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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO FIGHT ILLEGAL
DUMPING IN RURAL AREAS**

Illegal dumping, water pollution and illegal burning are not only three of the biggest problems affecting rural areas of El Paso County, they are also environmental crimes that often go unreported and unpunished.

Fighting those crimes in the El Paso area has been difficult in the past because the small incorporated cities within our county have few code enforcement officers and lack the funds to train them properly.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee, through the Rio Grande Council of Governments, has granted our region funds to hire and train code enforcement and peace officers on Texas environmental laws.

The purpose of the training is to give officers the necessary knowledge to pursue actively residents who break environmental laws and how to properly gather evidence to successfully prosecute in court these types of offenses.

The Environmental Prosecutor for the El Paso County Attorney's Office, Cristina Viesca-Santos will conduct a training session for nearly a dozen code and law enforcement officers from Anthony, Clint, Alpine and Marfa, Texas.

WHO: County Attorney's Environmental Unit

WHAT: Environmental Enforcement Training

WHEN: Wednesday July 26th, 2006 @ 1:30 PM

**WHERE: Rio Grande Council of Governments
1100 N. Stanton, 6th Floor Conference Room**

For more information about the seminar, please call Evaristo Cruz at the Rio Grande Council of Governments, at 533-0998 ext. 138.

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Members of the media interested in searching for polluted areas of the desert need to contact the local law enforcement agencies directly, or make arrangements with some of the participants.