater Management and Protection:** Evaluate the status and effectiveness of the State’s groundwater management process, including data used to support regional water planning and conservation goals. Report on the effectiveness of the State’s groundwater protection efforts and whether statutory changes are needed to protect groundwater quality.
- **Rural Employment:** study and make recommendations on rural small business development and workforce needs. Consider and recommend innovative methods for business development in rural parts of the state.

Texas House Committees Begin Interim Hearings

Texas house committees are set to begin their work on [interim charges](#) previously set by Speaker Phelan. The following committees have posted notice to hear certain city-related charges. All hearings will be held at the Texas Capitol unless otherwise indicated. The League will continue to monitor and update the membership as more committees meet.

Committee on Urban Affairs

The committee will meet on April 12 at 10:00 a.m. in San Antonio to hear invited and public testimony on the following charges:

Charge #4: Study the effects of local governance, planning, and administration on the current state of municipal water and wastewater infrastructure. Examine the measures municipally owned utilities have taken and the costs required to maintain and improve that infrastructure. Make recommendations for cost-effective solutions to ensure reliable infrastructure and uninterrupted municipal utility services, especially during a severe weather event.

Charge #5: Study municipal fees with respect to the function of the fee and the relationship of the fee to the cost of providing an associated municipal service. Make recommendations to address municipal fees that are disproportionate or unrelated to the cost of providing the associated service. *The committee has invited TML to testify on this charge.*

More information including how to submit electronic testimony can be found [here](#).

Committee on International Relations & Economic Development

The committee will meet on April 20 at 11:00 a.m. to hear invited testimony only on the following charge:

Economic Development Incentives

Examine current economic development incentive programs and identify opportunities to enhance job creation in Texas. Make recommendations to promote transparency and enhance effectiveness of such programs.

Information on how to view this hearing and how to submit electronic testimony can be found [here](#).

Committee on Ways & Means

The committee will meet on April 21 at 10:00 a.m. to consider and hear invited and public testimony on the following charges:

Study and consider methods of providing additional property tax relief, including the use of \$3 billion in available American Rescue Plan Act funds that were held for future tax relief by the 87th Legislature, and other sources of revenue. Explore options to reduce business property tax burdens and options for limiting the growth of property tax bills.

Evaluate the impact of shifting to destination sourcing for local sales and use tax purposes, including the benefits of reduced taxpayer confusion. Monitor the implementation of the Comptroller's amendments to 34 Tx. Admin. Code §3.334, relating to local sales and use taxes, and the Comptroller's Sales Tax Rate Locator. Make recommendations for legislation to improve Texas' local sales and use tax sourcing.

The League previously published an in-depth [Legislative Update article](#) that outlines the sales tax sourcing charge. More information including how to submit comments electronically or register to testify can be found [here](#).

Committee on State Affairs

The committee will meet in a public hearing on April 26 at 9:00 a.m. to hear invited and public testimony on the following charge:

Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- [H.B. 5](#), relating to the expansion of broadband services to rural areas
- [H.B. 1505](#), relating to attachments for broadband service on utility poles owned by an electric cooperative and establishing and funding a pole replacement program for deployment of certain broadband facilities

Information on the hearing, including information on how to register to testify at the hearing, submit comments electronically, and watch the hearing can be found [here](#).

Additionally, the League previously reported on H.B. 5 [here](#). H.B. 5 established the state's first broadband office, the State Broadband Development Office (SBDO) within the comptroller's office and requires the SBDO to develop the first statewide broadband plan. The comptroller is in the midst of holding a [broadband listening tour](#) to hear Texans insight on internet access. The

comptroller has created an [online survey](#) for city officials to give feedback that will be used to develop the plan. The survey closes May 5, 2022.

Committee on Transportation

The committee will meet on April 26 at 12:30 p.m. to hear invited and public testimony on the following charges:

Study current and future transportation needs and consider improvements to ensure that Texas is adequately planning for the state's population growth forecasts. Evaluate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on transportation projects and investment decisions.

Study the impact of the increasing sale and use of electric and alternatively fueled vehicles on revenue predictions for the state highway fund. Recommend a road use revenue equalization methodology to create fairness and parity between gasoline, electric and alternatively fueled vehicles.

Information on the hearing including how to submit electronic testimony and watch the hearing can be found [here](#).

Federal Infrastructure Bill Update

In November 2021, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law. The IIJA is altogether a \$1.2 trillion bill that will invest in the nation's core infrastructure priorities including roads, bridges, rail, transit, airports, ports, energy transmission, water systems, and broadband.

The League will monitor state and federal agencies and work with the National League of Cities (NLC) to access the latest information relating to the IIJA. We will be providing periodic updates in the Legislative Update on resources for Texas cities on how to access IIJA funding for local infrastructure projects.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

In order to provide more visibility for upcoming funding opportunities, DOT has [published a list](#) of 2022 anticipated months for Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) for its IIJA programs.

The deadline to apply for funding from the [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity](#) (RAISE) discretionary grant program is 4 p.m. CDT on April 14. The program is designed to assist communities in carrying out transportation projects with a significant local or regional impact, which could include anything from bus lane improvements to highway and bridge repairs. The Notice of Funding Opportunity for the \$1.5 billion in RAISE grant funding can be found [here](#).

In [last week's Legislative Update](#) we highlighted DOT's announcement of \$2.9 billion in funding through the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) opportunity. Interested city officials can read more about this major opportunity on NLC's website [here](#), and access recent DOT presentations on the grant program [here](#) (including links to register for upcoming webinars on April 7 and April 12).

DOT recently [released guidance](#) on the [Transportation Alternatives \(TA\) Set-Aside](#) from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. The TA Set-Aside was increased to \$1.38 billion in FY 2022 by the IIJA. According to the guidance, the TA Set-Aside "provides funding for a variety of transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities; construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas; community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management; environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trails; safe routes to school projects; and vulnerable road user safety assessments." Under the IIJA, states must suballocate at least 59% of their share of funding to metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and may allocate 100% to MPOs. Over \$133 million is [reserved for Texas](#) in the 2022 TA Set-Aside. MPO suballocation amounts for 2022 can be found [here](#).

SLFRF Project and Expenditure Report Due April 30

The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Project and Expenditure Report is due for all SLFRF receipts on April 30, 2022. Treasury encourages all Non-Entitlement Units of local government (NEUs) recipients to access the Treasury Portal as soon as possible in order to confirm their accounts, designate SLFRF reporting roles, and submit the required agreements and supporting documentation to Treasury prior to the submission of the first Project and Expenditure Report. An [NEU User Guide](#) has been created to assist recipients with logging into Treasury's Portal. More information on the SLFRF program can be found [here](#) including the latest version of the [Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#). For any questions or additional information, please email SLFRP@treasury.gov.

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