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PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Javier Sambrano @ 533-0733 pager #6103 or Julie Baldwin @ 474-4773
August 4, 2006 @ 12:14 p.m.

Office of Emergency Management Continues To Assess Situation

EL PASO, TEXAS – The office of Emergency Management continues to assess the current situation regarding the “La Frontera Baja” dam in Cd. Juarez. At this time the water level of the dam has been reduced, however, it has not yet been rendered safe as a result of the continuing possibility of additional rainfall. Earlier reports this morning indicated that there was some seepage, which continues to support the need of closely monitoring the dam.

The Judson F. Williams Convention Center is currently providing temporary housing for approximately 427 people. There are 64 individuals being provided temporary housing at the Canutillo Elementary School for residents in the County of El Paso. The remaining 5 shelters are on standby and not currently housing anyone. The El Paso Police Department has 12 officers providing security at the convention center. There are 15 officers assigned to provide security for evacuated area. In addition the Texas Department of Public Safety has personnel that have been assisting with evacuations and on standby to assist as needed. The El Paso County Sheriff’s Office continues assisting upper valley residents and has 4 Deputies providing security at the Canutillo Elementary Shelter and 20 other Deputies assisting residents in the area. The El Paso Fire Department has Fire Marshals assisting with security at the convention center as well as Fire-Medical personnel manning a basic first aid clinic at the convention center and command staff of the Fire Department is staffing the command center of shelter at the convention center. As a reminder the only two shelters that are currently in operation are the Canutillo Elementary School Shelter in El Paso County and the shelter at the Judson F. Williams Convention Center.

As a reminder pedestrian traffic at the Paso Del Norte and Stanton Street Bridge is closed but open to vehicles. We are asking for citizens to stay out of the evacuated area until further notice

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